



**TimeWatch** - For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and [is] a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

## The importance of faith

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What is faith? "

**Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. It is an agreement with and an understanding of God's word which binds the heart in willing consecration and service to God. Faith is rendering to God the intellectual powers, abandonment of the mind and will to God, and making Christ the only door to enter into the kingdom of heaven. {*Faith and Works page 25.2*}

**Hebrews 11:6** But without faith [it is] impossible to please [him]: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and [that] he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

When Abraham was called, he took his substance with him.

Substance

**Genesis 12:5** And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.

When Abraham and Lot's servants began to argue, it was over real possessions.

**Genesis 13:6** And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together.

The title deed

Genuine faith always rests upon the firm, underlying "substance" of sufficient evidence to warrant confidence in what is not yet seen. *Hupostasis* is used in the ancient papyri of the legal documents by which a person proved his ownership of property. The documents were not the property, but they provided evidence of its existence and of his right to it. Accordingly, *hupostasis* might here be rendered "title-deed"—"Faith is the title-deed ...

### Faith is the title deed

**No one needs to spend sleepless moments in regard to his life insurance papers. His title deed as heir of God and joint-heir with Jesus Christ [is] to an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled and that fadeth not away.** God is responsible for every soul who wears the sign of His government, who is loyal and true to the Sabbath, and through obedience to the Sabbath, true to every principle in the Decalogue. "He that keepeth My words, loveth Me," Christ said. Thus faith and works are combined, the inward working of the Holy Spirit and outward demonstration of practical godliness. The proof of heart-love is obedience to God's commandments. All who love God will study His words. They will eat His flesh and drink His blood, living and acting in constant submission to His will. *{15MR 40.3}*

1. By faith the Christian considers himself already in possession of what has been promised him.
2. His utter confidence in the One who has made the promises leaves no uncertainty as to their fulfillment in due time.
3. Faith thus enables a Christian not only to lay claim to promised blessings but to receive and to enjoy them *now*.
4. Thus, the promised inheritance becomes a present possession.
5. The good things to come are no longer only dreams to be fulfilled in the future, but living realities in the present.
6. To the eye of faith what is otherwise invisible becomes visible.

### **Things hoped for.**

The promised inheritance into which the saints are to enter at the coming of Christ.

### **Evidence. Gr. *elegchos*, here meaning "proof," "conviction."**

Faith is not abstract belief that evidence exists, but a settled assurance, based on confidence that God will fulfill His promises.

### **Genuine faith**

**Faith in Christ as a personal Saviour will give strength and solidity to the character.** Those who have genuine faith in Christ will be sober-minded, remembering that God's eye is upon them, that the Judge of all men is weighing moral worth, that heavenly intelligences are watching to see what manner of character is being developed. *{CG 165.1}*

**There is in genuine faith a buoyancy, a steadfastness of principle,** and a fixedness of purpose that neither time nor toil can weaken. "Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: 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." Isa. 40:30, 31. *{COL 147.1}*

Genuine faith confides in Christ, and renders implicit submission, consenting to follow Him wheresoever He goeth. When this is fulfilled, as a result of well-directed efforts, many souls will be brought as precious sheaves to the Master. *{Counsels on Sabbath School Work 106.2}*

Faith is trusting in God--believing that He loves us, and knows what is for our best good. Thus, instead of our own way, it leads us to choose His way. *Faith to live by, Page 90*

The existence and power of God, the truth of His Word, are facts that even Satan and his hosts cannot at heart deny. The Bible says that "the devils also believe, and tremble"; but this is not faith.

**Where there is not only a belief in God's Word, but a submission of the will to Him; where the heart is yielded to Him,** the affections fixed upon Him, there is faith--faith that works by love and purifies the soul. *Faith to live by, Page 90.*

**It is not faith that claims the favor of Heaven without complying with the conditions on which mercy is to be granted.** *Faith to Live By 122.5*

To abide in faith is to **put aside feeling and selfish desires,** to **walk humbly with the Lord,** to **appropriate His promises,** and **apply them to all occasions,** believing that **God will work out His own plans and purposes in your heart and life.** *{Faith and Works page 122.6}*

**Micah 6:8** He hath showed thee, O man, what [is] good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

**Hebrews 11:6** But without faith [it is] impossible to please [him]: for he that cometh to God **must believe that he is,** and [that] he is a rewarder of them that **diligently seek him.**

Not only is it impossible to please him, it is also impossible to worship him.

