

cent and precious declaration, "*The Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*" The happy message coming from God by the mouth of the prophet brought peace to his soul, *peace with God.* By faith he laid hold of the fact that Jesus in dying on the cross had been his substitute before God and had borne for him the judgment due to his sins. (Read 1 Pet. ii, 24; iii, 18; Acts x. 43.)

What a marvellous change the good news of grace produced in this young man? He no longer looked at his own heart in the vain hope of making it, little by little, right before God, seeing that constantly new fruits of sin which was so deeply rooted in his heart manifested themselves. Now, on the contrary, he was able, for the salvation and joy of his soul, to cast a profound look at the heart of God whose love for sinners had been so great as to give up His Son to death for them. He had peace with God, that peace which is founded on nothing less than the righteousness of God. He was reconciled to God by the death of His Son (Rom. v, 10), and has now the joy of announcing to others that it is not by our own merits that we are saved, but only by the work of Christ upon the cross.

Reader have you comprehended how our friend came to possess peace and the assurance of the forgiveness of his sins? He read the word of God and *he believed.* Abraham *believed* God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness." (Rom. iv, 3.)

Do thou also believe the word of God; *believe* God; believe what He has said: "*Hear, and your soul shall live.*"