

Perhaps you are anxious to know if it is not necessary that you should have a new heart, that you should be baptized, that you should know that you are one of the elect, that you should belong to a Church, that you should profess a religious creed, that your mind should be made up on points of doctrine, and that you should live as a Christian ought to live. My dear brother, you need not trouble yourself about all these things just now; we are at the door, and you want to get in. You can do nothing until you believe; this is the first step. Remember what is written, "Ask, and ye shall receive;" and Jesus tells you how to ask, "Whatsoever ye ask the Father in my name, believing, I will do it." There is no precise rule laid down, no particular form of words; the Publican of old prayed, "God be merciful to me a sinner;" the thief upon the cross prayed, "Lord, remember me when thou comest to thy kingdom;" and Jesus said to one poor sinner whom He loved, "only believe, and thou shalt see the glory of God."

"Am I to go forward just as I am?" Yes, just as you are. You have heard the words of Jesus, "only believe, and thou shalt see the glory of God." Believe that Jesus died for sinners, and that he died *for you*. "But how am I to know that he died for me? I cannot see my name written in the Lamb's book of life." My dear brother, is it not written, "Whosoever believeth on Him shall not perish, but shall have everlasting life;" and, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out;" and again, "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief." Lay hold on the hope set before you in the Gospel; it is within your reach; here it is once more, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, thou and thy house." Are not these great and precious promises? Does it not give to you full assurance? Take hold, press onwards; turn neither to the right hand nor to the left; climb the highest hill; wade through the deepest mire! Jesus is with thee; He will never leave thee, never forsake thee. Hear Him saying, "Lo, I am with thee alway, even unto the end." Take nothing with you; thy God will supply all thy need; you will be made clean as you go on; you will be clothed as you press forward; you will be strengthened for the labour of the way; whatever your hands find to do, do it with all your might; pray without ceasing; and soon, very soon, you shall be welcomed to that house of many mansions prepared by Jesus for them that love him. Doubt no more. Believe, love, obey!

A POOR PILGRIM.

A CHEERFUL SUPERINTENDENT.—A principal element of a superintendent's success is *cheerfulness*. The scholars soon distinguish the good-natured, happy-faced superintendent from the cross and disagreeable one. They love the former. His presence and smile lighten the room and all hearts in it. The teachers are encouraged, the scholars are orderly, the school is happy and prosperous. I have in my mind's eye a man at the head of a Sabbath School, every teacher and scholar of which, I believe, would sacrifice all they possessed if they could only thereby make him happy and show their love for him. His teachers all love him, the Bible-class scholars affectionately regard him, the main school loves him, and even the little feet of the infant class scholars delight to run and greet him.

This world can not explain its own difficulties without the assistance of another.