**Romans 1:17** For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

**What is faith?** "The substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). It is an agreement with and **an understanding of God's word** which **binds the heart in willing consecration and service to God,** **Who gave the understanding,** **Who moved on the heart,** **Who first drew the mind to view Christ on the cross of Calvary.** Faith is **rendering to God the intellectual powers,** **abandonment of the mind and will to God,** and **making Christ the only door** to enter into the kingdom of heaven. *{Faith and Works page 25.2}*

The recent debate concerning the literal account of the genesis creation has highlighted the importance and necessity of faith.

**For, the matter of creation cannot be understood through reason or argument, or logic.**

**Hebrews 11:3 says: through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God**, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

The worship of God is predicated upon the accuracy of the Genesis account. In fact, everything that he has commanded or instructed is predicated upon **his authority as creator**. If for any reason, any part of this earth or any particle of this planet has arrived by accident or by some process other than Him, immediately he loses his right to demand or pronounce, or instruct, or for that matter to judge.

**Exodus 20:2** I [am] the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

**Exodus 20:3** Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

**Exodus 20:4** Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness [of any thing] that [is] in heaven above, or that [is] in the earth beneath, or that [is] in the water under the earth

**Exodus 20:5** Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God [am] a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth [generation] of them that hate me;

**Exodus 20:6** and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

**Exodus 20:7** Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

**Upon what authority does he command this?**

**Exodus 20:8** Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

**Exodus 20:9** Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

**Exodus 20:10** But the seventh day [is] the sabbath of the LORD thy God: [in it] thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that [is] within thy gates:

**Exodus 20:11** For [in] six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them [is], and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.

**The fourth commandment carries with it the stamp of God's authority. That authority is based upon the right of the creator to determine and direct the created. His authority is predicated upon the accuracy of the Genesis account. Satan knows this, and it is his intent to undermine God's authority. It is even more tragic when those of our faith allow themselves to be used to accomplish satan's designs.**

**Faith is seen as weakness**

The great **facts of creation** as presented by the inspired writers, **the fall of man, the atonement,** and **the perpetuity of the law of God,** are **practically rejected, either wholly or in part,** by a **large share of the professedly Christian world.** Thousands who **pride themselves** upon **their wisdom and independence** regard it as an **evidence of weakness to place implicit confidence**

**in the Bible**; they think it a proof of superior talent and learning to cavil at the Scriptures and to spiritualize and explain away their most important truths. *Conflict and Courage 210.4*

**The six day creation MUST be accepted by faith.**

No amount of reasoning or explanation can tell the whys and wherefores of the creation of the world. It is to be understood by faith in the great creative power. *The Southern Watchman April 24, 1902 par. 3*

**Notice what God asked Job.**

**Job 38:4** Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.

**Job 38:5** Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?

**Job 38:6** Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof;

**Job 38:7** when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

**Hebrews 11:7** By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

**What is faith?** "The substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). It is an agreement with and **an understanding of God's word** which **binds the heart in willing consecration and service to God**, **Who gave the understanding**, **Who moved on the heart**, **Who first drew the mind to view Christ on the cross of Calvary**. Faith is **rendering to God the intellectual powers**, **abandonment of the mind and will to God**, and **making Christ the only door** to enter into the kingdom of heaven. {*Faith and Works page 25.2*}

**Prayer must be made in submission.**

**Proverbs 15:29** The LORD [is] far from the wicked: but he heareth **the prayer of the righteous**.

There are many of us who consider the term "the righteous" as an exclusionary term that certainly does not and cannot apply to us. This morning, perhaps for the first time in you life, you will breathe the clean air of understanding in this important matter.

**What is Righteousness?**

Righteousness is the possession of **increasing usefulness**. It is **the hiding of the soul in Christ with God**. It is **experiencing fellowship with God**. It is exemplifying to the world the fact that God has vindicated his word to the world, and has fulfilled his promise in saying, "We will come and make our abode with him." **Righteousness prepares the human agent for the mansions which Christ has gone to prepare for those who love him**. {*ST, September 5, 1895 par. 7*}

**Those who hunger and thirst after righteousness will purify their souls through obeying the truth. It is by beholding that we become changed into the likeness of Christ. By looking unto Jesus, by talking with Jesus, **by fashioning the life after Christ's example**, they become meet for the inheritance of the saints in light, for **our taste is perfected for the purity of heaven**. {ST, September 5, 1895 par. 8}**

### **Who are the righteous?**

**Matthew 5:6** Blessed [are] they which **do hunger and thirst after righteousness**: for **they shall be filled**.

The righteous are they who hunger and thirst after it. Who seek to have the character of Christ in them.

This is who God refers to when speaking in **Proverbs 15:29** The LORD [is] far from the wicked: but he heareth **the prayer of the righteous**.

### **Is this righteousness a place that is reached and there is no longer any need to strive?**

**2 Peter 3:17** Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know [these things] before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.

