

[FOR OUR MISSION.]

Six Bible Questions.

By "KATIE."

(1) **W**HERE art thou? Gen. 3: 9. Where do you stand? on the side of God or Satan? There is no neutral ground; you are a soldier of the Cross, fighting under that Captain whose "banner is love," or you are a rebel; you are living for Him "who gave Himself" for you, or you are wasting yourself on the world; an inheritor of eternal misery, or one of those for whom the "many mansions" are prepared. Stop, ere it be too late, and consider, "Where art thou?"

(2) "Where is thy brother?" Gen. 4: 9. If you are saved yourself, how is it with those about you? Can you live in possession of a gold mine, wherein is treasure sufficient for all, and see your friends and neighbours perishing? Perhaps some one is longing for the word you are afraid to speak. Remember, you are a witness for Christ, and it concerns you, "Where is your brother?"

(3) "Dost thou well to be angry?" Jonah 4: 4. Because things do not turn out as you wish. If, instead of joy there comes sorrow—if sickness takes the place of health—if poverty supplants luxury—if, in place of the smile of welcome, there is a vacant chair in your home—should you fret? Our Father's "ways are not our ways;" but His thoughts towards you are "thoughts of peace"—and "dost thou well to be angry?"

(4) "What dost thou here?" 1 Kings 19: 9. The world will say you are peculiar if you absent yourself from its amusements, but God says you cannot please men and be His servant. Gal. 1: 10. What do you—a Christian—in a place where your Master's name is not loved? Do not compromise with Satan—give up every place, every pastime where your King's presence is not desired. "Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of His name." Can you as His follower go to the theatre, the ball room, the card table, in the "name of the Lord Jesus?" Oh! waste not golden moments on pleasures fading as the autumn leaves.

(5) "Believe ye that I am able to do this?" Do you believe that He will save you from "all sin"—"keep you from falling"—make you "complete in Him"—"sanctify you wholly"—and then "present you faultless" before His Father's throne? "According to your faith it shall be unto you."

(6) "Lovest thou Me more than these?" John 21: 15. Do you love Him best of all? Can you (if need were) give up all—friends, riches, honour, the world's praises, everything for Him? Does He, who knoweth the thoughts of all hearts, see any reservation? Oh, may each heart lovingly answer, "Thou knowest all things, Thou knowest that I love Thee."

I give Thee all my heart, Lord,
And all my earthly store,
My friends, my time, my talents,
Now and for evermore.

Teach me to know Thy holy will,
Purge away all the dross,
And let me ever humbly kneel
'Neath the shadow of Thy Cross

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The Five-fold Outcome of Faith.

REV. J. A. R. DICKSON, B.D.

1.—FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

WHERE faith in Jesus is a reality, it has "signs following." Mark 17: 20. Its outcome is manifold. Like every act of obedience, it is crowned with blessing—richest blessing. It brings to man, first of all, as that which he needs most urgently, pardon of sin. It lightens his heart and eases his oppressed conscience, by intimating to him what God has done towards him, in words like these: "Your sins ARE FORGIVEN you, for His name's sake," 1 John 2: 12; "God for Christ's sake HATH FORGIVEN you," Eph. 4: 32; "By Him all that believe ARE JUSTIFIED from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses," Acts 13: 39. This is the first outcome of faith in Jesus, the sins of the sinner are forgiven. This is to be believed on God's testimony. The natural unbelief of the heart will rise up and dispute this, saying, "I don't feel it;" "How do I know that it is me?" "I am as yet, much the same as I was before;" "Is this really so?" Now, we must never overlook this fact, that we must believe God's statements concerning the result of faith, and rest satisfied with that; and as that is done, the feeling rises, the knowledge comes, the change of moral condition is experienced. It becomes a great reality. Aye more, THE GREAT REALITY. It marks the line between the waste wilderness and the blooming paradise; between the old condition of spiritual darkness and the new condition of spiritual light; between the deadness to God that obtained in the past, and the being alive to God now. Oh what a change the belief of God's Word brings! Such as justifies this strong statement: "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold all things are become new." 2 Cor. 5: 17.

This great truth is strongly emphasized, and we may say, *fortified* by the most solemn affirmation touching its perfection. God never revokes His forgiveness, any more than performs it imperfectly. He forgives, and His act is at once complete and permanent. The act itself is glorious, but when its true nature is seen, it is exceeding glorious.

As to the *perfection of the act*, take these words of God: "I have blotted out as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and as a cloud thy sins." Isaiah 44: 22. Who can find the cloud when it has been dispersed—blotted out? It is, humanly speaking, irrecoverable. King Hezekiah's testimony is this, "Thou hast cast