

**WORDS OF PEACE
AND WELCOME**

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Words of Peace and Welcome by Horatius Bonar

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HORATIUS BONAR

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BY

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WORDS OF PEACE AND WELCOME.

The Quickening Spirit.

"And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."—GEN. 1. 2.

It had just been said, "*darkness* was upon the face of the *deep*," (or abyss.) Here it is said "the Spirit moved upon (or brooded over) the face of the *waters*;" shewing us that the abyss was a watery waste of utter gloom.

Into this region of deep darkness the Holy Spirit came, taking possession of it and filling it with His quickening power. For all quickening is from Him. He is the infinite, the almighty quickener. As such He shewed Himself when coming down to brood over the lifeless earth. As such He shews Himself when He comes down to brood over and fill with His life-breathing presence the dead soul of man.

There was nothing comely on the earth to attract Him ; yet He came. There was nothing fair or fragrant, or loveable, or holy, to bring Him ; yet He came. There was no trace of life below to form a magnetic power by which the life from above might be drawn down ; yet He came. There was no sound or voice of the living to invite His coming, or bid Him welcome when He arrived ; yet He came. And thus it is that He comes still. Even though uninvited, unwelcomed ; nay, even though grieved and resisted, yet He comes ! In the sovereignty of His power and of His grace He comes ! Were it otherwise, where would be the sinner's hope ?

He is the "free Spirit," (Ps. li. 12,) and as such is free to come to whomsoever He will. No amount of evil in us can hinder Him.

God's Joy in His Works.

"God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good."—GEN. 1, 31.

SUCH is the joy of God! He "rejoices in His works." (Ps. civ. 31.) These were but "parts of His ways," (Job xxvi. 14.) the first scene in the unfolding of His wondrous purpose; yet it is very glorious; and in it He is well pleased. Each day's work was good; all things above and beneath; the heaven, with its stars; the earth with its flowers and gems, its hills, and seas, and streams; man, and beast, and fowl; all were good.

How deep the interest which He takes in all that He has made! Each atom is His own, and each atom comes under His eye. It is not only the hairs of our head that are numbered, nor the sparrow that He notices, nor