**2 Peter 3:18** But grow in grace, and [in] the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him [be] glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Those who at Pentecost were endued with power from on high, **were not thereby freed from further temptation and trial**. As they witnessed for truth and righteousness **they were repeatedly assailed by the enemy of all truth, who sought to rob them of their Christian experience**. They were **compelled to strive with all their God-given powers to reach the measure of the stature of men and women in Christ Jesus**. **Daily they prayed for fresh supplies of grace, that they might reach higher and still higher toward perfection**. **Under the Holy Spirit's working even the weakest, by exercising faith in God, learned to improve their entrusted powers and to become sanctified, refined, and ennobled**. As **in humility they submitted to the molding influence of the Holy Spirit**, they **received of the fullness of the Godhead** and were **fashioned in the likeness of the divine**. {AA 49.3}

### **What is the connection then between faith and righteousness?**

**Romans 4:3** For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

### **Abraham had .....**

1. an agreement with and **an understanding of God's word** which
2. **bound his heart in willing consecration and service to God**,
3. **He rendering to God his intellectual powers**, and
4. **abandonment his mind and will to God**, and

5. making God the only door to enter into the kingdom of heaven. *{Faith and Works page 25.2}*

**Who gave the understanding? Who moved on the heart? Who first drew the mind to view Christ on the cross of Calvary?**

**Listen to this powerful quotation. It will surely bring much encouragement. The entrance of God's Word gives understanding to the simple-- those who are untaught in the wisdom of the world. The Holy Spirit brings the saving truths of the Scriptures within the comprehension of all who desire to know and do the will of God. Uneducated minds are enabled to grasp the most sublime and soul-stirring themes that can engage the attention of men--themes that will be the study and the song of the redeemed through all eternity. *{That I May Know Him 192.4}***

**Hebrews 11:6** But without faith [it is] impossible to please [him]: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and [that] he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

No amount of reasoning or explanation can tell the whys and wherefores of the creation of the world. It is to be understood by faith in the great creative power. *(The Southern Watchman April 24, 1902 par. 3)*

**Job 38:4** Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.

**Let me repeat another quote from yesterday concerning faith seen as weakness.**

The great facts of creation as presented by the inspired writers, the fall of man, the atonement, and the perpetuity of the law of God, are practically rejected, either wholly or in part, by a large share of the professedly Christian world. Thousands who pride themselves upon their wisdom and independence regard it as an evidence of weakness to place implicit confidence in the Bible; they think it a proof of superior talent and learning to cavil at the Scriptures and to spiritualize and explain away their most important truths. *Conflict and Courage 210.4*

**I will now continue the quote giving you the rest of it that I did not give you yesterday:**

Many ministers are teaching their people, and many professors and teachers are instructing their students, that the law of God has been changed or abrogated; and those who regard its requirements as still valid, to be literally obeyed, are thought to be deserving only of ridicule or contempt. *{CC 210.4}*

**The last great conflict between truth and error is but the final struggle of the long-standing controversy concerning the law of God. Upon this battle we are now entering.** *{CC 210.5}*

### **Take Heed What and How We Hear.—**

From time to time we need unitedly to examine the reasons of our faith. It is essential that we study carefully the truths of God's Word; for we read that "some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils [demons]." We are in grave danger when we lightly regard any truth; for then the mind is opened to error. We must take heed how and what we hear. We need not seek to understand the arguments that men offer in support of their theories, when it may be readily discerned that these theories are not in harmony with the Scriptures. Some who think that they have scientific knowledge are by their interpretations giving wrong ideas both of science and of the Bible. Let the Bible decide every question that is essential to man's salvation.--*MM 96 (1904).*{*Daughters of God 78.3*}

Many will stand in our pulpits with the torch of false prophecy in their hands, kindled from the hellish torch of Satan. . . . {*LDE 179.3*}

### **Cultivate a Taste for the Bible.—**

Unless the mind is used, it will cease to expand; unless the taste is cultivated to love the Bible, it will cease to relish the truths of God's Word. The student can see only to the depth of what he has explored, and he cannot appreciate that which lies beyond the compass of his own narrow boundaries. But his very ignorance will make him conceited, talkative, and boastful.{*DG 79.1*}

The entrance of God's Word gives understanding to the simple-- those who are untaught in the wisdom of the world. The Holy Spirit brings the saving truths of the Scriptures within the comprehension of all who desire to know and do the will of God. Uneducated minds are enabled to grasp the most sublime and soul-stirring themes that can engage the attention of men--themes that will be the study and the song of the redeemed through all eternity. {*That I May Know Him 192.4*}

**Proverbs 21:11** When the scorner is punished, the simple is made wise; and when the wise is instructed, he receiveth knowledge.

