

What is Faith?

DURING his recent visit to America, Mr. George Muller made the following remarks in speaking of "Faith: What is it? and how to increase it":—

What is faith?

Positively, faith is confidence that God will act according to what He has declared in His Holy Word. It is reliance on God's Word through the assurance that He will act truthfully. It is based altogether on His character. Negatively, faith is not an impression, whether strong or weak. We believe because God has spoken, and not because we have impressions. Neither is it any degree of feeling or emotion. It has nothing to do with probabilities. Faith begins where probability ends. Many go under a cloud when they might be in clear light, because they are looking at their own impressions or feelings, or are weighing probabilities.

How to increase faith.

1. Welcome all the trials of faith. It grows by the exercise trial gives. But if we do not welcome the discipline, we get little from it but the suffering. To repine at affliction is to miss the most ennobling joy, to incur the most needless distress, and to lose faith culture besides.

2. Seek acquaintance with God as He is revealed in the Bible. Trust will be spontaneous if we really know Him. The notions of God which the world, and even many in the Church, entertain, are not true. Mr. Muller repeated three times, very solemnly and tenderly, "God is the most loveable Being." Is not this the language of your inmost soul? If not, you are not acquainted with God as He is revealed in Scripture. Seek above all to know God, so that you shall from your inmost soul say, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him." "They that know Thy name will put their trust in Thee." If one is really acquainted with the God, not of the world nor of many in the Church, but the God of the Bible, he is so satisfied that he will not complain of anything, but will rejoice in all things.

"A Man in Christ."

THE Apostle says, "I knew a man in Christ" (2 Cor. xii. 2). And this was no unimportant knowledge, for "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature." "A man in Christ" is a man redeemed, pardoned, blest, saved. "A man in Christ" is a man who is not of the world, who is chosen out of the world, and whom the world therefore hateth. "A man in Christ" is crucified to the world, and the

world to him. The life that he now lives is by the faith of the Son of God, who hath loved him and given Himself for him. "A man in Christ" may be unknown, yet he is well known. He may be surrounded with enemies, yet he possesses an Almighty Friend. He may be a pilgrim and a stranger on the earth, yet there is for him "a city that hath foundations," and a home beyond the flood. "A man in Christ" is a branch of an undying Vine: he partakes of eternal life; he drinks from the fountain of Divine vitality. "A man in Christ" is a partaker of a Heavenly calling; a member of a celestial brotherhood; an heir of God and a joint heir with Jesus Christ to an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away. Blessed are they whose fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

Reader, are you "a man in Christ?" Do you know Him in the power of his resurrection life? Do others know you as "a man in Christ?" Do you know others who are "in Christ;" or are you imposed upon by every empty hypocrite, and ready to join hands with every sectarian who belongs to your "body," or who pronounces your shibboleth? A man in the Church is one thing, "a man in Christ" is another. Reader, which are you; Do you know?—*The Armoury.*

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John iii. 16.

LOOK fairly at the above verse taken from the Bible, and answer: Could God even have done more to save you than He has done?

He came down Himself in the person of Jesus. The door of Heaven is open, Open, Open. Come, Come, Come, is the call on the right hand and on the left. Will you or will you not come and take eternal life? This magnificent gift is *Free, Free, Free*. I will ring this out. And now what will you say to Him, who came to save the "lost," when you shall stand before Him at the last, if you refuse His gracious and marvellous gift, or neglect it. What can you say? I tell you now you will be "speechless." In all love and pity I crave your attention to what I have written. "It is not a vain thing, it is your life." Life is precious, but oh! the value of eternal life is beyond mortal man's calculation.

"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."