



Acts 16:19–40

Lesson 2 — Faith

To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. (Acts 10:43)

And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses. (Acts 13:39)

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. (Ephesians 2:8–9)

James 2:14–26

If we are faithful in doing our part, in co-operating with Him, God will work through us the good pleasure of His will. But God cannot work through us if we make no effort.

If we gain eternal life, **we must work, and work earnestly.**

(RH June 11, 1901, par. 2)

Let us not be deceived by the oft-repeated assertion, “All you have to do is to believe.” Faith and works are **two oars**

which **we must use equally** if we press our way up the stream against the current of unbelief. “Faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.” The Christian is a man of

thought and practice. His faith fixes its roots firmly in

Christ. By faith and good works he keeps his spirituality strong and healthy, and his spiritual strength increases as he strives to work the works of God. *(RH June 11, 1901, par. 9)*

And what is it to believe? It is to **fully accept** that Jesus Christ died as our sacrifice; that He became the curse for us, took our sins upon Himself, and imputed unto us His own righteousness. Therefore we claim this righteousness of Christ, we believe it, and it is our righteousness. He is our Saviour. He saves us because He said He would. Are we going to go into all the explanations as to how He can save us? Do we have the goodness in ourselves that will make us better and cleanse us from the spots and stains of sin, enabling us then to come to God? We simply cannot do it. (*FW 70.2*)

Don't you know that when the young man came to Christ and asked Him what he should do that he might have life, Christ told him to keep the commandments. Said he, "I have done it." Now the Lord wanted to bring this lesson right home. "What lack I yet? I am perfectly whole" (Matthew 19:20). He did not see that there was a thing the matter with him or why he should not have eternal life. "I have done it," he said. Now Christ touches the plague spot of his heart. He says, "Come, **follow Me**, and ye shall have life." (*FW 70.3*)

What did he do? He turned away very sorrowful,
for he had great possessions. (*FW* 70.4)

Now he had not kept the commandments at all.
He should have accepted Jesus Christ as his
Saviour and taken hold of His righteousness.
Then, as he had the righteousness of Christ, he
could keep the law of God. The young ruler could
not trample that law under his feet. He must
respect it; he must love it. Then **Christ would
bring divine power to combine with man's efforts.**

(*FW* 70.5)

Christ took upon Himself humanity for us. He clothed His divinity, and divinity and humanity were combined. He showed that that law which Satan declared could not be kept, could be kept. Christ took humanity to stand here in our world, to show that Satan had lied. He took humanity upon Himself to demonstrate that **with divinity and humanity combined, man could keep the law of Jehovah.** Separate humanity from divinity, and you can try to work out your own righteousness from now till Christ comes, and it will be nothing but a failure. (*FW 71.1*)

By living faith, by earnest prayer to God, and depending upon Jesus' merits, we are clothed with His righteousness, and we are saved. "Oh, yes," some say, "we are saved in doing nothing. In fact, I am saved. I need not keep the law of God. I am saved by the righteousness of Jesus Christ." Christ came to our world to bring all men back to allegiance to God. To take the position that you can break God's law, for Christ has done it all, is a position of death, for you are as verily a transgressor as anyone. (*FW 71.2*)

Then what is it? **It is to hear and to see that with the righteousness of Christ which you hold by faith, righteousness supplied by His efforts and His divine power, you can keep the commandments of God.** (*FW 71.3*)

Now we want that faith. But will man be saved in indolence? Can he be saved in doing nothing? Never, never! He must be a colaborer with Jesus Christ. He cannot save himself. "We are labourers together with God" (1 Corinthians 3:9). And how is it?

All heaven is laboring to elevate the human race from the degradation of sin. All heaven is open to the inhabitants of earth. The angels of God are sent to minister to those who shall be heirs of salvation. "It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13). (*FW 71.4*)

And it is that faith which works that you want. How does it work? It works by love. What love? Why, the love flashing from the cross of Calvary. It is set up midway between earth and heaven, and salvation is gained by looking at this cross. The Father has accepted it, and the angelic host have come to that cross, and God Himself has bowed in acceptance of the sacrifice. It answers the demand of Heaven, and man can be saved through Jesus Christ, if we only have faith in Him. Man is reconciled to God, and God to man, through the full and perfect and entire sacrifice. (*FW 72.1*)

Now, brethren, we want faith; we want to educate the soul in faith; we want every step to be a step of faith. We want faith in this sacrifice that has been made for us. "Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other" (Psalm 85:10). Now, when we see a ray of light we want to lay hold upon it. The devil is working against this all the time. It is the faith that works by love that is witnessed by Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary. It is the love that He has had for my soul. Christ has died for me. He has purchased me at an infinite cost, and He has atoned for everything that is offensive to Him. I must be a laborer with Him. I must take His yoke upon myself. I must wear the yoke of Christ. I must lift His burdens. I must teach others how to be lifted from the sinful state that I was in and to grasp by living faith the righteousness that is in Christ Jesus. That is the only way that the sinner can be saved. (*FW 72.2*)

It is not enough to perceive the loving-kindness of God, to see the benevolence, the fatherly tenderness, of His character. It is not enough to discern the wisdom and justice of His law, to see that it is founded upon the eternal principle of love. Paul the apostle saw all this when he exclaimed, "I consent unto the law that it is good." "The law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good." But he added, in the bitterness of his soul-anguish and despair, "I am carnal, sold under sin." Romans 7:16, 12, 14. He longed for the purity, the righteousness, to which in himself he was powerless to attain, and cried out, "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from this body of death?" Romans 7:24, margin. **Such is the cry that has gone up from burdened hearts in all lands and in all ages.** To all, there is but one answer, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29. (SC 19.1)

The **spirit of Christ** will lead us to **hate sin**, while we are willing to make any sacrifice to save the sinner. (*5T* 171.2)

As the sinner grasps the **promises** of God by faith, a blessed confidence comes into his soul, and he receives **the illumination of the Spirit of God**. (*ST* July 6, 1888, par. 7)

Isaiah 43

As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust. (Psalm 103:13, 14)

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

I have blotted out, like a thick cloud, your transgressions, and like a cloud, your sins. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you. (Isaiah 44:22)

I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you. (Jeremiah 31:3)

Let not your heart be troubled. . . . Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. (John 14:1, 27)

Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! (Isaiah 45:22)

He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses. (Matthew 8:17)

He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)