It is the knowledge which God's Word supplies, and which can be found nowhere else, that we need above every other. We want to know what to do in this our day to escape the snares of Satan and to win the crown of glory. {*That I May Know Him 192..5*}

But Jesus does not fail to answer the silent prayer of faith. He who simply takes God at His word, and reaches out to connect himself with the Savior, will receive His blessing in return. {*FLB 122.3*}

**James 5:15** And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.



### **Listen to what the prophet says about prayer.**

We should not present our petitions to God **to prove whether He will fulfill His word**, but **because He will fulfill it; not to prove** that He loves us, but **because He loves us**. {DA 125.4}

**James 5:16** Confess [your] faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual **fervent prayer of a righteous** man availeth much.

### **There is a difference between faith and presumption.**

**Faith is not feeling**. . . . True faith is in no sense allied to presumption. Only he who has true faith is secure against presumption, for **presumption is Satan's counterfeit of faith**. {FLB 122.4}

#### **Faith is**

1. **an understanding of God's word**
2. a **total and absolute agreement** with God's word
3. **the heart bound in willing consecration and service to God**,
4. **the rendering to God the intellectual powers**, and
5. **the abandonment the mind and will to God**, and
6. **making Christ the only door** to enter into the kingdom of heaven. {*Faith and Works page 25.2*}

### **The difference between faith and presumption**

<b>Faith claims God's promises, and brings forth fruit in obedience.</b>	<b>Presumption also claims the promises, but uses them as Satan did, to excuse transgression.</b>
<b>Faith would have led our first parents to trust the love of God and to obey His commands.</b>	<b>Presumption led them to transgress His law, believing that His great love would save them from the consequences of their sin.</b>
<b>Faith claims the favor of Heaven while in full compliance with the conditions on which mercy is to be granted.</b>	<b>Presumption claims the favor of Heaven without complying with the conditions on which mercy is to be granted.</b>
<b>Genuine faith has its foundation in the promises and provisions of the Scriptures.</b>	<b>Presumption is grounded in the false hope of salvation without conversion.</b>
<b>To abide in faith is to put aside feeling and selfish desires,</b>	<b>Presumption is to require of God those things which we selfishly desire.</b>
<b>Faith means to walk humbly with the Lord, to appropriate His promises, and apply them to all occasions.</b>	<b>Presumption attempts to command and apply the power of God to our plans.</b>
<b>Faith trusts, believing that God will work out His own plans and purposes in your heart and life.</b>	<b>Presumption demands, believing that God will grant your every request.</b>

**It is not faith that claims the favor of Heaven without complying with the conditions on which mercy is to be granted. Genuine faith has its foundation in the promises and provisions of the Scriptures. {FLB 122.5}**

### **Faith is not feeling**

Many pass long years in darkness and doubt because they do not feel as they desire. **But feeling has nothing to do with faith.** That **faith which works by love and purifies the soul is not a matter of impulse.** It ventures out upon the promises of God, firmly believing that what He has said, He is able also to perform. **Our souls may be trained to believe, taught to rely upon the Word of God.** That Word declares that "the just shall live by faith" (Rom. 1:17), **not by feeling.** {OHC 119.2}

Let us put away everything like distrust and want of faith in Jesus. **Let us commence a life of simple, childlike trust, not relying upon feeling, but upon faith. Do not dishonor Jesus by doubting His precious promises.** He wants us to believe in Him with unwavering faith. {OHC 119.3}

Hope in God, **trust in Him,** and rest in His promises, **whether you feel happy or not. A good emotion is no evidence that you are a child of God, neither are disturbed, troubled, perplexing feelings an evidence that you are not a child of God.** Come to the Scriptures and intelligently take God at His word. Comply with the conditions and believe He will accept you as His child. Be not faithless, but believing. {OHC 119.6}

**2 Corinthians 5:7** For we walk by faith, not by sight

**When we comply with the Written Word then we are to walk by faith.** We dishonor God when we fail to trust Him after He has given such wonderful evidence of His compassionate love in the gift of His Son. We are to keep looking to Jesus, offering up our prayers in faith, taking hold of His strength. **If we would give more expression to our faith, rejoice more in the blessings that we know we have, we would daily have great cheerfulness and strength.** {OHC 120.2}

### **Faith comes with surrender**

**There is a class who say, "I believe, I believe," and lay claim to all the promises which are given on condition of obedience; but they do not the works of Christ. God is not honored by any such faith.** It is spurious. **Another class are trying to keep all the commandments of God,** but **many of them do not come up to their exalted privilege** in claiming the promises that were given for them. **God's promises are for those who keep His commandments,** and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. {OHC 119.4}

