

# Faith finds Christ

## Beholding God in his promises by faith

It is a work of faith to calmly repose in God in the darkest hour—however severely tried and tempest-tossed, to feel that our Father is at the helm. The eye of faith alone can look beyond the things of time and sense to estimate the worth of eternal riches. {GW92 26.1}

(Psa 19:1) The heavens keep telling the wonders of God, and the skies declare what he has done. (Psa 19:2) Each day informs the following day; each night announces to the next. (Psa 19:3) They don't speak a word, and there is never the sound of a voice. (Psa 19:4) Yet their message reaches all the earth, and it travels around the world. In the heavens a tent is set up for the sun.

**Rom 10:18** But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

The things of nature are the Lord's silent ministers, given to us to teach us spiritual truths. They speak to us of the love of God and declare the wisdom of the great Master Artist. {AH 146.3}

Brethren is it our delight to meditate on the work of creation and to adore the divine Architect and delight to trace the wisdom and skill of the Creator. The world and nature is now a far cry from the sublime beauty of 5000 years ago and can be other than refreshing to look upon. But even when nature appears dreary would it not be delightful to cast our eyes to the blue sky and take in the glories of the firmament, taking in the important lessons as they bare the message of God's power and glory.

And so we come to (Heb 11:27) By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

**Heb 11:27** Moses left Egypt because he had faith. He was not afraid of the king's anger. He continued strong as if he could see the God no one can see.

(Heb 11:27) By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he persevered, as seeing him who is invisible.

But what does this word that he “endured as seeing him who is invisible” mean? It means the continuous dependence upon and continuous reception of strength which only divine power can supply. What a thought. Should we not then have an intense desire to live by that divine strength which comes from seeing him who is invisible?

The Great Reformer Martin Luther wrote these thoughts on faith. “**Faith is not what some people think it is. Their human dream is a delusion. Because they observe that faith is not followed by good works or a better life, they fall into error, even though they speak and hear much about it. Faith is not enough they say, you must do good works, you must be pious to be saved. They think that when you hear the gospel, you start working creating by your own strength a thankful heart which says, I believe. That is what they think true faith is. But, because this is a human idea, a dream, the heart never learns anything from it, so it does nothing and reform doesn't come from this “faith” either. Instead, faith is God's work in us that changes us and gives new birth from God John 1:13. It kills the old Adam and makes us completely different people. It changes our hearts, our spirits, our thoughts and all our powers. It brings the Holy Spirit with it. Yes, it is a living creative, active and powerful thing, this faith. Faith cannot help doing good works, constantly. It doesn't stop to ask if good works ought to be done, but before anyone asks, it already has done them and continues to do them without ceasing.**

Anyone who does not do works in this manner is an unbeliever. He stumbles around and looks for faith and good works, even though he does not know what faith or good works are. Yet he gossips and chatters about faith and good works with many words, Faith is a living, bold trust in God's grace, so certain of God's favor that it would risk death a thousand times trusting in it. Such confidence and knowledge of God's grace make you happy, joyful and

bold in your relationship to God and all creatures. The Holy Spirit makes this happen through faith. Because of it, you freely, willingly and joyfully do good to everyone, serve everyone, suffer all kinds of things, love and praise the God who has shown you such grace. Thus, it is just as impossible to separate faith and works as it is to separate heat and light from fire. Therefore, watch out for your own false ideas and guard against good-for-nothing gossips, who think they're smart enough to define faith and works, but really are the greatest of fools. Ask God to work faith in you, or you will remain forever without faith, no matter what you wish, say or can do."

We are exhorted to work out our salvation which is by faith. So then it is not possible to work out our salvation in unbelief. In plain words we cannot work out our salvation unless there is the faith which works by love. Brethren faith cannot be hidden, faith is never dormant and inactive. All the faith that a person has will be manifested.

