

Saving Faith

And there is another thing which shews the value of faith; namely, that when once established in the heart by the power of the Holy Ghost, it seems to obliterate all defects of character before God. We read of David, and Rehab, and Samson, as illustrations of faith; but no mention is made here of their sins and wickedness.

These were all blotted out for ever. They were pardoned, and remembered no more. I am not aware that some persons do not regard all the characters mentioned in Heb. xi. as illustrations of *saving faith*, but merely of such faith as can do great things; but the Holy Spirit does not confound things that differ, and there is nothing in the chapter to lead us to suppose that the same quality of faith does not attach to all the characters mentioned.

Now, we are to remember this “cloud of witnesses,” who did God's work in their day, that we may be encouraged to do what we have to do for God in our day, and to do it on the same principle and in the same spirit. Let us believe like Abraham, “the father of the faithful,” and our faith will not stagger. Are we called to the special exercise of meekness? we may profitably study the character of the “man Moses, who was meek above all the men that were on the face of the earth.” Are we called to fight the battles of the Lord? we may learn from the valour of “Joshua and Caleb, who followed the Lord fully.”

Would we behave ourselves wisely? let us think of “the man after God's own heart.” Would we be bold even before kings? let us learn of Elijah standing before Ahab. Need we lessons of filial obedience and piety? we may gather them from “Ruth, the Moabitess”—of modesty and dignity? from Esther the Queen.

These all stand out in the Word of God as witnesses to the value of that principle by which alone we can run our Christian race successfully. Would you be victorious in this race? then, above all, study Jesus Christ more. “Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?” (1 John v. 5.) The more you know of Jesus Christ and His Excellency, the stronger will be your faith. Let it be rooted and grounded in Him—Him personally—not in doctrine or things merely but in Him...

Strive to believe. The more you believe the Word of God, in the face of difficulties, the more you honour and please Him. God will trust him with much, who trusts much to God. Encourage each other in faith. Help each other, by telling of what the Lord hath done for your souls. Bring faith to bear on daily life: in common duties, it will ennoble them; in little things, it will make them valuable; and hard things, it will make them easy. Doing small things by faith, is the way to do great things. And, above all, never forget, without Christ you can do nothing; but by faith in Him you can do all things, as chapter 11th abundantly proves.

(The Titles of Jehovah: A Series of Lectures... by J. W. Reeve, London: James Nisbet & Co., MDCCCLXXIV, 209-212, Paragraph Structure Modified)