

FAITH AND WORKS.

Person Delivered Last Evening by the Rev. Newman Hall, at the Church of the Epiphany, Fifteenth and Chestnut Streets.

What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him?—James 1, 14.

Another sign—'All works are good works, and are works of trust, therefore trust must precede the works in faith. And so it must be by grace that I am saved.'

Each one surely has a right to say:—'Amassing grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me.'

It may have been a command that impressed my mind, yet it was grace that caused me to be impressed by it.

'Grace first inscribed my name In God's eternal book, 'Twas grace that gave me to the Lamb, Who all my sorrows took.'

'Grace led my roving feet To tread the heavenly road, And new capacities each hour I meet, While pressing on to God.'

'Grace taught my soul to pray, And made my eyes o'erflow, 'Twas grace that kept me to this day, And will not let me go.'

I have hope, because I can be saved by grace. I should be in despair if I believed that I could be saved by grace.

men who took refuge there from a persecution, before your Pilgrim fathers came over here, which is connected so much with the Thirtieth of Calvin and the Reformation—Calvin who earnestly taught the doctrine that 'by faith we are saved.'

I remember well, on one occasion visiting that city, of going to his tomb, going to his church, and time preached—and of entering into conversation with some English visitors, and especially with one gentleman—a skeptical man in which we had a sharp discussion, standing upon Calvin's pulpit. Soon after a person connected with the church, hearing the conversation, said, 'Works are the thermometer of faith. The thermometer does not make the heat, but shows how hot the fire is. Christian always does good works. But he does not good works to purchase salvation; he does good works because he has got salvation. Because God is his father, he loves his Father; he trusts his Father; and because he loves and trusts his Father, he obeys Him. Good works are the fruit of being saved. Faith is a life, and the Christian obeys the law in which is given him. Faith is the inward power which shows itself in outward works. Works must be faith before there can be works, and if there is faith there will certainly be the works. Works are the thermometer of faith.'

By faith, it saved at all; but true faith, that manifests itself in our daily lives; faith that shows itself in works. No pretended faith, because that is false, and can have no virtue. Works we live; not by bad works, but by good, for such cometh from true faith, and true faith cometh from God. If you have a prodigal son, who has left his father's house, and is astray into the world, you seek to regain him through the instrumentality of faith. You send him letters of tenderest regard; you tell him of your deep and abiding love; you urge him to return, giving him assurance that he is loved, and he returns. Now that was true faith, which resulted in good works. The works were dependent upon the faith; the faith could not have resulted but by good works. And thus we live by faith, which cometh from God, and by works, which are the necessary concomitants of faith. We cannot separate the two—they are inseparable. They work together, and through God's grace accomplish good. Are there any here who have the true faith? If there are, they will be picked out, their daily works will show their faith. And if they have the one and do the other they are Christians—for God worketh through their faith good things.

Let it not be said, my dear brother, as it was in the text, 'What doth it profit, if a man say he hath faith, and have not works?' Why live in mere empty form? God should work in you to will and to do—for His holy cause. But the true works are not those which come from impure thoughts—the giving to the poor that your neighbors may know that you do! Not giving your money to philanthropic enterprises, that it may be spread abroad! Not going to church, and going through the formality of religious thoughts—the giving to the poor that the simplest works you do. If you are engaged in business, your integrity will be increased. If it is at home, your love will be increased. If it is through the world, your Christian charity will surely manifest itself in good works. Remember that Faith worketh love.

At the close of the sermon Rev. Newman Hall offered a brief and fervent prayer, and pronounced the benediction, when the vast audience dispersed.

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