

THE TELESCOPE:

OR, "HOW MAY I KNOW THAT I HAVE THE RIGHT FAITH?"

I received a package the other day of samples of telescopes, and other glasses.—Of course I examined them to see if they were the right things or articles. When it began to be dark, I unwrapped one of the telescopes to try it; after arranging the slides, I placed it to my eye, when to my astonishment, a star was quite visible. I took away the glass again, and I found there was no star to be seen with the natural eye; but through the glass it was seen plainly, and seemed to be near. Well, thought I, the telescope that gives such a sight of a star, where to the natural eye there is not one, must be the right sort of glass.

True faith is exactly like this telescope. The mind of fallen man is in darkness as to the things of God; and without faith, man gropes in darkness and knows not whither he goeth. Now the moment the Holy Ghost imparteth faith to the soul, Christ is seen as the star was seen in the sky. And oh! what a sight! when Christ is seen by faith. If that is the right glass which reveals the unseen star; that only is true faith which reveals the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. "The light shineth, and the darkness comprehendeth it not." The natural eye without the glass could not see the star. Man without faith cannot understand why the glory of God shines in the face of a risen man in heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ; without faith he cannot see this glorious Christ.—"What is faith?" said a doctor to his patient, who was an evangelist. "Well, doctor," said he, "when I came to you I put myself entirely in your hands; that is faith. When a lost sinner trusts himself entirely in the hands of Christ; that is faith."

Have you, my reader, seen Christ to be your Saviour; crucified for your sins; raised from the dead for your justification? Do you see Him to be all that you need, without a single make-weight? Oh! the wickedness of thinking of adding anything of our own, such vile worms, as a make-weight to the worth of Christ. God sees the sacrifice of Christ, the shedding of His

blood, *that* which puts sin and sins away for ever. Are you in this light of God? And can you say, the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth me from all sin? Then most assuredly you have true faith. For the natural man without the faith of Christ will never believe this.

Another thing as to the Telescope: it did not make the star; it had nothing to do surely at all in producing the star; it only enabled *me* to see the star, and *know* that it was there. This illustrates a most important fact as to salvation. Many, when seeking salvation, though they know it cannot be had by works, yet suppose that salvation is in some way suspended, or incomplete in itself, until they have believed rightly. And thus they make faith to have something to do with producing salvation, and thus they are led to look at faith, instead of the finished work of Christ. They say, "Oh, that I was sure I had the right faith, or believed enough, then I should be saved!" This is making faith a Saviour. Faith has no more to do with producing salvation, than my glass had to do with producing the star. That star was created and shone in the heavens ages before I was born. I speak now of all those who through grace shall be saved.—These were all certainly foreknown of God in eternity, before ever light twinkled from that distant star, "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began; but is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ." Surely it is plain that our faith had nothing to do with producing the grace that was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began. And when Jesus was manifested, it was not our faith that induced Him to become the substitute and surety of all who should through grace be saved. No, not our faith; it was His love. It was God who laid on Him the iniquity of us all; and it was God who justified Him from the iniquity of us all, when he raised Him up from the dead. He sat down having purged our sins from the sight of God, long, long before we were born. Our faith had nothing to do with Christ thus purging our sins, or with God justifying us in Christ. This was absolutely finish-