

VICTORY.

BY RICHARD WEAVER.

"And this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.—1 John, v. 4.

We are told in the 11th chapter, of the Hebrews, which I read to you just now, that "faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." If you ask many people at the present time who profess to be Christians whether they are saved, they say they hope they are. If you speak to them and say, "Well my dear friend," or "My dear brother," or "My dear sister, are you saved?" they say, "I hope I am; I think I am." Now I am told in God's Word that faith is the substance of things hoped for, and if a man has got a thing why doth he yet hope for that thing that he has got? "He that believeth on the Son hath (not shall have, but *hath*) everlasting life." We know there are a great many people who try to persuade us to believe different things from these, and they try to persuade us that it is not all of faith, but I believe that it is all of faith.

I know what some went and talked about the other night when I told the people they were not to go home to pray. But what I said then I rehearse again to-night. God Almighty has not said in his blessed Word that he that prays shall be saved, but whosoever believeth shall be saved.—I know and love prayer as well as you, or else I would not pray; but "without faith it is impossible to please God," and a man that is unconverted has not got faith, because faith is a taking God at his word; faith is a trusting in Christ. Christ is the foundation, and faith is the relying upon that foundation. Christ is the Saviour; faith is taking that Saviour to be my Saviour. Christ is life; faith is taking that life to be life. I believe that prayer is a fruit of faith, and if there is no faith there will be no prayer; and you might pray from now till next year if you like, but if you have no faith you will never be saved. It is thy faith that makes thee whole; not that thy faith saves thee, but it trusts in what Christ has done to save thee. It is not the gas pipe that gives the light; it is

the gas; but then the gas-pipe brings the gas from the pipe in the street into the chapel, and so we get the light. Faith is not salvation, but faith is the channel, and then out of Christ, the salvation comes to us.

Christ for me; that is the language of my heart again to-night, and I say now what I told you last night, that I always feel that I must preach about Christ, and then if I preach about Him I shall have the victory. I may talk to you about the old saints, but if I do not talk about Christ our meeting will be of no good. It is Christ that saves poor sinners, and if it is a Christless sermon I am sure it will be a useless sermon, because if there is no Jesus there will be no salvation. God has said, "This is the record, that he hath given unto us eternal life, and this life is in His Son." So that if we keep the Son out, there will be no life, it will be all death; but if Christ be here, we shall have the victory.

What a blessed word that is—victory! It often stimulates me amidst the trials and conflicts I have to contend with in this world—victory. It often animates my soul as I am plodding my way through this poor sin-blighted world—victory.—and if we were to stand on a battle-field where the bomb-shells and the balls were flying, and the spears were glittering, and the swords flashing before us, we should see men riding on their horses, and they would be cheered and animated by the thought of victory. Yes, and the Christian is on a battle-field, and the thing that cheers him is the thought of victory.—God commands us to war the good warfare, to fight the good fight, and to lay hold of eternal life, and then by-and-by we shall have the victory. Victory means getting above difficulty and perplexity, over all the difficulties we meet with in this evil world, and over the great enemy we have to fight with.

Victory means getting the conquest