

we would take it without a question, and reckon ourselves richer by just so much as he promised. And we would be so much richer without doubt. And this *is* God's note of hand, his "I promise to pay on demand" to the seeking soul who indorses the word by his acceptance of it. *Accepting God's promise is faith.* There is nothing after this; faith can do no more.

"I cannot wash my heart,
But by *believing* Thee,
And *waiting* for the blood to impart
The spotless purity."

Now, is a man saved when he has done this?

You might with as much propriety and reason ask, "Is God's word true?" He is saved. He puts his trust in the promise of Jehovah, made to him, suited to his peculiar need, and there can be no failure. The end of faith's effort is to *trust in the word of the Lord*. Through all this the soul may be and continue in an emotionless condition, unconscious of the presence of a divine power, uncleansed from its inward depravity, yet he may declare his faith, as it is said, "*I believe, therefore have I spoken*;" may rejoice in the Lord, who is the strong rock of his trust; for he has salvation by *promise*.

But this is not the end of the divine transaction. The *fulfillment* of the promise is a part of the agreement,—"*I will do it.*" And by the descent of the Holy Ghost it is done: the cleansing virtue of the blood of Jesus must take effect upon this consecrated heart, this one "waiting for the fire." It is possible for Jesus now to bring in "salvation by *power*," seeing the soul has accepted His promise, and put the divine Promiser upon the fulfillment of his oath. *And no part of this is it the work of faith to perform.* Here the soul lies passive and silent before the Lord, and ceases from its own works. And it is done "The heavens shall pass away, but not one jot or tittle" of His word shall ever fail.

As to the moment when salvation by *promise* becomes salvation by *power*, it may be the next instant after the soul has believed and accepted the "word," God's bank-note, as the sufficient divine guaranty of full redemption; or it may be hours, or even days before the baptism of the Holy Ghost consciously cleanses and fills with perfect love the whole spiritual being. But faith can wait with patience, for her God is true!

Let no Christian be misled by straining after any wonderful upheaving of the soul, some strange emotional condition, before trusting