

sources whence the Christian draws consolation and support in the hour of trial and adversity. Through faith he has hope that God, his Heavenly Father, will forgive him; that Jesus Christ, his Redeemer, will save him; and that the Holy Spirit will sanctify his heart, mind, and actions, and make him a meet partaker of the inheritance of eternal life. Hope, as I said before, springs from faith.

Has the Christian faith in God! he hopes that his sins will be forgiven, and that he shall be accepted by his Heavenly Father. Has he faith in Christ! he hopes to be saved from his sins, and from the punishment due to them of hell and death. Has he faith in the Holy Ghost! he has hope, peace, and joy in believing that he is, by its sanctifying influences, a fit inheritor of everlasting happiness in heaven. Has he faith in time of difficulty and trial? He hopes that God, by the power of His Almighty hand, will bring him through the floods of distress which surround him, once more set his feet on a rock, and establish his goings. Has he faith in the time of persecution, when he is evil spoken of—when calumniated by enemies—when false friends with smooth tongues, and treacherous hearts, wring from him, alas! too confiding, the secrets of his inmost soul, and betray them, misrepresented by their own monstrous exaggerations and departures from truth, to an unthinking, censorious, and fault-finding world! hope brings back to him comfort from the integrity of his own heart, and from the reflection that the good hand of God will not desert him, but make his name, character, and reputation, appear as unsullied in the eyes of the world, as it really is.

This hope will enable him to bear censure, and in the language of the admirable Cecil, he will know that good men and great minds can afford to lose somewhat by censure and detraction; for as the bright sun retains its splendour, though occasionally eclipsed and darkened by a passing cloud, so a truly Christian spirit, buoyed up by faith and hope, will maintain and set forth the dignity of the Christian character, while the mere professor and man of little mind will be angry and fretful at the slightest breath of censure and detraction. He will, indeed, be, like the dim taper, afraid of being puffed out. It is this hope that makes the Christian not ashamed of acknowledging his master, Christ. It was this hope that made Abraham willing to offer up his son Isaac on Mount Moriah. It was