**1 Timothy 6:12** Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses..

**Day by day**, and **hour by hour**, there must be **a vigorous process of self-denial** and of **sanctification going on within**; and then **the outward works will testify that Jesus is abiding in the heart by faith**. **Sanctification** does not close the avenues of the soul to knowledge, but it **comes to expand the mind**, and **to inspire it to search for truth**, as for hidden treasure; and the knowledge of God's will advances the work of sanctification. {FLB 124.3}

**Hebrews 12:2** Looking unto **Jesus the author and finisher of [our] faith**; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Our growth in grace, our joy, our usefulness--all depend upon our union with Christ. It is by communion with Him, daily, hourly--by abiding in Him--that we are to grow in grace. **He is not only the author, but the finisher of our faith**. It is Christ first and last and always. He is to be with us, **not only at the beginning and the end of our course**, but at every step of the way. . . . {FLB 125.2}

Soon we shall witness the coronation of our King. **Those whose lives have been hidden with Christ**, those who on this earth **have fought the good fight of faith, will shine forth** with the Redeemer's glory in the kingdom of God. {FLB 124.4}

**Consecrate yourself to God in the morning**; make this your very first work. Let your prayer be, "Take me, O Lord, as wholly Thine. I lay all my plans at Thy feet. Use me today in Thy service. Abide with me, and let all my work be wrought in Thee." **This is a daily matter. Each morning consecrate yourself to God for that day. Surrender all your plans to Him**, to be carried out or **given up as His providence shall indicate. Thus day by day you may be giving your life into the hands of God**, and thus **your life will be molded more and more after the life of Christ**. {FLB 125.4}

**So now let us see where we need to begin.**

**Acts 3:19** Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.

The conditions of obtaining mercy of God are **simple and just and reasonable**. The Lord does **not require us to do some grievous thing in order that we may have the forgiveness of sin**. We need not make long and wearisome pilgrimages, or **perform painful penances**, to commend our souls to the God of heaven or to expiate our transgression; but **he that confesseth and forsaketh his sin shall have mercy**. {FLB 127.2}

**Repentance includes sorrow for sin**, and a turning away from it. **We shall not renounce sin unless we see its sinfulness; until we turn away from it in heart**, there will be no real change in the life. {FLB 127.3}

**1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**True confession is always of a specific character, and acknowledges particular sins.** They may be **of such a nature as to be brought before God only**; they may be **wrongs that should be confessed to individuals who have suffered injury through them**; or they may be **of a public character**, and **should then be as publicly confessed**. But **all confession should be definite and to the point, acknowledging the very sins of which you are guilty.** {FLB 128.3}

**Many, many confessions should never be spoken in the hearing of mortals**; for the result is that which the limited judgment of finite beings does not anticipate. . . . **God will be better glorified if we confess the secret, inbred corruption of the heart to Jesus alone** than if we open its recesses to finite, erring man, who cannot judge righteously unless his heart is constantly imbued with the Spirit of God. . . . **Do not pour into human ears the story which God alone should hear.** {FLB 128.4}

**How then is faith received?**

**Romans 10:17** So then faith [cometh] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

**One ray of the glory of God**, one gleam of the purity of Christ, penetrating the soul, **makes every spot of defilement painfully distinct**, and lays bare the deformity and defects of the human character. It makes apparent the unhallowed desires, the infidelity of the heart, the impurity of the lips. **The sinner's acts of disloyalty in making void the law of God**, are exposed to his sight, and his **spirit is stricken and afflicted under the searching influence of the Spirit of God.** {FLB 127.4}

**John 1:12** But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.

**It is through faith in Jesus Christ that the truth is accepted in the heart**, and the human agent is purified and cleansed. . . . **He has an abiding principle in the soul**, that **enables him to overcome temptation**. "Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not." 1 John 3:6. God has power to keep the soul that is in Christ who is under temptation. . . . {FLB 130.2}

A mere profession of godliness is worthless. It is **he that abideth in Christ that is a Christian.** . . . Unless the mind of God becomes the mind of men, **every effort to purify himself will be useless**; for **it is impossible to elevate man except through a knowledge of God.** {FLB 130.3}

**The acceptance of Christ's atonement is the groundwork of true faith.** . . . Those who will look long enough into the divine mirror to see and despise their sins, their unlikeness to the meek and lowly Jesus, will have strength to overcome. **All who truly believe will confess and forsake their sins. They will cooperate with Christ in the work of bringing their hereditary and cultivated tendencies to wrong under the control of the divine will**, so that sin shall not have

dominion over them. Looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of their faith, they will be changed into His likeness. They will grow up into the full stature of men and women in Christ Jesus. . . . **Those who truly believe, who confess and forsake their sins, will grow more and more like Christ,** until of them it can in heaven be said, "Ye are complete in him." Col. 2:10. {OHC 117.3}

