

he dishonored Samuel's God. Oh! may God preserve us from reckoning on the human agents and the human help, and enable us at all times to look away to the God behind all circumstances.

When Faith fails, Fear never loses many moments before it comes knocking at our door, and once Fear has gained entrance it is not long before it invites in an ugly monster, which Faith carefully bars out—the monster sin.

And so Saul found it; his trust in God had given way, his hope in Samuel had failed him; fear comes swooping on him—everything was being lost—something must be done. One chance remained, the priest had failed, and legally without the sanctified priest there could be no sacrifice; but so completely now had fear gained the mastery that Saul, entirely ignoring all the binding laws of God, let sin take possession, and with unholy hands—an awful mockery, and God will not be mocked—offers the sacred offering unto an offended God, and brings down deadly wrath and tribulation on his devoted head. Alas, for Saul! And the pitiful part is that if he had but held out a little longer, the test would have ended in victory; even as the smoke of the burnt-offering ascended unacceptable to heaven, the prophet and priest arrived.

Even so is it with us. Oh! soul, are you tempted sorely, is faith shaking, are you feeling as if you must give up? Be of good cheer, hold on; when the strain gets to be unendurable, when you feel you must give up, lift up your head rejoicing, your redemption draweth nigh; "God is near thee," He will rescue thee; trust on, oh! trust on.

Brief and stern were the words of condemnation spoken by the righteous priest of God. Was God so little worthy of being trusted? Was His sacred ordinance to be trodden under foot? So appalling did this sin seem to Samuel, that stern and straight to the point came the withering words of condemnation: "Thou hast done foolishly; thou hast not kept the commandments of the Lord thy God, which He commanded thee; for now—if you had only stood firm a little longer and borne the test—would the Lord

have established thy kingdom upon Israel forever. But now thy kingdom shall not continue."

From that moment Saul was a changed man, despair seized on his heart; if he had humbled himself before his offended God, he might have saved, not indeed his kingdom—he had proved himself unfit for that—but his soul. Apparently he did nothing of the sort. The next thing we find him leaning right over on the arm of flesh and numbering the people; the next, making an unjust and injurious law, and following on that, actually—in order to uphold that same foolish and unrighteous law—threatening\* to put to death his upright, lovable son. From this time his decline is rapid. His pitiful downward career it is no part of our present plan to follow.

In conclusion, let us take this solemn warning to heart; let us take heed lest we fall into a similar snare; in humble, lowly faith let us hold on to the bare word of a faithful, covenant-keeping God, and He will never fail those who thus put their trust in Him.—*Triumphs of Faith.*

THIS is a pathetic incident that comes to us concerning the aged General Fremont. For years he has been counted a debtor to the government for some nineteen thousand dollars, and did not have wherewith to pay. Investigation, a few days ago, showed that this was an error, and that instead of his owing the government, the government owed him over twenty thousand dollars. He thought himself in penury, and went to plead with the officials for some merciful arrangement, but suddenly found he was rich, and the discovery so overwhelmed him that he fainted. Like this, a poor sinner coming to Jesus Christ, indebted beyond his power to pay, suddenly finds the balances changed and himself rich with treasures imperishable.—*Lamp of Life.*

A WRITER says: "Of all heresies, the greatest and most deadly is that which would limit God's revelation of Himself to one age, or to one type of character, or to one system of truth."