

Who will say that for one in such circumstances to say *he believed in Christ*, did not carry with it greater evidence of the genuine nature of faith, than for one now in the age in which we live, and under the circumstances in which we are placed, to say that *he believes*. Then to profess the gospel of Christ, was to invite reproach, persecution, and death; but now to profess that gospel, is often the way to honor and preferment in the world.

The scriptures establish the truth, that more is implied in believing in Christ, than the assent of the mind, in men saying they believe. Faith is said to work by love, in Gal. 5—6. *But faith that worketh by love*—It purifies the heart, Acts 15—9. *Purifying their hearts by faith*—It justifies and gives peace of mind. Rom. 5—1. *Being justified by faith, we have peace with God*—It imparts holy joy. 1 Peter 1—8. *Believing we rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory*—It sanctifies the soul. Acts 21—18. *That is sanctified by faith which is in me*—It produces good works. James 2—17. *Faith without works is dead being alive*—Once more, it makes Christ precious. 1 Peter 2, 7. *To you that believe he is precious*. Is it not evident from the above scriptures, that the faith which the gospel requires, which saves sinners, and qualifies for the ordinances of Christ, possesses these qualities; it works by love; purifies the heart; justifies the sinner; gives peace of mind; sanctifies the soul; imparts holy joy; produces good works; and makes Christ precious to the soul. The faith of Jesus is inseparably connected with all those holy feelings against which you so loudly proclaim, as injurious to the souls of men; and which you compare to the orgies of the Hindoo and the blasphemies of the Free-Thinker. Holy feelings, which we could as much separate from true faith, as we could separate light and heat from the sun.

I think, Sir, it must be clear to every prayerful reader of the Bible, that your charges are more against the word of God, and the faith therein revealed, than against those who require the true marks and properties of faith; in order to enjoy the fellowship of the Church of Christ.

In your second letter you ask, “can any exercise of the mind be proof, that we are in the favor of God.” Again you inquire, “where, in all the volume of inspiration, are we informed that, because we have had serious impressions, anxiety of mind, that peace ensues; that we therefore are born of God?” You answer that “in no age of the world, has any man’s feelings been recognized as *proof* of his being in the favour of God.”

My dear Sir, I am surprised to hear a man who is not only a professed minister of religion, but professes to be engaged in restoring primitive christianity, make such assertions; assertions as much opposed to God’s word as light is to darkness. Have you not read Christ’s words in John 14, 21, ‘He that loveth me shall be loved of my Father,’ verse 23, ‘and if any man love me my Father will love him,’ and 1 John 4, 7, ‘He that loveth is born of God.’ No feeling so strong as love! it is even said in Songs. 8, 9, to be stronger than death. Whether we are to believe God or you, judge ye.