

Faith

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Faith

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By - Geo Garabrant

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Faith.

Faith is the substance of things hoped for,
the evidence of things not seen. Heb. 11-1

In turning from this world of sin into the
new life in Christ, there are certain essentials
which we must possess in order to make this
new life a success. If a carpenter is going
to build a house, he must first obtain the
necessary material, so if we are going to
leave the old path; if we are going to put
away the old man and put on the new;
and if in its place we are going to build
up a true, noble, devoted Christian character;
if we are going to prove that we are his
children and remain steadfast in his service
then we must have faith. In turning
from sin unto God, we must first repent.
We must feel a Godly sorrow for sin. Then
our next and most essential possession is
faith, and the kind of faith we mean is
a belief in Christ Jesus as the Saviour of
men. There must be faith in Christ as a

man, as a persecuted Lord dying for our sins, giving his life that we might have life and have it more abundantly; there must be faith in his resurrection from the dead and his ascension to heaven; and most of all there must be faith in him now as our mediator in heaven. We must believe that Christ is now at the right hand of God pleading with the Father for us. Though we have all things, and not faith, our Christian life will amount to nothing. It is through the agency of faith that we make our Christian lives a success. It is a great telescope through which we see the glories of heaven, and have a foretaste of them here in this life.

I Faith is the secret of success.

1. By faith Noah being warned by God of things not yet seen, built an ark to save his people. Noah certainly had to battle against many disadvantages, he had many things to shake his faith, for when people saw him building this ark they laughed at him, and called him

a fool. But, he had received a commission from God, and chose to follow this divine direction. He had faith in his God and by holding steadily on to God, and following his directions, he was rewarded. Now, had Noah stopped and said, "well I don't see any use in building this immense boat, there is no sign in the times or in nature to warrant such an action, it is time enough to build it when I see that there is going to be a need for it." Had he stopped and used his own reason and waited his own time to do God's bidding, he would have been lost with all the rest of the people. But, he trusted God, believing it was best to immediately set about to obey his commands, and when that great flood destroyed man-kind, Noah and his family were safe in the ark. His success was due to his faith and by it he became heir to righteousness.

2. By faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise. Abraham's faith was tried in many ways, but he always followed God's direction.

even though they seemed contrary to the promise he had received before, and though they seemed dark and he could not understand them, still he trusted God. So when told to go out from his own country, he did so, not knowing whence he was going. He had faith in that which he had not seen. He looked for a city which had foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And keeping his eye upon this vision he pressed on, although many times everything seemed to work against him, still he never let his faith waver. When told by God to offer up his son Isaac through whom, he had been told, all nations should be blessed, he did so. Although it seemed that by so doing all hope of the promise being fulfilled was cut off; yet he believed that God was able to raise him up from the dead. The most beautiful examples of faith are seen in Abraham's life. Although his life was an endless chain of disappointments, yet he remained faithful to the end. — —

to make our lives a success, we must have more faith. If you start out to go some where and do not have faith enough in your legs to carry you, I doubt if you would ever reach any place outside of the one in which you stand. When we board a train we have faith in the engineer that he will bring us safely to our destination, we believe him to be a man capable of discharging his duties. A little child goes out on the street with its father on a slippery day, and she believes that her father is able to hold her up. We need just this simple child like faith in God; we must believe that through him we can do all things then our lives will be a success, then we will accomplish something in this life, and make the world better for our having lived in it.