**Psalm 118:8** [It is] better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.

**Psalm 118:9** [It is] better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.

Our part is to rest on the Word with unwavering faith, believing that God will do according to His promise. **Let faith cut its way through the shadow of the enemy.** When a questioning doubt arises, go to Christ and let the soul be encouraged by communion with Him. **The redemption He has purchased for us is complete.** The offering He made was plenteous and without stint. Heaven has a never-failing supply of help for all who are needy. {OHC 117.4}

### **Search: Faith cometh**

**Rom. 10:17** - "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

#### **The Proof**

**Rom. 10:17.** So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

#### **Faith:**

**1. Trust. 2. Surrender. 3. Conversion to the way God wants.**

#### **Cometh by Hearing:**

**1. Paying attention. 2. Accepting direction. 3. Adjusting to the new way.**

#### **Hearing by the word of God.**

**1. The Word is alive. 2. The Word Justifies. 3. The Word Sanctifies**

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**The truths of the Word of God meet man's great practical necessity--the conversion of the soul through faith.**

- 1. These grand principles are not to be thought too pure and holy to be brought into the daily life.**
- 2. They are truths which reach to heaven and compass eternity, yet their vital influence is to be woven into human experience.**
- 3. They are to permeate all the great things and all the little things of life. {Faith To Live By 123.2}**

The Scriptures are the great agency in the transformation of character. Christ prayed, "**If studied and obeyed, the word of God works in the heart, subduing every unholy attribute. The Holy Spirit comes to convict of sin, and the faith that springs up in the heart works by love to Christ, conforming us in body, soul, and spirit to His own image.**" Then God can use us to do His will. **The power given us works from within outwardly,** leading us to communicate to others the truth that has been communicated to us. {COL 100.1}

**John 17:17** - Sanctify them through Thy truth; Thy word is truth.

The truths of the word of God meet man's great practical necessity--**the conversion of the soul through faith. These grand principles are not to be thought too pure and holy to be brought into the daily life.** They are truths which reach to heaven and compass eternity, yet their vital influence is to be woven into human experience. They are to permeate all the great things and all the little things of life. *{COL 100.2}*

Received into the heart, **the leaven of truth will regulate the desires, purify the thoughts, and sweeten the disposition.** It **quickens the faculties** of the mind and the **energies of the soul.** It **enlarges the capacity for feeling,** for loving. *{COL 101.1}*

**The word of God is to have a sanctifying effect on our association with every member of the human family.** The leaven of **truth will not produce the spirit of rivalry,** the **love of ambition, the desire to be first.** True, **heaven-born love is not selfish and changeable.** It is **not dependent on human praise.** The heart of him who receives the grace of God overflows with love for God and for those for whom Christ died. **Self is not struggling for recognition. He does not love others because they love and please him,** because they appreciate his merits, but **because they are Christ's purchased possession. If his motives, words, or actions are misunderstood or misrepresented, he takes no offense,** but **pursues the even tenor of his way.** He is kind and thoughtful, **humble in his opinion of himself,** yet full of hope, always trusting in the mercy and love of God. *{COL 101.3}*

**1 Peter 1:15, 16** But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

**The grace of Christ is to control the temper and the voice.** Its working **will be seen in politeness and tender regard shown by brother for brother,** in **kind, encouraging words.** An angel presence is in the home. The life breathes a sweet perfume, which ascends to God as holy incense. **Love is manifested in kindness, gentleness, forbearance, and long-suffering.** *{COL 102.1}*

**The leaven of truth works a change in the whole man, making the coarse refined, the rough gentle, the selfish generous.** By it **the impure are cleansed,** washed in the blood of the Lamb. Through its life-giving power **it brings all there is of mind and soul and strength into harmony with the divine life.** Man with his **human nature becomes a partaker of divinity.** Christ is honored in excellence and perfection of character. **As these changes are effected, angels break forth in rapturous song, and God and Christ rejoice over souls fashioned after the divine similitude.** *{COL 102.3}*

## Faith is a battle

**1 Timothy 6:12** Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

To follow Christ is not freedom from conflict. **It is not child's play. It is not spiritual idleness.** All the enjoyment in Christ's service means sacred obligations in meeting oft stern conflicts. **To follow Christ means stern battles,** active labor, **warfare against the world, the flesh, and the devil.** **Our enjoyment is the victories gained for Christ in earnest, hard, warfare.** . . . We are enlisted for labor, "not for the meat which perisheth, but **for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life**" (John 6:27). . . . *{HP 117.3}*

