

FAITH

In these days of oppression when men's hearts are failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth (Luke 21:26), it is very necessary that we, the children of God, "hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering" (Heb. 10:23). The Bible tells us that some shall depart from the faith. It behooves you and me to be careful that we be not in that class. In Heb. 6:1 we are told that faith has foundations. "He that cometh unto God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

Fools are saying in their hearts, There is no God; but there is a God, a great Heavenly Father, whom Jesus taught His disciples to call Our Father. He loves us to a degree beyond our comprehension, so much that He calls us the "Apple of His Eye," and the Scripture says, "No good thing will be withheld from them that walk uprightly." He is. Every blade of grass, every leaf on the trees, every star in the heavens tells us that He is. Our hearts, our experiences, our very beings tell us that He is.

Not only God is, but He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. Did God ever reward you? "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the father of lights." God is not stingy, dealing meagerly with His people, but He deals bountifully. "And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" (Eph. 3:19-20). He said He would supply all the needs of His people, according to His riches in glory. The bank of heaven will never be bankrupt.

We find that God's part of the foundation is ample and well laid. "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal: The Lord knoweth them that are his." We will look now to our part. We must be free from condemnation—"For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart." "Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments and do those things that are pleasing in his sight" (I. John 3:21-22). Study the characters in the Faith Chapter, Hebrews Eleven, and see if anything there will help us. The first one is Abel—Abel offered that which God required, a blood offering. We must plead the blood. All our righteousness is as filthy rags. We must have the blood of Christ applied to our hearts. Only the blood washed will sing the song of Moses and the Lamb.

Enoch had the testimony that he pleased God. We cannot live in a haphazard way and have a great degree of faith. Be not only a hearer of the Word, but also a doer.

Noah had patience and waited long for God to fulfill His promise. He condemned the world by his faithfulness. God had told him and that was enough. If God whispers a promise to our souls, that promise will be fulfilled.

Abraham showed a high type of consecration. It was enough for him if God said to do a thing. He gave quick obedience. Sometimes we fail to get our answer from God because we do not "put legs on our own prayers."

Moses' outstanding characteristic is meekness. "The meek shall inherit the earth." Faith excludes boasting.

Daniel had faith, even when he was in the lions' den, because he was true to God in prayer. Our faith will not increase if we neglect prayer.

Faith is the anchor that secures us in times that try men's souls. It comes by hearing of the Word. It is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Jesus is the author and finisher of it. We can have much or little of it. Stephen was full of faith. His face shone as the face of an angel even in death. Paul kept the faith. Faith overcomes the world.

We have written these lines, desiring to encourage faith in the hearts of God's little ones. The shield of faith will quench all the fiery darts of the enemy. Faith abideth and will bring us our reward, a crown of righteousness.—Lucy Bondurant—Good Tidings.

COULD I BEGIN LIFE OVER

T. Richardson Gray

If I could go back to the "land of beginning again," I would doubtless correct many errors, make other choices, avoid sins, lures, and pitfalls. What failures, heartaches, disappointments we all would escape! The tragedy of a bad start in life has ruined many a future. If we could begin all over again, perhaps we would question: "Why am I here; what my mission; what road to success and happiness; whither am I bound?" What wisdom and promise mark the choice of a right path in starting life. Personally, there is one thing I would not reverse, viz.: my early seeking the Lord, for "they that seek me early shall find me." This is too little stressed in Sunday Schools.

Recently, to my query, "How many are seeking a personal Saviour?" no one responded. True, Bible study is an indispensable aid in seeking, but so often there is a lack of definite seeking. Many are fed up on religious education, surfeited with Bible teaching, with added story and picture illustration, yet are sadly wanting in the experience of personal salvation. Yes, I would early seek the Lord.

Heart Conversion—This is another experience, comprehended in the foregoing, that I would not change if I could begin life again—heart conversion, rather than an intellectual or head knowledge of God. Certainly, mind cannot be ignored, but a contrite heart counts for more, for "with the heart man believeth unto righteousness." Today our youth have a knowledge of God; but how many know God? That which has not got the heart, has not the man. "The world by wisdom knew not God," for the reason that only the redeemed heart knows Him. Here again, it seems, the church is weak—making the head outstrip the heart, with the result—a regrettable dearth in Sunday School conversions of the heart type, and all too often, a graduating out of the church school into the world. The heart-seeking of the Lord is quite unlike some "Decision Day" experience, though for children it may do. A real battle, this praying through—striving to "enter in at the strait gate" is an unforgettable struggle, but one knows when he is in. But let none doubt his conversion on the ground that his experience in this regard differs from that of another; only let it be of the heart, for it is the heart that loves, and love clings, carries on, and will not let you go; for "he

that loveth knoweth God, and is born of God." Yes, if I could go back, I would early seek the Lord in heart conversion.

As I write, I vision a sweet little girl of eight years, who, with tears of happiness, responded to my Gospel call, years ago. Her tears, her evident joy, and her pure, beautiful thought impresses me still, "How can anyone help loving Jesus?" Her heaven-lit face recalls the verse—

"As the sun in all his state
Illumined the eastern skies,
She passed thro' Glory's morning gate
And walked in Paradise."

Finally, as I can not go back to the "land of beginning again," I would do the next best thing, viz., I would start NOW, "Just as I am,"—just where I am. It may be late,—too late for certain Christian activities and attainments, but I would start NOW. I recall such an one, a friend, who, at the advanced age of 87 years, set out for the City "whose builder and maker is God." Long since, he had missed the morning glories, his sun dipped toward the horizon. "Am I too late?" Indeed, too late to bear a cross, but not to follow Christ "through the gates into the City." He regretted having missed "what might have been" a life-long service of blessing, rich in good works, walking with God. And now, bereft of kindred, and friends of the long ago, his earthly house crumbling he would avail himself of the 11th hour mercy offer of "an house not made with hands." When I last saw him at 96, he had discarded the familiar staff that had "stayed the tottering steps of age" for one fashioned from the Cross of Calvary. I breathed a prayer. Late, but the gate was yet ajar, for "whosoever will call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

I cannot go back to begin again: I would start now, and tarry not, for "now is the accepted time."—Church Herald and Holiness Banner.

THE PENALTY OF CRIME

The movies are glorifying crime; but one who knows a good deal concerning it has some very striking things to say about it. Mr. Geo. E. Q. Johnson, United States Attorney, who brought about the indictment of Alphonse Capone who has gone to Atlanta penitentiary for eleven years, recently stated in a radio message a few things he knew about criminal gangs. He declared that after the World War a gang of 47 men was organized, the eldest of which was only 26 years of age. In ten years five of this gang were killed by police, four by their own gang on suspicion of treachery, three were maimed by police bullets and reduced to beggary, six are moral and physical derelicts, six are still "moderately successful" crime executives, and three are engaged in crime and violence. These last nine will probably be in the clutch of the law before very long. Only four have reformed, and other four were unaccounted for.

Mr. Johnson said, "When you deal with organized crime at first hand you learn that it is ugly and sordid. The persons who profit by it and give expression to their illicit profits in gaudy clothing and flashy cars, exist only as butterflies—their life ends in disaster."—*The Pentecostal Evangel*.

"Every Christian is endued with a power whereby he is enabled to resist temptation."—Ex.