

much a product of God as is our natural life itself. The fact is, faith, though it is an exercise of the mind as much as any other instance of belief, is still, the exercise of a renewed mind, or a mind in which that truth which is only spiritually discerned is seen and felt and believed. "No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost."—Flesh and blood did not reveal unto Peter that truth which he confessed, but the Father which is in Heaven.

From this there results another view, as respects not merely salvation in general, but the salvation of every believer.—Grace is the fountain-head, not merely of salvation, in itself considered, but of the salvation of every sinner who is brought to believe in Christ. For, as it is not his own act to believe, as it most assuredly is not, he must be indebted to grace for enabling him to believe: it is grace that makes him to differ: grace chooses him, and works in him all the good pleasure of God's goodness, and the work of faith with power. We might insist much more largely on this latter point; but it is enough to see it in connexion with the other parts of our subject.—Every believer is a trophy of grace, not only in the sense that salvation is of grace, but in the sense that it is grace that enables him to believe. He will be the first to acknowledge his obligations to grace; in the application, as well as in the provision of salvation. He will confess his entire debt, his debt to the love of God, which purposed and provided a salvation at all, his debt to that love especially resting upon him, singling him out from others of mankind, and making him an heir according to the hope of eternal life.

Are any fancying that by their own works, by their own measure of obedience to the law, they can be saved?—Then they are resting in a delusion which the sooner they awake from the better. Nor is it an uncommon delusion, often as men may be told it is by grace they are saved. They may not in words confess to themselves they are trusting to the works of the law as a ground of justification before God; but still, it is the spirit of all their conduct; and nothing is further from them than the humility of the gospel, the simplicity of dependence upon Christ's atoning work, the self-abasement, and entire faith, which characterize those who are believing in Christ, and trusting to him alone for salvation. It is the proper improvement of this subject, to break loose from such de-

lusion. It is at least a great matter to be convinced, even so far as human argument will convince us, that by the deeds of the law no flesh living shall be justified. We may thereby be put on the way of salvation, driven at least from our own refuges of lies; and is he not in a more hopeful state who has at least been put from relying upon any thing else, and made to see that there is only one way of safety, to which he must instantly betake himself, or all will be lost? The barque foundering in the deep is more likely to be brought to shore, if the hands on board can be made to part with every thing which would be apt to sink it, or impede the means provided for its safety. It was thus that Paul and his companions escaped the danger which threatened them. It is not then, our own works that will save us: it is not our strict performance of every duty: it is not our regular observance of commanded ordinances: it is not our deeds of charity, our acts of benevolence: it is not any or all of these, so far as any can lay claim to them that will avail us with God; whose law we have already so often broken, and who sees in the best works which we do, so much imperfection and sin. Oh! no, it is faith in Christ. By grace ye are saved through faith.

Let us cast away as worthless, all our own works—renounce all our own righteousness:—it but prevents us from availing ourselves of the righteousness of Christ, the alone means of safety: it is but an encumbrance, a deadweight to assist the danger which may be at any rate ruining our soul, and like to wreck it amid the billows of divine wrath; while faith, simple reliance on Christ, would save us:—that anchor which fixes on the rock of ages, and is sure and steadfast! Seek this faith. It is the gift of God—it is of the operation of his Spirit. If you truly seek it it will be yours. Christ is exalted a Prince and a Saviour, to give repentance and remission of sin. Cease not your efforts to obtain this faith—renounce not your application for it with God—till it is wrought in you by the power of the Holy Ghost—till at once a sense of your own vileness, and of Christ's preciousness, is begotten in your hearts.