II. We should have faith in God for temporal blessings.

God should be trusted for temporal blessings as well as spiritual. We should consult him about the small insignificant things of life. If he will save our soul, will he not preserve

By faith they kept the Passover, and sprinkled the blood on the doorpost. Had this command been disregarded the angel of death would have destroyed the first born of the children of Israel. By faith in God Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt, had he trusted himself, he would have failed; by faith they passed through the Red Sea, and escaped from the Egyptian host. How many of God's saints were stoned and beaten, cast into dens and caves, made wanderers destitute in the mountains! yet they remained strong in faith. Daniel when cast in the fiery furnace trusted God to deliver him; when he was cast in the lions' den he trusted God to deliver him and God did deliver him. Oh that some of this faith might be in our lives more, how much surer we would be of success. The success of one of the world's greatest preachers was due to his simple faith in God, A. J. Gordon. His profound belief in God's word, and in the ministry of the Holy Spirit was the secret of his success. If we wish

our bodies while we live here upon earth. Does God not look after the birds of the air, they do not sow nor reap yet they find food does not God know when a sparrow falleth to the ground? If he looks after and cares for these inferior things which he has created, will he not look after us, who are made in his own image; will he not see that we are fed that we have shelter? Ah, yes. faith is all that is needed. Chas. Spurgeon one of our greatest preachers when a young man was very poor. one day as he was leaving his ^{home} he was informed by his wife that the flour was all gone, and there was no money to buy more. Ah, he said God will see that we have some flour, and went away. Not long afterwards a bag of flour was sent to their home. When Mr Spurgeon came home his wife asked him if he had bought the flour, he told her he had not. A friend thinking he ought to make the Spurgeons a little present, sent them the flour. God had directed ~~them~~ to send that flour. God

works in a mysterious way his wonders to perform.
He may not answer our prayers as we would
like to have them answered, yet he will bless
us if we but trust him. I believe that God has
never created any one to starve, and when in want
if we ask him with all faith in his ability
to supply our needs, I believe he will hear our
petitions and answer them. Mr. Moody was
carrying on a great work in Chicago, he had
many men employed, but soon run out of
money and did not know where he was
going to get any more. So he said, "if God
wants me to carry on this work he will send
me the money." He called all his men to a supper
one night intending to tell them that he must
give up the work as he did not have sufficient
money. While the supper was in progress, a
messenger came with a telegram for Mr. Moody,
it contained these words, "We have raised ten
thousand dollars at Northfield for your work in
Chicago." Mr. Moody did not dismiss his men
but went on with his great work. did not

God send this money? Yes, he knew his faithful servant was in need, and he would not let him give up that great work in Chicago, for a few dollars. A little girl and her mother were suffering for bread. She had been taught by her mother, the Lord's Prayer, every day little Susie kneeling by the bed side of her invalid mother, prayed, but no bread came. One morning, after saying her prayers Susie wandered out into the street, faint and hungry, wondering if she could find the place where God kept his bread. At last she saw a large, well-filled bakery. This is the place she cried. "I've come for my daily bread." she said, "I'll take two loaves." All right said the baker. She received the bread and started for the door when ^{the} baker stopped her, and asked for her money. Susie bursting into tears told him she had none. Mother is sick and I have prayed for bread, and I thought God meant for me to come and get it. Moved by the child's faith, the baker gave her all the bread she needed. Oh! how many of God's

people are thus cared for. God often places us in these trying circumstances to test our faith in him, but when we trust him and are helped, then our faith is strengthened and we live nearer to him; we consult him more, and we become truer followers.

VIII Faith is a spiritual armor.

In these times of distrust and infidelity, when our true religion is becoming corrupted, when there are so many things ~~to~~ draw us from the true Christ, we need some weapon with which to defend our selves, and the only ^{only} thing that can overthrow the adversary, the thing that we can feel secure ~~with~~ is faith in God's Word, the Sword of the Spirit. The Christian sees that the world is in his way to Heaven; he sees it is an impediment to his entrance into that celestial city. This world ^{is} so full of sin and unrighteousness, there are so many who are always ready ^{at times} to destroy any good influence that ^{almost} it seems impossible for a Christian

to walk uprightly; there seems to be little chance of his ever reaching that promised land. This world stands like an immense stone wall before him; it seems as though crouching lions were lurking by the wayside ready to devour him. But faith is the victory that overcomes the world and all its sorrows and misfortunes. We often complain because we do not have as much in this life as others, and do not believe that God is looking after us as he should. A prominent man in our country boarded a train at the depot in Jersey City some time ago. He had about twenty minutes to wait before the train started. In the berth of the sleeper next to his, a young man and woman were bidding some one good-bye. He ~~seemed~~ ^{was} anxious to know who the solitary traveler was. The next morning as the train was speeding down the valley of Western New York, the face of the unknown traveler was seen. He proved

