

THE FAITH THAT SAVES.

BY REV. THEODORE L. CUYLER.

ONE of the survivors from the recent terrible burning of the famous hotel in Albany tells us that when he was driven back by the flames, he seized the escape rope in his own room, and from an upper story lowered himself through the darkness to the sidewalk. He may have looked upon that rope previously as a very valuable superfluity, for he had never felt the need of it. He had a good opinion of its strength, but it was only an opinion; he put it to the test when he swung out of the window and *trusted his life to it*.

That incident illustrates the core idea of the only faith that can save us when we realize our guilt and danger. Faith in Jesus Christ held as simply a sentiment, an opinion, or even an admiring belief in His divine loveliness, works no change in character or condition. That sort of mental faith is held by about all reputable church-going people. They smell no smoke, and perhaps regard a faithful sermon to the impenitent as a false alarm.

But when the Holy Spirit awakens a man to the fact that he is a sinner and in peril of God's righteous wrath against sin, then faith must pass from an opinion to an *act*, or it avails him no more than that rope availed that hotel guest while it was coiled up in the corner of his room. The only faith that saves the soul is the soul's actual and hearty *grasp of Jesus Christ*, with complete trust in Him and Him alone for salvation. Our weakness lays hold of His omnipotence, our ignorance confides in His wisdom, our guiltiness trusts in His atoning blood to cleanse, and we are ready to risk our eternal all to His keeping.

If any reader of this article is anxious to be saved from his sinful life to a better life. I would impress upon him that a good opinion of Christianity or a desire to be a Christian is not enough. And the faith that you must exercise is a very different thing from a child's quiet trust when it goes to sleep in the arms of its mother. You must make a resolute grasp on Christ, and put your whole energies into the act. If you escape the hell-fire that sin kindles, you must "*lay hold upon the hope set before you*," and that only hope is the crucified Redeemer.

"But must I not repent of my sins before I can be saved, and does not repentance precede faith?" Yes, you must repent; but repentance is more than feeling bad, it is an abandonment of your sins, a "*turning from your sin with full purpose of and endeavor after new obedience*." To whom do you turn? Whom are you to obey? Of course the one you must turn to and the one you must begin to obey is the Lord Jesus. So that repentance unto life and faith in Christ go together. They are inseparable. They are the two halves of one globe. To break away from the dominion of sin, to "cease to do evil and learn to do well," is a tremendous task when undertaken in our own weakness; but it becomes a perfectly possible thing when we summon to our aid the strength of the loving Saviour. That very summoning, the very act of prayer for help, implies faith.

Very likely you have felt shame and self-reproach for your evil thoughts and evil deeds and misspent life, hundreds of times. It all came to nothing. You did not quit the sinning and lay hold on Him who alone can give you the new heart and the new life. Your good resolutions were worth no more than a rope of straw would have been to the lodger in that burning hotel.

Feeling ashamed of sin or grieving over sin, and then going back to it, is worse than an idle

fance; it is a deadly mischief to your soul. It hardens the heart. People who are conscience-smitten under faithful sermons, or who go into inquiry meetings, and then go away into the old life again, both grieve the Holy Spirit and diminish terribly the probabilities of their own salvation. Such fooling with conscience and the Spirit of God is fearful business.

If you are troubled about your sins and honestly want to begin the new year with a new and truly Christian life, then do just what Peter and John did when Jesus met them on the shore of Genesareth. He says to you what He said to them, "*Follow Me*." With them it turned on a simple *Yes or No*. They did not sit down and cry over their sins; they did not go off to consult anybody; they did not promise the Christ that some time or other they would join themselves to Him. They left their nets and started off straightway on a path of *obedience*, that led them, indeed, up steep hills and through fiery trials, but onward into a career of unparalleled usefulness and an immortality of wondrous glory. There was *faith*, and the only sort of faith that can save you.

The "*net*" you are to leave is—your favorite sins. The only effectual repentance of them is to follow Jesus Christ's leading into a different style of every day conduct. Whatsoever He saith to you, through your conscience, *do it*. The first thing you do to please Jesus Christ marks the turning point. Conversion must prove itself by conduct; it means a new character, and that only can come from Christ.

Right there comes in the omnipotent work of the Divine Spirit; right there shines out the marvellous love of the precious Redeemer; right there begins your one blessed hope of heaven.

Have you a little faith? Use what you have and pray for more. He will help you when you begin to follow Him even with tottering steps. Don't be satisfied with half-way work; for that makes a feeble fraction of a Christian. Make a clean break with your old sins and old self, and lay strong hold on the almighty Saviour. A "*happy new year*" will it be for you if it sees you clothed with a new character and Jesus Christ leading you, step by step, into the only life worth living.—*Evangelist*.

PARENTAL FAITHFULNESS.

BY REV. D. M. BUCHANAN, LANARK.

[For the RECORD.]

WHAT an influence Christian parents have in training their children, but how few of them realize the extent of that influence, or the importance of in earnest effort to bring their children to Christ! To the mother and father is given the best opportunity, by the help of God, of saving their children for time and eternity; but far too often this most sacred work is largely, if not entirely, entrusted to others. If there is not entire neglect—a semi-religious talk occasionally—a getting the children to commit to memory a few passages of Scripture, and securing their attendance at Sabbath-school, and, perhaps, the church, is regarded by many as the extent of parental duty. Parents should never rest satisfied until they have taken their children by the hand, as it were, and led them to Christ, to know Him and to love and serve Him. Nothing short of their present salvation should be the object we aim at, and work and pray for.

But, oh! the temptation to forget this, and to neglect the golden opportunity of winning our children to Christ, until it is too late, when they have grown up unconverted, and parental influence in this most important matter is almost