

sanctifying truth. Many persons commit the sin of unbelief by neglecting the great salvation. They are careless. But this carelessness will as surely ruin them as the most determined rejection of the truth. Alas! myriads are ruined by carelessness. They mean not to rush on to woe; but they are heedless of God's claims on them, and of their own woe, and they go on trifling with their eternal interests, until their probation period is brought to a close, and they are lost through carelessness. Ye careless ones, ye may be so fascinated with earthly pleasures or so wrapt up in the concerns of time that you are neglecting the things that relate to the peace of your souls. But ah! ye little imagine your folly, or the magnitude of the crime which you are committing.—Many others commit the sin of unbelief by a contemptuous rejection of the saving gospel. They disdain to admit that they are sinners. Or they will not consent to take salvation as a free gift. Or they will not submit to receive as true what God has revealed. O reader, if you are proudly despising God's plan for saving your soul through faith in Jesus, there is in you antagonism to God. What more reasonable than that you admit your sinfulness when it is a fact that you have sinned against God! And what more reasonable than that you submit to be saved by that plan which God in his wisdom has contrived for saving you, which in compassion and mercy he has provided for you!

5. Unbelief sustains a relation to other sins. Unbelief indeed may be said to be the parent sin. Our first parents fell by unbelief. They believed what Satan said respecting the consequences of eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil rather than what God said. Had they continued to believe God's word they would have been proof against the darts of the tempter. And now that a way of deliverance from sin and hell has been opened up by Christ, and opened up by him for all, unbelief as regards it not only keeps men in danger, and far from God, but under the influence of sin. If a person is an unbeliever, he is living in sin. Indeed it may be by yielding to the love of sin that he remains in unbelief. When a person believes in Jesus he comes under pure and purifying influences. Faith and holiness are inseparably connected. Here, O reader, is a powerful reason why you should believe the gospel. While you remain an unbeliever you remain a slave of sin.

6. Unbelief involves resistance of the strivings of the Divine Spirit. The Spirit testifies of Jesus and his work of atonement.