

## LIKE HIM

Blessed testimony in all its parts! born of God, we have the nature (morally) and position of that true, blessed, and eternal Son made man, that in His glory we may be with Him and like Him. We are children of God, unknown by the world consequently, as He was. We shall be perfectly like Him in glory, seeing Him as He now is above in heavenly glory, and hence can bear no lower standard now. Having this hope in Christ, reaching to, and founded on Himself, we seek to be as like Him now as possible, in the inner man; and in our ways we purify ourselves as He is pure. What a picture of the moral position of the Christian is here, through his living connection with Christ! It is sweet to say it is ours, sweeter to say we have it in Him, and that He Himself is the perfection of it. If His life is animating us, through the strengthening grace and communications of the Holy Spirit, what a power and value will such a statement have for us, living by and dwelling in Him!

Here, then, is one great and blessed part of our hope, "we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is." It is perfectness in likeness to Christ, in ourselves morally in its full result, for it is in glory; that is, all the full fruit of the power of this life as in Christ, produced even as to the body, while its internal excellence, likeness to Christ, is perfect, and no hindrance to its exercise, but, quite the contrary, a suited condition; and with the blessed consciousness that we are like Him, though we have it all from Him. We shall be like Him.

But secondly, in this state we shall have the full blessed Object in which this perfect nature delights; and in this state, this perfect nature is capable of delighting in all the absolute and heavenly excellency which is before us. Its satisfying Object--an Object which can keep all its powers in blessed and full exercise--can occupy it with perfect delight. And yet while I delight in Him as supremely excellent--the full display of heavenly excellence--I know that I am like Him; I could not (my desires being fixed on this, having tasted its excellence) be perfectly happy, were I not. Yet, in us, this excellence is a capacity to be occupied with its perfection in Him. However great our glory and excellency may be, it is only as being like Him. He is it, in its own proper and positive substantive being and existence. If I am adopted to be a son, am really born of God, a child, He is the Son. Hence all our excellence is the means of apprehending and adoring Him. -J. N. Darby (available on CD from Stem Publishing)