

Lacking in Faith.



SHOULD we not fear that faith is sometimes lacking in us? We are sick and sore with worldly cares and troubles; we are disappointed in our expectations, everything seems to go against us and we turn away from Him who alone can console us and seek in ourselves and friends help and consolation for our miseries.

We forget that "this world is a valley of tears" and that "man's life on earth is a warfare, and that the wages of sin and sorrow are misery and death. We refuse to accept our portion of the miseries and thus rebel against the necessary dispensations of God.

If we have our measure of life should we not accept resignedly our measure of sorrow? If we have not sins of our own for which to suffer, ought we not feel a little liable for those of our kind? But who is without sin before God? In Adam we have all sinned, and "if any man says he is without sin," declares holy writ, "he is a liar and the truth is not in him."

Trouble should bring us all the more to God. The afflictions undergone by the leper and paralytic brought them to God and a greater blessing was the faith they received than the healing of their infirmities.

So too with us; if we but use trial to advantage we shall find God's crosses but blessings in disguise. God would draw us in our physical ailments that He may bless us spiritually and greater far is it to have our faith strengthened and increased than to be freed from any temporary misery or affliction. Tried as we may be, disappointed as we will, there is one thing we can always feel sure of, that is the unchangeable love of God. This was the courage of the martyrs to make them rise superior to themselves and their surroundings, and help them submit to any torment, trial, or affliction rather than give up Christ.

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