

[ORIGINAL.]

## The Obedience of Faith.

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**W**HAT IS FAITH? Believing that "what He has promised He is able also to perform." Rev. iii: 21. "Abraham believed God and obeyed." Heb. xi: 7. Adam stumbled at this stone and fell—we have to begin where he fell, and recover our foothold just there.

Obedience from *fear* will always fail. It brings no glory to God. "God so *loved* the world \* \* that whosoever *believeth*." The history of Israel proves how valueless is the obedience from a sense of fear.

God promised them earthly blessings—a land—a kingdom—power over all the nations. A glory that should outshine all other earthly glory, if they would obey the Law and do His will. But they lost all through disobedience. God now offers eternal life, a heavenly kingdom, a seat on the throne and such heavenly glory as has been offered to none before, if men will believe and obey Him. He has made many exceeding great and precious promises, and He asks us to believe He means to keep every one of them, and to prove we can trust His word by doing His will. John ii: 5. The Mother of Jesus saith unto the servants, 'Whatsoever He saith to you *do it!*' They believed he meant them to do as He told them, they trusted Him to meet the needs that had arisen, and thus trusting, they acted, leaving the results to Him. So now, the Lord has made a number of promises in the Gospel and He only asks for simple and sincere faith in His word, to be proved by doing His will, and then life eternal is assured. Throughout the Old Testament this principle was in force, as the following illustrations will show:—

**1st. EXODUS xii.** :—Israel was under the iron hand of the Egyptian King. They had no power of resistance, and their cry for deliverance reached the ear of God. He sent them this fourfold promise, "I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, I will smite all the first-born of the land of Egypt, against all the Gods of Egypt I will execute judgment, when I see the blood I will pass over you." The promise of judgment on their enemies was threefold. If they believed that God would keep His word and do as He had said, they were to take a Lamb, keep it four days, kill it on the evening appointed, and sprinkle the blood on the outside of the doors. They went away and *did* as the Lord commanded,

not from fear, but from faith; they expected to be saved from the bondage of Egypt. They were saved just as God promised.

**2nd. NUM. xxi.** :—After the cry of the people to God for deliverance from the fiery serpents, then came the command to Moses to make the Serpent of Brass, and then to proclaim the promise of God, that whosoever was bitten and looked at the Serpent of Brass shall live. Those who were in danger of dying and who believed, *looked* and *lived*. By so doing they threw the whole responsibility of their deliverance on God, and held Him to His own word of promise.

**3rd. JOSHUA ii. 14-18.** :—In this case the two Spies who had come to Jericho and were about to return from their hiding place in Rahab's house, bade Rahab bind the scarlet line in her window by which they were let down. The injunction so to do was based on a promise of her being safely preserved in the coming storm of destruction. "Our life for yours if ye utter not this our business." She believed the promise and immediately bound the cord in her window thus settling on the spot the question of her safety.

**4th. 2 KINGS v.** :—Naaman the Syrian came to the land of Israel seeking to be recovered of his leprosy and found his way to the house of Elisha, the man of God. The simple message, "Go wash in Jordan seven times," staggered him, and he was not prepared to obey it. "I thought he would have come and struck the place and called on the name of his God," said he. Naaman had imagined that Elisha would have made a great fuss over him, have had a great ceremonial, and gone through some special process of cleansing. But no! the promise of complete cleansing was made on the condition of the obedience of faith, and so Naaman went away in a great rage. To be spoken of as *unclean*, probably made him very angry, but yet that was the simple truth, and all the finery of costume and the grandeur of state, and high position could not alter the fact. At length the gentle pleading of all his servants prevailed and the horses heads were turned toward Jordan. The promise was true, the act of obedience in dipping seven times verified it, and his flesh came unto him as fresh as a little child's.

**5th. JOHN ix.** :—A blind man attracted the love and attention of the Lord Jesus; calling him. he bade him 'go wash in the pool of Siloam.' He believed the Lord's word and proceeded to obey it, and immediately he received his sight, not restored sight, but new sight. Thus the Lord now gives the opening of the eyes of the understanding that are unable to see anything of the beauty and glory of the work of redemption.

**6th. LUKE x.** :—Yet another case. The ten lepers seeing Jesus of Nazareth far off, cried to