

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

And an Highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The Way of Holiness.—Isa. 35-8

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CHRISTIANS OVERCOMING UNBELIEF.

"Lord, I believe, help thou my unbelief."
Mark 9:24.

If my enthusiasm does not undergo a collapse I wish to publish in the Highway two short articles on unbelief. In this article I shall endeavor to deal with the above mentioned subject, while my second article will be—Unbelief Overcoming Christians.

Satan's attack on our first parents was aimed at their faith. Hath God said," etc., was Satan's way of leading them to believe that God was not as fair with them as He pretended to be.

No part of man was more injured by the fall than his faith.

Christ was aware of this, and ever and anon, during His earthly ministry, we find Him endeavoring to lift men out of their unbelief into the high realm of faith. And yet how often was the Saviour pained at man's expressed and oft-demonstrated unbelief.

To Nicodemus He said, "If I have told you earthly things and ye believe not, how shall ye believe if I have told you heavenly things?" To Israelites, who above all others should have had faith, He said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you?"

To His disciples on Galilee He said, "Where is your faith? To two others on the road to Emmaus He said, "O fools, and slow of heart, to believe all that the prophets have spoken." Of his own neighbors in Nazareth the Record states, "He marvelled at their unbelief," and down to this present day, Christian friend, my faith, your faith, stands in constant jeopardy of being attacked by the "Giant" that lives in "doubting castle."

Now, because we are so prone to doubt, we find it exceedingly difficult to experience in our hearts, the great benefits that belong to us through the atonement, since these benefits come to us on the grounds of perfect faith. However, I believe our greatest difficulty lies in the fact that we catalogue unbelief among the lesser faults and failures of our Christian relationships, whereas the Word places it at the head of man's greatest offences to God.

How often have we given as a reason for not enjoying some great essential blessing, "I suppose it is because I lack faith."

Men have considered unbelief as a sort of "first aid" remedy to which they can resort for succor when certain claims of the Word are pressed upon them. Yea, men feel that they can waive practically every great gospel issue providing that they can profess a feeling of distrust in their hearts.

But what saith the Scriptures? "He that believeth not is condemned already."

"Without faith it is impossible to please God."

"When He is come He will reprove the world of sin . . . of sin because they believe not on Me." "But the fearful and the un-

believing will have their part in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone."

By these scriptures and various others we get an idea of God's attitude toward unbelief, and if we all had a proper conception of its destructive agency toward every divine relationship we would pray as did the man in our text: "Lord, I believe. Help Thou my unbelief."

It is high time some folk take a strong stand against their own faithlessness.

Now comes the question: Is there any help for this proneness to doubt? Yes, upon conditions laid down in God's word. Any soul that will apply themselves to certain faith producing principles will eventually overcome unbelief.

These principles are not far-fetched, neither are they impracticable. The first one is a desire to believe. No man can conquer his doubts as long as he glories in them. He must hold fast to his God-inspired convictions and pray for deliverance from his doubts.

Secondly, he must keep his heart open to light. When a man is afraid of truth that interferes with his preconceived ideas that man stands a slim chance of ever being strong in faith. We must welcome the truth that opens to us the possibilities of His grace even though theories of our own are destroyed by it.

Thirdly: We must pray. Pray over our faltering, impotent faith. The disciples had been defeated in their efforts to cast out a demon. They asked Jesus the reason of their defeat. He answered, "Because of your unbelief." However, He went on to tell them that prayer coupled with fasting, would have produced a the demon.

Fourthly: Feeding our souls upon the promises of God's Word.

Hosea said: "Take to you words and turn to the Lord." How often at our altars have we seen souls struggling against their doubts, and just when it seemed the battle was lost, some one gave them a promise from the Word and immediately their faith laid hold of the promise, doubts gave way and victory was theirs.

I heard one person testify that while seeking the blessing of holiness their faith triumphed when they claimed the promise: "If ye then being evil know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him."

The fifth condition for overcoming unbelief is clean-cut definite separation from persons who are opposed to your heart's need.

I do not mean that we are to discountenance family relationships. Yet in a very true sense we are to take such a firm stand, if necessary, against father or mother, husband or wife, sister or brothers, that true to the teachings of Jesus, we close our ears to their faith-destroying arguments and let them

know that we honor our God-given convictions and purpose to live them out.

I firmly believe this to be a vital factor in the work of producing the overcoming faith.

Let us consider a case in the ministry of Jesus.

He with others was travelling toward Nazareth. A man met him, Jairus by name, and requested Him to come and heal his daughter who was lying at the point of death. Jesus responded immediately to the man's request. On the way to his home his servants met them and informed them that the girl had died, and it would be useless to trouble the Master further. Jesus, realizing what a blow such news would be to the man's faith, said "Be not afraid, only believe." And the account goes on to say, "He suffered no one to follow them save Peter, James and John." Why so? Simply because He would not have the man's faith endangered by those persons who were sure it was useless to believe further. Again, when they arrived at the house they were met with more unbelief—insomuch that when Jesus spoke of healing the child they laughed Him to scorn. Again the record says that when Jesus had put them all out He taketh Peter, James and John with the child's parents into the sick chamber and there separated them from opposing, mocking unbelief. He demonstrated what perfect faith could accomplish. The Apostles practised this same rule on similar occasions.

Now, beloved, how many of God's dear children have been guilty for years of ignoring this law of separation and yet have wondered why they never could claim for themselves some great heart-experience.

Souls by the scores have got light on the wholly sanctified life. Have acknowledged it. Some have publicly expressed a desire for it by coming to our altars. But for some reason or other have lacked faith to claim the instantaneous blessing. They have gone away requesting an interest in our prayers, but time and time again we have seen them lose pace with those who could have encouraged and helped them into the blessing. Moreover, they have gone and affiliated themselves with the opposers of holiness. Amen!

The outcome is not difficult to predict. First, loss of desire. Then convictions smothered. And lastly, in some instances, we have seen them take their places among the scornful.

But let a soul pray earnestly over their doubts; feed their faith upon the promises of God's word! Seek fellowship with those who encourage and inspire faith in their God-given convictions, and we will find under the helpful ministry of these divine agencies doubts giving way to a perfect faith that rests securely in the finished work of Calvary, and brings to our hearts every needed blessing.

Yours believing,

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