

easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth; but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three, but the greatest of these is charity."

1 Cor. xii. 31—xiii. 4-8, 13.

3. Though faith is the instrument whereby true peace and love are produced, the apostle speaks here of faith in its growth and continued exercise.

When faith is evangelical it is not one solitary act, but a permanent resting on Christ by a belief of the testimony of God in his word. However lively the first exercise of faith may be it is capable of growth in power, and as all graces, including faith, are bestowed by God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, the apostle looked to these Divine persons to sustain these graces in the souls of the Ephesians. He knew the value of the healthy growth of faith and love, and that without them there could be no peace. Faith procures peace, works by love, and powerfully influences the life to holiness; for it purifies the heart and overcomes the world. Where there is no saving faith, the world rules, but as soon as it is implanted by the Holy Ghost the world is dethroned, so that faith rules.