### **Help comes from above**

We can never overcome our own natural tendencies without the help of Heaven, and the precious Jesus places Himself right by our side to help us in this work. He says, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matt. 28:20). We want to believe just what Christ has said. We want that our faith shall compass the promises. . . . *{HP 118.2}*

**It is faith that familiarizes the soul with the existence and presence of God;** and when we live with **an eye single to His glory,** we discern more and more the beauty of His character. **Our souls become strong in spiritual power,** for we are breathing the atmosphere of heaven, and, **realizing that God is at our right hand, we shall not be moved....** We should live as in the presence of the Infinite One.... *{OHC 324.5}*

**In order to exercise intelligent faith we should study the word of God.** The Bible, and the Bible alone, communicates **a correct knowledge of the character of God** and his will concerning us. **The duty and the destiny of man are defined in its pages.** The conditions on which we may hope for eternal life are explicitly stated, and the doom of those who neglect so great a salvation is foretold in the most forcible language. *{RH, January 10, 1888 par. 10}*

### **God will strengthen us in the time of greatest challenge.**

**There are many among us who are not cultivating faith. They have a vacillating experience.** They are "like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed." **Sometimes they seem strong in faith, then a blast of unbelief sweeps over them,** and they are filled with gloom and doubt. They make **no decided efforts to recover themselves out of the snare of the Devil,** but are **taken captive by him at his will.** There are others who, **when assailed by temptations of unbelief, flee to the word of God and to earnest prayer,** and **they are not left to the power of the enemy.** The day is coming that will reveal **whether we are building on the solid rock or the sliding sand.** *{RH, January 10, 1888 par. 13}*

### **Doubt must be instantly rejected**

Many claim to believe the Bible, and their names are enrolled on the church records, who are among the most influential agents of Satan. The work they are doing they will not consider an honor to them in the day of Judgment. It will then be seen that every effort that weakened faith was made at a terrible loss. The tremendous price that must be paid will sink them into

everlasting shame and ruin. **The only safety is in rejecting instantly every suggestion of unbelief. Do not open your mind to entertain doubts, for even an instant; bid them a decided refusal as they come to you for admission. Fasten the mind upon the promises of God.** Talk of them, rejoice in them; and **the peace of God will rule in your hearts.** {RH, January 10, 1888 par. 15}

## **Genuine faith**

The only faith that will benefit us is that which embraces Him as a personal Saviour; which appropriates His merits to ourselves. Many hold faith as an opinion. **Saving faith is a transaction by which those who receive Christ join themselves in covenant relation with God. Genuine faith is life.** A living faith means an increase of vigor, a confiding trust, by which the soul becomes a conquering power. {DA 347.1}

Genuine faith appropriates the righteousness of Christ, and the sinner is made an overcomer with Christ; for he is made a partaker of the divine nature, and thus divinity and humanity are combined. {FW 93.3}

## **Chosen to be rich in faith**

**James 2:5** Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

**Matthew 13:44** Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

**As the birds of the air are ready to catch up the seed from the wayside,** so Satan is represented as ready with his unseen agencies of evil, **to catch away the seeds of divine truth from the heart, lest it should find a lodgment there,** and bring forth fruit unto eternal life. **He fears that the word of God may awaken the careless, and take effect upon the hardened heart.** {RH, May 31, 1892 par. 3}

## **Satan and his angels are in the assembly where the gospel of the kingdom is preached.**

While heavenly angels also are present to minister for those who shall be heirs of salvation, **the enemy is ever on the alert that he may make of no effect the influence of the truth.** With an earnestness that is only equaled by his malice, he seeks to thwart the operation of the Spirit of God on the heart of the hearer; for he sees that if the truth is accepted, he has lost control of his subject, and Christ has won the victory. Jesus says, in explaining the part of the parable where the seed fell by the wayside, "When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the wayside." {RH, May 31, 1892 par. 5}

