

The simplicity of true faith Part 2

Taking God at his word

Surrounded by and finding peace through the promises of God

"For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. For I will not contend forever, neither will I be always wroth; for the spirit should fail before me, and the souls which I have made. For the iniquity of his covetousness was I wroth, and I smote him; I hid me, and was wroth, and he went on frowardly in the way of his heart. I have seen his ways, and will heal him; I will lead him also, and restore comforts unto him and to his mourners. I create the fruit of the lips; peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the Lord; and I will heal him. Isaiah 57:15-19.

Inspiration writes, "We should study the Bible more that we may become familiar with the promises of God; then when Satan comes in, flooding the soul with his temptations, as he surely will, we may meet him with, "It is written." We may be shut in by the promises of God, which will be as a wall of fire about us. We want to know how to exercise faith. Faith "is the gift of God," but the power to exercise it is ours. If faith lies dormant, it is no advantage to us; but in exercise, it holds all blessings in its grasp. It is the hand by which the soul takes hold of the strength of the Infinite. It is the medium by which human hearts, renewed by the grace of Christ, are made to beat in harmony with the great Heart of love. **Faith plants itself on the promises of God, and claims them as surety that he will do just as he said he would.** Jesus comes to the sinful, helpless, needy soul, and says, "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Believe; claim the promises, and praise God that you do receive the things you have asked of him, and when your need is greatest, you will experience his blessing and receive special help. {ST, May 22, 1884 par. 3}

Brethren let us plant ourselves by faith on the promises today and never move. The apostle James gives a master promise. Think on it and believe it.

(Jas 1:5-8) But if any of you lacketh wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all liberally and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.(Jas 1:6) But let him ask in faith, nothing doubting: for he that doubteth is like the surge of the sea driven by the wind and tossed.(Jas 1:7) For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord;(Jas 1:8) a doubleminded man, unstable in all his ways.

Is verses 7 & 8 describing us? Are we unbelieving doubleminded and unstable. Let's change that. It's time to exercise faith. Let's worship today by faith and not just form.

Inspiration gives this thought, "Many know so little of faith that when they have asked God for his help and blessing, they look to themselves to see if their prayer is answered; and if they have a happy flight of feeling, they are satisfied. This is not faith, but unbelief. We should trust God, whether we experience any change of feeling or not. We cannot expect to be very joyful and hopeful while we look to ourselves; for we must think of self as sinful. A large class of the professed Christian world are watching their feelings; but feeling is an unsafe guide, and those who depend upon it are in danger of imbibing heresy. Satan can move upon our feelings, and he can so arrange surrounding circumstances as to make our feelings changeable. Victory in God is not feeling, but faith. It is the faith that will not yield although there are seeming impossibilities to be encountered. {ST, May 22, 1884 par. 4}

Oh my brethren, it is time for faith and not feelings. It is time for faith and not unbelief. Being led by feelings can be dangerous if not deadly.

Another promise from heaven written in the Psa.(Psa 27:14) Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Brethren is it too hard to wait on the lord? Let it be settled in our minds that the all wise God cannot be hurried by unbelieving and double minded you or I. Then it must be sweet to wait on the lord. Try it by faith. Hear this formula from inspiration on how to be strengthen and refreshed.

"How much joy we might bring into our life here below if we would but make these promises our own. As we talk of the mansions that Christ is preparing for us, we shall forget the petty annoyances that we meet day by day. It is

our privilege to sing the songs of Zion now, to turn our eyes to the light, to bring hope into our hearts and into the hearts of others. God desires us to gather up His promises, that we may be strengthened and refreshed. Let us take our eyes off the curse, and fix them on the grace so abundantly provided. {ST, August 22, 1906 par. 10}. Will you, will I obey God and gather up His promises.

God through Isaiah speaks to every heart this very moment. Listen. (Isa 26:3) Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose mind is stayed on thee*: because he trusteth in thee.

"The inquiry in many hearts is, How shall I find happiness? We are not to make it our object to live for happiness, but we shall surely find it in the path of humble obedience. Paul was happy. He affirms repeatedly that notwithstanding the sufferings, conflicts, and trials that he was called to bear, he enjoyed great consolation. He says, "I am filled with comfort; I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation." All the energies of the chiefest of the apostles were bent to a preparation for the future, immortal life; and when the time of his departure was at hand, he could exclaim in holy triumph, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day." And the shout of victory of this warrior of faith has come sounding down the ages to our time. {ST, May 22, 1884 par. 7}. Can you hear his shout? That's the simplicity and shout of victorious faith.

God is not finish with us yet. He is building a circle of fire around us with His promises. Let's hear Him speak. (Psa 46:1) God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. (Psa 46:2) Therefore will we not fear, though the earth do change, And though the mountains be shaken into the heart of the seas (Psa 46:3) Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, Though the mountains tremble with the swelling thereof. Selah. Isn't it a sweet voice brethren? Well no harm in letting him speak with sweet promises.

