

and acceptable to God through Christ, and do spring necessarily out of a true and lively faith, insomuch, that by them a lively faith may be as evidently known as a tree discerned by the fruit."

Oh! what would I give that this article was duly understood, and preached by all that have subscribed to it! The ark of the Lord would not then be driven into the wilderness, nor so many dissent from the church of England. I am fully persuaded, that it is not so much on account of our rites and ceremonies, as of our not preaching the truth as it is in Jesus, that many of our churches are become so empty of true believers. Did not we fall from our established doctrines, few, comparatively speaking, would fall from the established church. Where Christ is preached, though it be in a church or common, dissenters of all denominations have, and do most freely come: but if our clergy will preach only the law, and not show the way of salvation by faith in Christ Jesus, that is, the gospel, the charge of schism, at the day of judgment, I fear, will chiefly lie at their door. The true sheep of Christ know the voice of Christ's true shepherds, and strangers they will not hear.

Observe, my dear brethren, the words of the article. Good works "are the fruits of faith, and follow after justification." How then can they go before, or any way be the cause of it? No, our persons must be justified before our performances can be accepted. God had respect to Abel before he had respect to his offering; and therefore the righteousness of Jesus Christ must be freely imputed to, and apprehended by us, thro' faith, before we can offer an acceptable sacrifice to God. For out of Christ, as I intimated before, God is a consuming fire; and whatsoever is not of faith in Christ, is sin.

The grand cause of people's mistaking the doctrine of free justification, I believe is owing to their not rightly considering the different persons St. Paul and St. James wrote to in their epistles, as also the different kinds of justification each of them writes about. The former every where asserts, and that with line upon