

“by the grace of God I am what I am;” and “His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain, but I laboured more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me;” the brightest portion of a man’s faith is his humility; the surest mark of a counterfeit faith, his thought of merit. The proud man cannot be a believer, the humble man, at least, is near the kingdom of heaven.

8th. Such a faith proves a man to be in reality a Christian; “by their fruits ye shall know them; we do not gather grapes of thorns, nor figs of thistles;” and we do not see the works of love;—souls cared for; the Scriptures circulated in the spirit of prayer; efforts made to spread the kingdom of Jesus in the world, and in individual hearts; the poor and the destitute and the miserable, comforted and sustained; and all this, with a humble sense of nothingness;—we do not behold these fruits of the spirit in those who are after the flesh; we know that these are the witnesses by whom, in the great day of account, men’s faith will be tried; that love for Jesus will not be proved by the fact, that men cried often, “Lord, Lord,” or simply made long prayers and a loud profession; but what were their deeds? did they from a sense of God’s love and mercy, manifested towards them by Jesus Christ, from a faith in His salvation by the blood of the Cross, consecrate themselves to His service and sanctify the Lord God in their hearts, and so go forth day by day, saying, “what shall I render unto the Lord?”