“Let us search out and examine our ways, and turn back to the redeemer (LORD/Jehovah);” (Lamentations 3:40)

The spouse who fondly loves her absent husband longs for his return; a protracted separation from her companion is a semi-death to her spirit: and so it is with those who love the Savior, they must see His face; they must have fellowship with Him.

A reproaching glance or an uplifted finger will trouble obedient, loving children who do not want to offend their parents. Beloved, it was once so with you. A text of Scripture, a threatening, a touch of the rod of affliction, and you went to the Father’s feet and cried, “Show me why You contend with me” (Job 10:2-3 “I will say to the strong one (God/Elohim), ‘Do not condemn me; show me why you contend with me. Does it seem good to You that You should oppress, that You should despise the work of Your hands, and smile on the counsel of the wicked?’”)

Is it still that way with you? Or are you content to follow Jesus at a distance? Can you imagine not walking with Christ? Does this thought trouble you? Can you endure having your beloved master (Lord/Adonai) walk away from you because you are walking contrary to Him? Have your sins separated you from the strong one (God/Elohim)? Is your heart at rest?

Oh let me affectionately warn you. It is a serious thing when we can be content without the present enjoyment of the Savior’s face. Let us understand what an evil thing this is, to have little love for our Savior, little joy in our precious Jesus, little fellowship with the Beloved. Hold a true Lent in your soul as you sorrow over the harness of your heart.

Remember where you first received salvation. Go immediately to the cross. There and there only can your spirit be revived no matter how hard, how insensible, or how dead you have become. Go again in the rags, poverty, and defilement of your natural condition. Clasp the cross look in those languid eyes, bathe in the fountain filled with blood, for this will bring back your first love. This will restore the simplicity of your faith and the tenderness of your heart.

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