But in spite of all the efforts of the enemy to make of none effect the word of God, he who has a heart to search for truth will find it; for it lies open before him, revealed in the word of God, as



the secrets of nature are open to him who studies her laws. God's word is the revelation of all truth; and in laboring for souls, the minister should seek to unveil the truth in such a way that it will make the right impression upon the heart, that the sinner may renounce his allegiance to Satan, and turn to Christ. Jesus is ready to accept the soul who turns to him, pleading the merits of the blood of Christ. He will receive, pardon, purify, and make him whole. But before this point is reached, before the soul surrenders to Christ, there is a time when the will is vacillating, when the soul is under conviction, and pressed by doubt, and it is then that a strong personal effort should be made. The minister should come close to the trembling one, and point him to Calvary, lifting up a crucified and risen Saviour as the sinner's only hope. There are many whose hearts are as hard as the beaten highway, and apparently it is a useless effort to present the truth to them; but while logic may fail to move, and argument be worthless to convince, let the laborer for Christ come close to such in Christlike sympathy and compassion, and it may be that the love of Christ will subdue and melt the soul into tenderness and contrition. "The world by wisdom knew not God." Let the wayward and hard-hearted be led to the feet of Jesus; here they may learn precious lessons of love of their Creator and Redeemer, and hope will spring up. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life." {RH, May 31, 1892 par. 6}

## Engaging faith

In order that we might engage faith, we must first disengage logic. *Cameron A. Bowen, September 9, 2010.*

We are too faithless. Oh, how I wish that I could lead our people to have faith in God! They need not feel that in order to exercise faith they must be wrought up into a high state of excitement. **All they have to do is to believe God's Word, just as they believe one another's word. He hath said it, and He will perform His Word.** Calmly rely on His promise, because He means all that He says. Say, He has spoken to me in His Word, and He will fulfill every promise that He has made. Do not become restless. Be trustful. God's Word is true. Act as if your heavenly Father could be trusted. . . . {ISM 83.4}

## An important precondition

But while God can be just, and yet justify the sinner through the merits of Christ, **no man can cover his soul with the garments of Christ's righteousness while practicing known sins, or neglecting known duties. God requires the entire surrender of the heart, before justification can take place;** and **in order for man to retain justification, there must be continual obedience,** through **active, living faith** that **works by love** and **purifies the soul.** {ISM 366.1}

In order for man to be justified by faith, **faith must reach a point where it will control the affections and impulses of the heart;** and **it is by obedience that faith itself is made perfect.** {ISM 366.2}

**Genuine faith will be manifested in good works; for good works are the fruits of faith. As God works in the heart, and man surrenders his will to God, and cooperates with God, he works out in the life what God works in by the Holy Spirit, and there is harmony between the purpose of the heart and the practice of the life. It is by continual surrender of the will, by continual obedience, that the blessing of justification is retained. {ISM 397.1}**

The Word of God is our standard of character. It is a "form of sound words" from the great Source of light and life. There is nothing that we need to preserve so sacredly as this standard of doctrine, a "Thus saith the Lord." This is the pure fountain from which we are to draw the reasons for our faith. The Bible is our guide and textbook. The law of God is our covenant with our Maker, in life, in death, in the resurrection, and through all eternity. Our loyalty to God in obeying, in spirit and letter, the ten commandments, reveals to the world, to angels, and to men, our covenant relation with Him. Adam and Eve were to glorify God by personal and perpetual obedience to His law, and it is in this way that we are to give God glory for all His entrusted gifts. We are to love God supremely and our neighbor as ourselves. {18MR 1.2}

Many will stand in our pulpits with the torch of false prophecy in their hands, kindled from the hellish torch of Satan. **If doubts and unbelief are cherished, the faithful ministers will be removed from the people who think they know so much.** "If thou hadst known," said Christ, "even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes." {TM 409.3}

Nevertheless, **the foundation of God standeth sure.** The Lord knoweth them that are his. **The sanctified minister must have no guile in his mouth.** He must be open as the day, free from every taint of evil. {TM 410.1}

There is an alarming indifference in regard to the doctrines which are the pillars of the Christian faith. **The opinion is gaining ground, that, after all, these are not of vital importance. This degeneracy is strengthening the hands of the agents of Satan,** so that **false theories and fatal delusions which the faithful in ages past imperiled their lives to resist and expose, are now regarded with favor by thousands who claim to be followers of Christ.** {GC 46.1}

**Christ is the center of all true doctrine. All true religion is found in His word** and in nature. He is the One in whom our hopes of eternal life are centered; **and the teacher who learns from Him finds a safe anchorage.** {Counsels to Parents Teachers and Students 453.3}

The early Christians were indeed a peculiar people. **Their blameless deportment and unswerving faith were a continual reproof that disturbed the sinner's peace. Though few in numbers, without wealth, position, or honorary titles, they were a terror to evildoers wherever their character and doctrines were known.** {GC 46.2}

Satan is . . . constantly pressing in the spurious--to lead away from the truth. **The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God.** "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Prov. 29:18). **Satan will work ingeniously, in different**

**ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God's remnant people in the true testimony.**-- Letter 12, 1890. *{ISM 48.3}*

**The importance of faith**  
*July 2, 2010*  
*Cameron A. Bowen*