

the time of your life doing the things you will want to do. But they will be things far different from things you think you ought to do now. Men you now love, you will then hate. And what you now hate, you will love. For if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things are passed away. And all thing have become new. So it is not what these hands have done, can save this guilty soul, not what this fallen flesh has born can make my spirit whole. It it is not what I feel or do, can give me peace with God. Not all my prayers, my sighs, my tears - can bear any awful load. Thy work alone oh Christ, can ease this weight of sin. Thy blood alone, oh lamb of God, can give me peace within.

So the dependability of this instrument and the idea of this doctrine is that it is active and it is a reality. The experience of the soul confronts wherever a life has come under this mysterious force. It has been healed, it has been restored, and it has become a living experience. God working in us to heal sin.

I read the illustration of some men who were working and by accident injured a tree. The bark was torn away from its trunk. And a big gash was left in the side of the tree. Now for weeks, there was a healing process. The sap which is as the blood stream in the body of the tree, came to the relief of the injured part. And began to heal over the wound. And in the course of time, new bark appeared. After four or five years had passed, the healing was almost complete. And you could scantily see the scar.

Now what a great truth - that here is something that God's outreach instrument

can heal every wounded thing. When something comes into your life, here is something that is restoring grace. Now the Christian knows that a power is outside of him that restores his spirit to holiness. This is a precious truth. And the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord. The Psalmist says, he restoreth my soul. That is the long history of the human race. When a man is in sin, and in the bondage of sin, the magnificent grace of God comes and provides a way out. That is why the grace of God is a most dynamic instrument and a most dependable instrument. God comes in and invades this world. The grace of God is wider in its reach - in its healing and restoring power of individuals. Of every sin they have committed. The fundamental work of the church is to bring individuals face to face with this outreach instrument of God. And to persuade men that they are to yield themselves to it. The sin of all sins is to deny and reject it. And try to find fullness of life some other way apart from the grace of God. But there is no remedy for the hurt that a man has. And there is no cure - not even time will cure your sinful spirit.

Grace is the thing that will touch and will heal your life.

*Dynamic instrument
Dependable ..*

III. AN AVAILABLE INSTRUMENT

We've talked about the dynamic instrument of grace, and the dependable instrument. And now I want to bring to you that this is something that is available to every individual - to all of us. For ye are saved through faith. Now it is the gift of God. This truth is very important. And this ought to have a great place in your life. That it is available to you - everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters.

And he that hath no money, come ye by and eat. Yeah, come by wine and milk without money and without price. Isa. 55:1. Now in the New Testament, we find that same truth stated - Rom. 6:23. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Now this has been a hard truth for men to learn. They insist on trying to earn, to purchase, but it is only a free gift.

This was the stern rebuke that Peter said to a group - thy silver perish with thee. Because thou hast thought to obtain the gift of God with money. Acts 8:20.

It is available to us. And salvation is not partly of God and partly of self. It is all of God and none of self. It is not partly of grace and partly of works. It is all of grace and none of works. The only way to get salvation and grace is to ask for it. And to accept it as a free gift from God. Many people are not willing to humble themselves. They want to pay their own way. Or they want to do something in order to get it.

They say that a drowning man sometimes prevents his own salvation and rescue by his struggle against the efforts of being saved. It is hard for him to realize the only thing for him to do is to keep still. And let the other fellow save him. A great many people prevent God's outreach instrument from working, by trying to help it out and help God out.

Now it is available -- and the condition is through faith. Whatever we call it, on which God bestows the free gift. Faith opens the door of the heart so grace may come in. Dr. Robertson used to say, grace is God's part. And faith is

ours.

When God worked out his outreach program - he made it available to every man. Everyone is capable, and a provision that everyone could meet. And be able to contribute. And that simply would leave many out. But suppose he said that everyone being born in a different country or place - and that just wouldn't work. But God's requirement and availability here can be exercised by every man. And we call the word faith. Faith is the daring of the soul to go farther than it can see. As one who has explained it. Sankster said, faith can put a candle in the darkest night. Faith is setting of the entire self godward. Faith is not a sense, sight, or reason. But taking God at his word. Faith is the eye that sees him. Clings to him. The receiving power that appropriates him.

