

to serve Him, then you have the faith of God's elect, you are undoubtedly a saved man, and you may go your way and rejoice in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made you free. It shall be joy to you to serve the Lord, since love is the mainspring of your service.

That is the point we are going to speak upon this morning—the connection which exists between faith and love: "Faith which worketh by love."

1. Our first observation will be this:

FAITH ALWAYS PRODUCES LOVE.

"Faith which worketh by love." When faith has anything to do she walks to the field with love at her side. The two graces are inseparable. Like Mary and Martha, they are sisters, and abide in one house. Faith, like Mary, sits at Jesus feet, and hears his words, and then love diligently goes about the house and rejoices to honor the divine Lord. Faith is light, while love is heat, and in every beam of grace from the Sun of righteousness you will find a measure of each.

I. This happens by a necessity of faith's own nature. The moment a man believes in Jesus Christ he loves Him as a matter of course. It is possible to trust in another person and not love him, but from the peculiar circumstances of the case, our Lord having loved us and given Himself for us out of the infinite charity of His heart, we are compelled to love Him the moment we repose upon Him. To trust the bleeding Lamb and not love Him is a thing not to be imagined. Faith is a gold ring which, in every case, the heavenly jeweler sets with

the beryl of love. Water faith with a drop of God's own dew and it blossoms into love.

The first steps of the prodigal when he comes to himself are all towards his father's house and heart. When he gets home he may take many steps hither and thither about his father's estate, but at first, at any rate, his face is distinctly toward his Father. Did he not say, "I will arise and go unto my father?" The first steps of the soul, when it begins to believe in God are desires after him in which there is a measure of love.

The affections are aroused and drawn toward God as soon as there is the slightest degree of faith in the soul. Every believer here knows that. Look back to the day when first you saw the Lord, if you can remember it—the hour you looked to Him and were lightened; did you not love Him immediately? Love Him? Ah! We sometime fear we loved Him better then than now, though I hope that is not the case. If any one had asked me, in the first flush of my joy when first I beheld my bleeding Lamb, do you love Him? I should not have hesitated, but replied, "I love Him as my very soul, for He hath redeemed me from going down into the pit." Faith creates love as summer breeds flowers. Our first love came with our first faith by a necessity of nature which can never change.

2. Love grows out of faith yet further by the discoveries of beauty in Christ which faith is sure to make. Faith is the soul's eye, and its telescope, by which it sees that which is so far off as to be otherwise invisible. Out of this gracious discern-