

but of the heart. It is a living principle, wrought in the soul by the spirit of the ever-living God, convincing the sinner of his lost undone condition by nature, enabling him to lay hold on the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ, freely offered him in the gospel, and continually exciting him, out of a principle of love and gratitude, to shew forth the same, by abounding in every good word and work. This is the sum and substance of the doctrine that has been delivered: And if this belicentious doctrine, judge ye. No, my brethren, this is not decrying all good works, but teaching you how to do the same from a proper principle. For to use the words of our church in another of her articles, "Works done before the grace of Christ, and the inspiration of the spirit, are not pleasant to God, forasmuch as they spring not of faith in Jesus Christ; rather, for that they are not done as God has willed and commanded them to be done, we doubt not but they have the nature of sin." So that they, who bid you do and then believe, are just as wise as those who would persuade you to build a beautiful magnificent house, without laying any foundation.

The doctrine of our free justification by faith in Christ Jesus, like other gospel truths, may and will be abused by men of corrupt minds, and reprobate concerning the faith; but they who receive the truth of God in the love of it, will always be showing their faith by their works. For this reason, St. Paul, after telling the Ephesians, that by grace they were saved through faith; not of works, lest any man should boast; immediately adds, For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works. And in his epistle to Titus, having given him directions, chap. iii. 7, to tell people that they were justified by grace, he directly subjoins, verse 8, I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God, might be careful to maintain good works. Agreeably to this, we are told in our twelfth article, that "albeit that good works, which are the fruits of faith, and follow after justification, cannot put away our sins, and endure the severity of God's judgment, yet are they pleasing