Helen Keller said, dark as my path may seem to others, I carry a magic light in my heart. Faith. Faith, the spirit's strong searchlight aluminates my way. Although doubts lurp in the shadows, I walk unafraid toward the enchanted woods where the foliage is always green and where joy abides, and where nightengales nest and sing. And where life and death are one in the presence of the Lord.

Yes, faith rests on the promise. In the midst of sorrows, troubles, bitter afflictions.

And if you will exert a little faith, it will bring your soul to Heaven. And a great faith, someone has said, will bring Heaven to your soul. Faith saving faith is not dead. It is not an empty thing. It is personal. And faith is a truth. And faith is a trust. And faith is acceptance. Faith is committal of yourself. And faith is an aggressive, action thing. It is not sitting and

waiting. And knowing that you walk up to the door, and reach out your hand and open it.

As someone has said - I tried in vain a thousand way, my fears to quiet. And hopes to raise. And all I need, the Bible says, is Jesus.

Dr. Andrew Fuller, one of the great preachers of England, many generations ago was on this wise when he was a boy out on the farm. He was greatly interested in his salvation. He went to church, he listened to sermons and they brought no relief to him. He read some good books but he found no help. He watched Christians in their daily living and listened to their words, but still, his own soul was in darkness. When he was about ready to give up all hope, these words of Jesus came to him. Come unto me all ye that are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. He said, I must and I will. I trust my lost and sinful soul into his hands. Lord Jesus, I come, I come. In that moment, the peace of God came into his soul.

(I am sure - that my body is not in such close to heaven! - drop with exhaustion)

Now, there are many people who place an emphasis on emotional religion. There are some people today who seem to think that religion is measured by the amount of noise they make. But some of us have gone to far to the other extreme. We have left all emotion out, and made of our religion a rather cold and formal thing. It is hard to realize how anyone can experience the saving grace of God without the stirring of some great emotion in his soul.

And it comes as a response of man's faith.

Several years ago a man was rolling a wheelbarrow back and forth across Niagara River. On a tight rope. Thousands of people were cheering him on. He put a 200 pound sack of dirt in the wheelbarrow, and rolled it over. And then he rolled it back. And then he turned to the crowd and said, how many of you believe I can roll a man across. Everybody shouted. One man in the front row was very excited. The man pointed to this excited professor and said you are next.)

You couldn't see that man for dust. Actually he didn't believe it. He said he believed it. Then he thought he believe it. But he was not willing to get in the wheelbarrow. Just so, with Christ. There are many people and they say they intend to follow him sometime. But they never have gotten into the wheelbarrow. They actually have never committed and surrendered themselves 100% to Christ.

Well, how much faith does it take. Jesus said, only the faith as a grain of mustard seed.

Other people ask what kind of faith. Well, there is only one kind really. It is the object of the faith that counts. And what is the object of your faith. The object of your faith must be Christ. Not some ritual. Not something you are going to do for yourself. What do you believe.

Faith is the response of the soul to the outreach of the instrument of grace. And every gift and capacity of mind and heart is really needed here. In our common speech faith is one of the commanding words of the New Testament. And it is recorded that Jesus could do no mighty works in one community because of the unbelief.

Matt. 13:58. To our generation, Jesus might say, oh ye men how slow of heart to believe.¹⁷ Luke 24:25. Faith then is a point for every man to become responsible in the great transaction between himself and God. The outreach of grace is God's doing. And we can have part in it. What heart would like to respond in the choosing of a definite faith at this time.

Faith really is a conviction says the author of Hebrews. It is the evidence of things not seen. Heb. 11:1-6. The faith of the New Testament speaks as the Christian opens his soul, the loving kindness shows through.

Mannuel Scott - Preaching in the Virgin Islands
taken out & shown the rain catchers -
There was a time when St. Thomas had to depend
upon rain water for its survival.
He went to see - noticed they were housed.
Guide - we no longer need Rain catchers -
island now has a de-salting machinery.
Water from the Ocean - de-salt the water and drink it,
elder came & in Christian faith,
That is just what Jesus does -
He (De-sins) us -
Maker us suitable & acceptable unto God.

The one Word says 't - doesn't 't -
erase, takes sin out of our life.