And so we go about in uncertainty as to how to live in the simplicity of faith. We think that we must have an exhilarating emotion, or a feeling that we have never felt before, and conclude that such must be faith. But is faith emotion or feeling? Faith is hearing God speak and taking God at his word; it is believing that God will do just as he has promised which gives power for obedience and produces actual obedience. But unbelief has been our life and hence has produced the condition of lukewarmness in the Laodicean church. In this condition faith and love are but only dead works. To receive any message God sends it must be received by faith. Therefore without faith it is impossible to make any advancement in spiritual growth and experience. Are we believers or unbelievers?

Now watch how faith finds Christ and holds to him. Watch the boldness and humility of true faith that finds and takes hold of his promises as manifested by Moses.

It is recorded in (Exo 33:12) And Moses said unto Jehovah, See, thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people: and thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me. Yet thou hast said, I know thee by name, and thou hast also found favor in my sight.

(Exo 33:13) Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found favor in thy sight, show me now thy ways, that I may know thee, to the end that I may find favor in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people.

(Exo 33:14) And he said, My presence shall go *with thee*, and I will give thee rest.

But Moses was not through yet. He will boldly but humbly demonstrate the power and simplicity of the faith that takes hold of God.

He continues (Exo 33:16) For wherein now shall it be known that I have found favor in thy sight, I and thy people? is it not in that thou goest with us, so that we are separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth?

(Exo 33:17) And Jehovah said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken; for thou hast found favor in my sight, and I know thee by name.

Moses is pushing forward in faith. (Exo 33:18) And he said, Show me, I pray thee, thy glory.

Oh the simplicity of asking in faith, oh he will talk to you as friend with friend.

After the transgression of Israel in making the golden calf, Moses again goes to plead with God in behalf of his people..... But he has learned from experience that in order to have an influence with the people, he must first have power with God. The Lord reads the sincerity and unselfish purpose of the heart of his servant, and condescends to commune with this feeble mortal, face to face, as a man speaks with a friend.... The Lord does not reprove his servant, but stoops to listen to his supplications. {GW92 33.1}

Moses has a deep sense of his unworthiness, and his unfitness for the great work to which God has called him. He pleads with intense earnestness that the Lord will go with him. The answer comes, "My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest." [See Exodus 33:12-23.] But Moses does not feel that he can stop here. He has gained

much, but he longs to come still nearer to God, to obtain a stronger assurance of his abiding presence.... Moses presses his petition with such earnestness and fergency that the answer comes, "I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name." {GW92 33.2}

Now, indeed, we would expect the prophet to cease pleading; but no, emboldened by his success, he ventures to come still nearer to God, with a holy familiarity which is almost beyond our comprehension. He now makes a request which no human being ever made before: "I beseech thee, show me thy glory." What a petition to come from a finite, mortal man! But is he repulsed? does God reprove him for presumption? No; we hear the gracious words: "I will make all my goodness pass before thee." {GW92 34.1}

"The faith that Moses had is the faith that Jesus desires us to have. When difficulties arise, let us have confidence in God. When it seems that we must meet impossibilities, let us pray. Like Moses, we may commune with the God of heaven as with a friend, trusting in him to work for us. Wherever we are, we may send silent petitions to him for counsel and strength. His ear is ever open to the cry of his needy children. "Man's necessity is God's opportunity." {YI, February 12, 1903 par. 8}

Again notice how faith finds Christ in the experience of the nobleman of Capernaum.

(Joh 4:46) He came therefore again unto Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum.

(Joh 4:47) When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judaea into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son; for he was at the point of death.

(Joh 4:48) Jesus therefore said unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will in no wise believe.

(Joh 4:49) The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die.

(Joh 4:50) Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. The man believed the word that Jesus spake unto him, and he went his way.

