

THE PROCESS OF FULL SALVATION.

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HAT are the prominent characteristics of that state of mind in which it is possible instantly and fully to accept Christ as a perfect Saviour; to find at once and forever those treasures of salvation which lie hid in the open field of the divine promises and which are all contained in that one pearl of great price, the love of God dwelling in a peaceful, pure spirit?

1. The first characteristic of this mental state is that it has a clear and thorough knowledge of the blessing sought. Many know not what they are looking for: they have the sense of want, but that want is not present in a clearly apprehended, definite form. The seeker of whom we speak feels that he wants salvation from sin, not outward sin that does not exist. Sin has not dominion over him. What he wants is salvation from inward sin, the presence of which he is constantly painfully conscious; and though always successfully resisted, its inbeing is never felt without calling forth sincere confession, and a bitter repentance often repeated before God. He wants selfishness, and pride, and anger, and evil desire cast out, that he might be perfectly free to love God with all his heart, and to imitate in thought as well as by his words and actions the spotless example of Christ. He wants such a cleansing as takes away all iniquity, and enables him as the elect of God, holy and beloved, to put on bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long suffering, every grace of the Spirit, but above all the perfect love of God. Heart holiness then is the blessing sought: this explicit knowledge of his wants is the first characteristic of which we speak.

2. The second is hope. He believes this blessing is attainable by him. Under that searching, all-revealing light of the Spirit, with which the whole soul is lit up like a transparency, sin seems to blend itself with every fibre of the soul's tissue, it mars every thought, defiles every action, shades every word. Under this deep and all-pervading conviction of inward sinfulness, we cannot abound in hope in reference to full salvation, but through the power of the Holy Ghost. The light that reveals sin must also reveal Christ, or the spirit would fail before him and we should give up in despair; but through the infinite mercy of God we are divinely assured that where sin abounded, grace did much more abound; and that "We, even we, shall see his face. We shall be holy here."

3. In the third place there is a firm, unalterable decision that in the strength of the Lord we will have it. This cuts off all wavering and all the veerings of vacillation at a stroke, and makes the crooked ways of indecision straight at once, and its rough places plain, overleaping a thousand difficulties and hindrances at a single bound. If this resolution is deeply formed it will easily express itself in a proper form of words, or by signature to a written form, and both will be found alike helpful to the final settlement of this all-