ATIME OF DEARTH



2. When God awhile his face thus hides from us, we learn to prize the more his grace, and long for its return; the soul with all her might, like Jacob strives and pleads, and wrestles day and night, till she at last succeeds.

James 2. Ah! then we feel full well how sad our life would prove, more sad than words can tell, without the Saviour's love; 'tis that which renders sweet the cup of bitterness, and soothes the grief we meet in this world's wilderness.

4. This is the soul's true fast, when all is dark within, and we can only taste the bitterness of sin; yet all is kindly meant, and by this very fast, more truly we repent, and feast with joy at last.

5. The Lord knows when to bless, as well as to correct, and oft relieves distress, when we the least expect; yea! often doth he make the cloud we so much dread in showers refreshing break upon our very head.

6. In times like these we should be driven to despair, and in desponding mood give up all hope and prayer, did God before our eyes not set forth his dear Son, his death and sacrifice, and all that he has done.

7. Then learn to comprehend the dealings of thy God, to mark their gracious end, and meekly kiss the rod; with patience wait awhile the issue of thy woes, soon shall the desert smile, and blossom like the rose.

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