**Rom 10:17** So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Ellen white comments, "Finding Jesus, he beseeches him to come to Capernaum and heal his son. "Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe," Jesus answers. To a certain extent, the nobleman did believe, else he would not have taken the long journey at that critical time. But Christ desired to increase his faith. {YI, December 4, 1902 par. 3} With heartbroken entreaty the father cries, "Sir, come down ere my child die." He fears that each passing moment will place his son beyond the power of the Healer. But his faith is yet imperfect. Desiring to lead him to perfect faith, the Saviour replies, "Go thy way; thy son liveth." {YI, December 4, 1902 par. 4}

"And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way." Assured that the death he has dreaded will not come to his son, the nobleman does not ask any question, nor seek any explanation. He believes. Over and over again he repeats the words, "Thy son liveth." {YI, December 4, 1902 par. 5}

And the power of the words of the Redeemer flashes like lightning from Cana to Capernaum, and the child is healed. The nobleman shows his faith by not insisting on the presence of Jesus, and immediately the power of Satan is rebuked. The dying boy feels the joy of restoration. {YI, December 4, 1902 par. 6}

Here is another case of faith finding Christ with which we are familiar and is fitting for contemplation in this moment.

(Mar 7:25) But immediately a woman, whose little daughter had an unclean spirit, having heard of him, came and fell at his feet

(Mar 7:26) (and the woman was a Greek, Syrophenician by race), and asked him that he would cast the demon out of her daughter.

(Mar 7:27) But *Jesus* said to her, Suffer the children to be first filled; for it is not right to take the children's bread and cast it to the dogs.

(Mar 7:28) But she answered and says to him, **Yea, Lord; for even the dogs under the table eat of the children's crumbs.**

(Mar 7:29) And he said to her, **Because of this word, go thy way, the demon is gone** out of thy daughter.

There is need of earnest work, that we may have strength from God to resist the enemy when he shall come in like a flood. We must agonize in order to subdue self; for self-ease and self-indulgence are the most deceptive of sins, stupefying the conscience and blinding the understanding. Oh, that those who have heard the testing message would awake from their sleep, and no longer remain in careless indifference! We need **the earnest desire** of the importunate widow and the Syrophenician woman,--**a determination that will not be repulsed.** {YI, May 24, 1900}

(Joh 1:9) *That* was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

Here is sweet counsel from God, "Through successive ages of darkness, in the midnight of heathenism, God permitted men to try the experiment of finding out God by their own wisdom, not to demonstrate their inability to his satisfaction, but that men themselves might see that they could not obtain a knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ his Son, save through the revelation of his word by the Holy Spirit. When Christ came to the world, the experiment had been fully tried, and the result made it evident that the world by wisdom knew not God. Even in the church God has allowed men to test their own wisdom in this matter, but when a crisis has been brought about through human fallibility, God has risen mightily to defend his people. When the church has been brought low, when trial and oppression have come upon his people, he more abundantly exalted them by signal deliverance. When unfaithful teachers came among the people, weakness followed, and the faith of God's people seemed to wane; but God arose and purged his floor, and the tried and true were lifted up. {CE 94.2}

Matt: 11 v 12 "The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force." This violence takes in the whole heart. To be double minded is to be unstable. Resolution, self-denial, and consecrated effort are required for the work of preparation. The understanding and the conscience may be united; but if the will is not set to work, we shall make a failure. Every faculty and feeling must be engaged. Ardor and earnest prayer must take the place of listlessness and indifference. Only by earnest, determined effort and faith in the merits of Christ can we overcome, and gain the kingdom of heaven. Our time for work is short. Christ is soon to come the second time. May God help those who have heard the warning message to remember that "the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force." {YI, May 24, 1900 par. 5}

Here is a word of encouragement and faith. (1Th 3:7) So brothers and sisters, your faith has encouraged us in all our distress and trouble.

(1Th 3:8) Now we can go on living as long as you keep your relationship with the Lord firm.

(1Th 3:9) We can never thank God enough for all the joy you give us as we rejoice in God's presence.

(1Th 3:10) We pray very hard night and day that we may see you again so that we can supply whatever you still need for your faith.

There can be no more time for unbelief it is now and forever more the time to believe God. Faith finds God and we behold Him in his promises.

Yours in the faith of Jesus

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Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024.