

The Hold-fast

BY GEORGE HERBERT

I threaten'd to observe the strict decree
Of my dear God with all my power and might;
But I was told by one it could not be;
Yet I might trust in God to be my light.

"Then will I trust," said I, "in Him alone."

"Nay, e'en to trust in Him was also His:
We must confess that nothing is our own."

"Then I confess that He my succour is."

"But to have nought is ours, not to confess
That we have nought." I stood amaz'd at this,
Much troubled, till I heard a friend express
That all things were more ours by being His;
What Adam had, and forfeited for all,
Christ keepeth now, who cannot fail or fall.