(Isa 26:4) Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH *is* everlasting strength:

"The strength of every soul is in God and not in man. Quietness and confidence is to be the strength of all who give their hearts to God. In all our temporal concerns, in all our cares and anxieties, we need to wait upon the Lord. "Put not your trust in princes, nor in the sons of men," is the word that comes to us. The Lord has united our hearts with his. If we love him, and are accepted in his service, we shall bring all our burdens to the Lord, and wait upon him. Then we shall have an individual experience, a conviction of his presence and his readiness to hear our prayer for wisdom and for instruction, that will give us assurance and confidence in his willingness to succor in perplexity. {ST, October 7, 1897 par. 5}. What assurance brethren. Are we thankful this very moment? Lord fill our hearts with your thankfulness. Oh Praise Him.

He continues to build this fire wall of promises around us. Oh trust Him, oh wait on Him. In lovely tones He says to us in (Psa 37:3) Trust in Jehovah, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on *his* faithfulness. (Psa 37:4) Delight thyself also in Jehovah; And he will give thee the desires of thy heart. (Psa 37:5) Commit thy way unto Jehovah; Trust also in him, and he will bring it to pass. (Psa 37:6) And he will make thy righteousness to go forth as the light, And thy justice as the noonday.

Ellen white in an address gives an example of what faith is not in fact a faithless walk be sight. She gives this thought, "If I were to promise one of you a book tomorrow morning, what kind of respect would you show me if you were to respond by saying, "I wish I could believe you; but I will not believe until I have the book in my hand. When I get the book, I will believe." Would that be trusting my word? Oh, no! When you have the book in your possession, it is sight, and not faith at all. But this is just the way we treat our heavenly Father. We insult and dishonor him by our distrust, and are **kept at a distance from him**, and deprived of the rich blessings within our reach, by our **wicked unbelief and ingratitude**. We may have daily victories; but we lose the most precious gifts that Heaven can bestow because we will not take God at his word. When I am sick and afflicted, and ask for help, I do not sit in my room and wait for this help to come to me. I go forward in the path of humble obedience, expecting the Lord to answer my prayers, and sustain and bless me in doing the work that duty requires. Although all may seem dark, I place myself in the channel of light. What have I to do with feelings of darkness and discouragement? What have I to be troubled about? **Faith can penetrate the darkest cloud**. God has promised, and he will not fail me. It is no difficult, mysterious problem to believe. We take Jesus at his word; we come to him with all our burdens and our soul needs, and, according to his promise, find in him a helper and a strong deliverer. ST, May 22, 1884. Oh you must be singing in your heart. Oh let there be more singing like that and the dark clouds will be penetrated. Do

we want him to speak more promises? There is a yes. Speak lord for your children are listening. Help us to hear oh father.

In(Psa 145:8) The LORD *is* gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.(Psa 145:9) The LORD *is* good to all: and his tender mercies *are* over all his works. (Psa 145:14) The LORD upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all *those that be* bowed down.(Psa 145:15) The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season.

(Isa 40:28) Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, *that* the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? *there is* no searching of his understanding.

(Isa 40:29) He giveth power to the faint; and to *them that have* no might he increaseth strength.

(Isa 40:30) Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

(Isa 40:31) But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

(Psa 125:1) They that trust in the LORD *shall be* as mount Zion, *which* cannot be removed, *but* abideth for ever.

(Psa 48:14) For this God is our God for ever and ever: He will be our guide *even* unto death.

Comfort, encouragement, and support have been provided for every condition of life. Let us rejoice in the love of God. Let us praise Him who has made promises so royal. Let these promises keep our hearts in perfect peace. Jesus lives. His hand is guiding us. Constantly our hearts may be filled with the peace that passeth all understanding, even the peace that Jesus gives: Let us make the promises of God's Word our own. In times of test and trial these promises will be to us glad springs of heavenly comfort.

(Heb 6:16) For men swear by the greater: and in every dispute of theirs the oath is final for confirmation.

(Heb 6:17) Wherein God, being minded to show more abundantly unto the heirs of the promise the immutability of his counsel, interposed with an oath;

(Heb 6:18) that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we may have a strong encouragement, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us: let us take the promises.

(Isa 12:1) And in that day thou shalt say, O LORD, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me.

(Isa 12:2) Behold, God *is* my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH *is* my strength and *my* song; he also is become my salvation.

(Isa 12:3) Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

(Isa 12:4) And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted.

(Isa 12:5) Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things: this *is* known in all the earth.

(Isa 12:6) Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great *is* the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.

Yours in the simplicity of true faith

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