

FOR DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN.

A Prayer.

Ps. 62 : 7.

Should doubts assail and trouble me,
Or fears arise unbidden,
Should trials compass me about,
God's face seem almost hidden,—
Oh then, my Lord, let me not be
Cast down by tribulation,
But let me ever trust in Thee,
In God is my Salvation.

Should Satan try to tempt me, with
Some show of earthly pleasure,
And seek to turn away my thoughts,
From Thee, and Heavenly treasure,
Oh then, my Lord, make new to me,
The blessed old, old story,
And so in joy my heart will sing,
In God is all my Glory.

Should times of weakness come to me,
And almost overpower,
Should thought of service seem to be
Much harder every hour,—
Oh then, my Lord, fresh courage give
To find by prayer prevailing,
All that I need, oh God, in Thee,
My Rock of Strength unailing.

Should danger hang above my head,
While I go on unheeding,
Should trouble lie along my path,
And I some help am needing,—
Oh then, my Lord, make good again,
Thy word which failed us never,
And be a Refuge unto me
Forever and forever.

"BENNIE BRAE."

Ottawa.

The Need of Christ's Fellowship.

You will want Christ in the evening of life, for evening is a lonely time without company. You will look for Jesus when the shadows gather and your earthly friends are gone. You may not see any need of having the Master at life's high noon, or early in the afternoon when the sun is still shining, when friends are many and life is gay and rosy with promise; but when evening comes there will be a change, and in that hour you will recognize your need of the friendship of Jesus. To know the sweetness of his fellowship to-day and within its silent blessedness to walk toward heaven, is to fill both the day and evening of life with joy untold.

If any one would tell you the shortest, surest way to all happiness and all perfection, he must tell you to make it a rule to yourself to thank and praise God for everything that happens to you. For it is certain that, whatever seeming calamity happens to you, if you thank and praise God for it, you turn it into a blessing. Could you, therefore, work miracles, you could not do more for yourself than by this thankful spirit; for it heals with a word speaking, and turns all that it touches into happiness.—William Law.

In doing our best we build better than we know. Every church treasury on earth has been made richer by the widow's mites. The needle of Dorcas, many times multiplied, still works. Mary's oil of nard is still filling the world with its aroma; her name and deed are still enveloped in its fresh, sweet fragrance. Your best influence in the influence of doing your best. It lives forever. It multiplies itself by infinity. It alone is worthy of you.

Our Young People

Sun, Dec. 6. What the Heroes of Faith Teach Us.

Heb. 11 : 1-40.

The Secret of Power.

The world's heroes have been heroes of faith. They have believed in heavenly aid and have received it. They have done things that seemed impossible and that appear incredible to many unbelieving minds now. The hero always astonishes mankind and goes beyond the common experience. It may well be that others in Ur of the Chaldees heard God's call, but Abraham was the only one who had faith to follow it. His kindred and friends could not understand; they were amazed. They had no heroism of belief, and so they are forgotten, while Abraham's name shines as the stars.

Faith inherits the promises. It takes hold on God's power. It dares, it endures, it triumphs. "I believe it because it is impossible" is a motto that has helped to achieve the impossible over and over again. That which is impossible with men is possible with God. Once we lay believing hold upon divine power we can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth us.

A Tradition of Thomas.

A legend relates that the Apostles' Creed was composed by the twelve apostles. Each one contributed a clause or two, till the whole was complete. The legend says that Thomas, when called on for his portion, replied, "I believe that he descended into hell, and the third day he rose again from the dead." Where Thomas had once doubted he now most strongly believed. The weak point in his faith had become a strong point instead.

Where our faith is weak Christ will come to us and strengthen us, as he did Thomas, if we ask him. The worst thing to do with a doubt is to keep it to ourselves, and out of our prayers. A doubt, brought to God, will be replaced by a firmer faith, as was the unbelief of Thomas.

The Will to Believe.

The will is the royal faculty, the ruling element of the soul. What we will, conditions what we shall do and be. Faith is no exception to this rule. It is conditioned on free will. God does not force us to believe; he asks us to believe.

We can choose a state of spiritual indecision and live in it. The result will be that we will be unstable in all our ways. Or we can have the will to believe, and exercise and strengthen it indefinitely. Doubts are common to us all. The believing soul is not such because he has never had a doubt, but because he has refused to sit under doubt's shadow.

Granted that there are some things in the Bible that we cannot explain. Greater intellects than ours have been satisfied to accept them. There are a dozen things we can understand and believe and live by in the Bible to one thing that is obscure. An honest will to believe is what we need, and it will grow with using.

No sham can stand in God's presence. His eyes search all pretensions to their very heart and core.

Don't try to hold God's hand; let Him hold yours. Let Him do the holding and you the trusting.

Prayer.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, thou holdest the earth in thy hand as a very little thing and drawest the heavens around it as a curtain. Thou art great and glorious in thy majesty and we are poor and needy, yet thou dost think upon us, and even a sparrow falls not to the ground without thy notice. May we know that in thee we live and move and have our being, and that thou art more willing to give good gifts to us than we are to our children. Help us to accept thy will as our standard of what is best and be content with whatsoever thou dost send. May we crave inward comfort rather than outward comforts, inner worth more than outward wealth. Give us that purity of heart which will assimilate us to thee and enable us everywhere to see thy presence and purpose. Forgive our sins and help to forget them and press on to better things. May the Lord Jesus dwell in our hearts by faith and fashion us into his likeness. And so may all our life be passed in his company, and at last where he is there may we be also: that will be heaven enough. We ask all in his name. Amen.

Daily Readings.

Mon., Nov. 30.—Faith in the cross.
Gen. 4 : 4-7
Tues., Dec. 1.—Walking with God.
Gen. 5 : 22-24
Wed., Dec. 2.—Faith building the ark.
Gen. 6 : 13-22
Thurs., Dec. 3.—Faith conquering cities.
Josh. 6 : 1-21
Fri., Dec. 4.—Faith winning victories.
Judges 7 : 15-22
Sat., Dec. 5.—Faith on a journey.
Acts 7 : 2-5
Sun., Dec. 6.—Topic—What the heroes of faith teach us. Heb. 11 : 1-40.

No thoughtless Christian will lightly and crudely criticize or rebuke the spiritual sadness and perplexities of another. But let me express an humble, earnest conviction, nevertheless, that many an hour of sadness and perplexity is an hour which need never have been such; an hour which was what it was, mainly because the soul had never realized or had forgotten, that while its own absolute poverty and impotence was, of course, a fact the present and immediate "riches," not poverty, of Christ the Head, precisely as needed for the whole demand of the moment, were a fact, too—a solid fact—meant for that moment's use.—Bishop Moule.

We cannot live without trusting the unseen. It is this that makes sheer consistent unbelief an utterly impossible thing. But the power of these heroes lay in their bold surrender to faith. They did not strive to destroy their trust in the unseen. They magnified it, and lived on the great God.

All things are possible, said Jesus in one of his great sayings, so bold that they stagger us, but absolutely true to him that believeth. And it is only the man who believes who achieves. The men who have no vision will not sacrifice for what they deny. The men of faith die for what they see, and by their deaths accomplish it.