to be a very small boy with pinched features, but large trusting eyes. A small card board breast-plate sewed on his jacket, bore his name and destination. The man offered him a pencil and paper, and they were soon good friends. The little fellow was the pet of the car, every body, especially the porter and conductor, showed him a great deal of attention. In a burst of confidence the lad told this gentleman that he had just been discharged from a New York hospital - an incurable paralytic - and was returning alone to his home almost five hundred miles away. The pathetic story caused every face in the car to become serious. The conductor left the car, the porter shed a silent tear, others buried their thoughts in the morning paper. No sound was heard save the whir of the fast revolving wheels, when suddenly through the stillness of the car rang out clear and distinct the soft voice of the child. "Jesus loves me, this I know; For the

Bible tells me so." Oh; that simple faith in
Jesus was this poor unfortunate lad's shield
and comfort. Although afflicted he believed
that God still loved him. Oh shame on us
who are well and strong, yet we are un-
grateful and do not believe that God loves us.
Oh for more faith, how much easier we
would overcome this world. We must believe
and then overcome. If at times our lots
do seem hard, if it does seem as though
God has forgotten us, let us look up to
God, tell him our trouble, and we shall
find comfort. Could we but believe these
words, "all things work together for the good
of them that love God," then we would over-
come the battles against Satan and his
followers. Through these temptations to
do wrong we are made stronger, if we
resist them. If we believe in God, we know
he will not suffer us to be tempted beyond
what we can bear, for with every temptation
he gives us a way of escape, and a

an armor to protect us. The fiery darts of satan assail us on every hand, and more than ever when we are near the gate of salvation. Satan hates to lose a follower, and does every thing in his power to shake his faith. These fiery darts come in various ways, temptations to keep away from church, or to commit some wrong, but if we have that faith in God, all we have to do is to look up to him and say "what wilt thou have me to do?" Often we are kept from temptation by repeating a verse of the bible. Now we come to the last and best thought.

IV Faith gives hope of salvation.

Through faith the ^{Christian} looks for a city whose builder and maker is God. He believes this world an enemy of his soul, his holiness, salvation, and blessedness. He believes in Christ's redeeming work, and that by him he shall enjoy life eternal; he realizes that through no one else can he see God.

He believes that Christ died for his sins; he believes in his divinity. He believes that as Christ was raised up from the dead, so he shall be raised up, and through Christ's death and resurrection he has life. Not a life that ends with his earthly career but one that remains for ever. He believes that God created him for time and eternity. The Christian believes that the Saviour has gone to heaven. And remembering the promise "I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am then ye may be also." Remembering this he looks for that city whose builder and maker is Christ. He is dissatisfied with this world and looks and presses toward heaven, a city which has foundations. He knows the Saviour will come again, when, he does not know, but he is assured that some time and in some way, Christ will come and

put an end to all things. In the twinkling
of an eye we shall be changed. Do we
believe this? We must, for this is the
substance of a Christian's faith; we must
believe this if we expect to become heirs
to salvation. The Christian believes that
Christ will judge the inhabitants of the
earth, receiving his believers into his
presence and glory, and banishing those
who do not believe, into eternal darkness.
It takes but a little effort to become a
Christian, to obtain a hope of eternal
life. If we had to pass through some
trying ordeal, if we had to make some
great sacrifice, perhaps more of us
would seek the right path. This is the
substance of it all, believe and thou~~gh~~
shalt be saved. Have faith in Christ as
your Saviour and Redeemer. This simple
child-like trust, which I have tried to
explain, yield your self to his care
and keeping, believing that he is able to

Keep that which you commit unto him
against that day. Repentance first, then
faith, united with humble love, spirituality,
fear of coming shock of salvation, a consecrated
life will give us this victory.

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