

Elizabeth Clark

I was born in Holbeck in the parish of Leeds in the year of our Lord 1717 May 9th of very dear & tender parents who were presbyterians but I was baptiz'd by a Minister of the Church of England on account of their thinking of my soon departing this life else I was educated in the Religion of the presbyterians When I was a little Child and my mother dressing of me she generally told me I was now going amongst other Children to play, and I should perhaps hear them say bad words and charge me to take care I did not so, for it was a bad thing and this had such an Impression on my mind that it never left me, no not when I was amongst the Children, but always remain'd in my mind that it was such a bad thing to do so from 4 years old I often went into a Corner to pray, that God would have Mercy on me and often wept before him, when I had the Smallpox it was thought by every one who saw me that I should have gone home then being but 4 years old, but my mother on her knees often pray'd the Lord to spare my Life howsoever I might be disfigured with them I used to ask my mother what one might do to be saved, and she told me I must pray to the Lord and believe on him and I should be saved and I asked her if one could not be sure she said no she believ'd not, but one must pray to him and believe in him, in my young years I came into several dangers of my life, especially once when I was drawing water at a deep Well, the Roubler which winds up the Rope came out of the frame, and it with the Swape I laid still with my parent, in a private manner & kept no Company and at nights when work was done I used to go into the fields and pray that God would have Mercy on me, I often sigh'd & thought O that I was sure of my Salvation till I was about fourteen years of age some neighbour Girls about that time was throng'd in getting fine Cloaths I also fell in with them

with great eagerness I thought now I will have some pleasure
of my life living a Religious Life & taking care as much as
possible to avoid every thing that was bad thinking I might
by that means enjoy some pleasure of my life and go to heaven
as others did before I was sixteen years of age I met with a young
man who told me, he had pitch'd on me for his wife, I told him
I was too young, he told me he would wait till I was older I
found my self thereby drawn in to something, which when my
dear & tender parents as well as my Sister ^{heard} they did all in their
power to brake it off out of tender Love to me this grieved & troubled
me very much for some years I could not get it out of my mind, nor
could I take any pleasure in any thing as before I had many good
offers but being disappointed once it set me quite against it when
I had gone now some years in this dissatisfied Condition I heard
that Mr Ingham was going about to preach the Gospel, I went
to hear him, and he preach'd concerning the forgiveness of sins
which was so much to me that it directly eas'd me of all my
former trouble & uneasiness I came home weeping all the way
for 3 mile which I had never gone before nor did I know the way
till then my dear parents were much affected seeing me in such
a weeping Condition I pray'd our Saviour to give me my parents
and the whole Family, which he did directly I went to the meetings
and often wept after the forgiveness of my sins & the full assurance
of it in my heart it was often to me in the midst of my prayers
as if the Person above mention'd stood before me & I was praying
to him this troubled me very much I strove & pray'd with weeping
to get him out of my mind at last I turn'd to our Saviour &
with great eagerness & said to him Lord Jesus thou canst help me
take this away from ^{me} which hinders me from seeking thy rich
forgiveness for, the sake of which I would part with every thing
else I found he did help me and took it quite away where upon
I thought he can do all things for me being sure I could no

by ^{other} means have got rid of them, I pray'd heartily to him, for the
full assurance of the forgiveness of all my sins which I could no
longer be satisfied about, at the same time hardly knowing what
I wanted forgiving, but at once it came into my mind, that I had
never lov'd God in my life, from thenceflow'd all my sins which
I ever had done or said, then I went on mourning night & day
thinking I must be lost, & wishing myself any sort of a creature
but what I was, I work'd at the same time among a company of 4
or so very wicked people in a shop who spent their time in singing
songs or swearing the day long, while I sat weeping & praying
they thinking that I to be sure was going of my senses, at that
time in the midst of all this company, it was to me as if I saw our
Saviour lov'd all over with blood & wounds, standing before me
who told me that he had dy'd for me & receiv'd all those wounds
in his sacred Body on my account, my heart was fill'd with rapture
& I wish'd that the whole world could join with me, to praise him
I went a quarter of year without ever losing this impression, and
feeling I then got, after this I began to feel my self very poor, and
lost that feeling of joy which I had, this caus'd me to mourn, & think
what I had grow'd my dear Lord with, about this time dear Dr Bohler
came into this part, who preach'd our dear Saviours death & wounds more
clear then ever I had heard before, by this I learn'd to know that I should
remain poor and low in my self, & go to him in his wounds & blood
Just as I was, then I began to reason over my self that I had not known
his wounds & blood aright, & could not be satisfied about, till I had
learn'd to know them better so I wept and pray'd so long before
him till he again satisfied my poor heart, & afresh let me feel
the power of his wounds and blood, hereupon I ask'd my dear parson
to forgive me every thing where with I had grow'd them, & thank'd them
at the same time for Learning me to read which struck them very
much, but I was glad to read the scriptures which were a very great
comfort to me, & the dear Holy ghost point'd out to me thro them
how I should go on, when I heard of the Banns
singing in yorckshire

my heart was very much rejoiced B^r Dicky Willy spoke to me
about writing to the Congregation for reception but I thought
my self too poor & mean to think of such a favour but I thought
if it was our Saviours will & he had called me I woud write to
the Congregation in his name which I accordingly did and
was red on Christmas day old stile the impression I then
got continued with me wherever I went & I was as if the spirit
of the Congregation rested upon me, and I went on happily till
the next communion day when I was admitted Candidate, what I then
felt I shall never forget tho it is beyond description to describe
the feeling of my heart on that Occasion the next time
I enjoy'd the Communion with the Congregation, to my deepest abasement
for the first time to an abiding Blessing & Comfort to my poor
heart I lived still with my dear Parents at Holbeck & being
of a sickly constitution, & timorous Disposition, often came with
great Difficultys, to my dear fullneck but my dear & faithfull
Saviour graciously preserved & help'd me thro all, till at last
being not able to walk so far I with my B^r mov'd into Pudsey
While I remain'd in holbeck it was my greatest pleasure with my
Dear B^r ~~to~~ to Entertain the Breⁿ & Sisters who came to the
Society meetings kept then at our House & as far as laid in
my power to love them since I have removed to pudsey I have
enjoy'd more of the Congregation meeting to a real Blessing
for my heart for which and all other favours rec'd by me
from him & his Dear Congregation I am truly thankfull