

**Only Believe.**

Suppose I had a watch, costly, serviceable, and greatly valued, the gift of a dear friend, the thing most precious of all my treasures, and that, on taking a journey, I am anxious to ensure its safety. I have a friend with whom I deposit it, and who promises to keep it for me ; and I proceed on my journey without a fear or particle of anxiety, because I know that my friend is strong and trustworthy. This is faith in another person for the safety of what I value.

Suppose the watch had become disordered in its machinery, and refused to keep correct time,—that it had become irregular in working, going well for a time and then stopping,—that I had tried every means to remedy it and failed, and that the irregularity had been a source of inconvenience and positive loss. The friend to whom I entrust it happens to be a skilled watchmaker, and before I begin my journey I say to him, “I value this watch greatly, but it goes badly, and has given me considerable trouble. I have wound it up, moved the fingers, and done all I can, but without success. Will you see to it ?” So I leave it to be cleaned or repaired, and its fault corrected, and go away confident that my friend’s skill will assuredly put all right. This is faith for restoration, added to faith for safety.

Suppose now, that years after, I lie on a bed of death, life’s fair prospects fading away, life’s work done, and a separation from all I love before me. There is my valued watch, and there is my little son, to whom it has been promised. There, too, stands the friend who has had the care of it before, and who has worthily fulfilled his trust. I take the jewelled treasure in my hand, and say to my friend, “There is my boy, and here is this watch, the value of which you know. I commit it to your care once more, to preserve it safe, to keep it in order, that it may be handed to my son when he comes of age.” And I have no fear but that my dying wish will be fulfilled. This is faith not only for safety and restoration, but for a future into which I cannot see.

Will you now, reader, put, in place of that watch, the soul with which God has endowed you—the most precious of all possessions, for, “What shall a man give in exchange for his soul ?” You are here in life, accountable and immortal, but because of transgressions, exposed to soul-peril. Eternity stretches out before you, death may be near, and the first question with you is, How shall my soul be safe ? Have you learned the answer to this ? *Trust your soul to Jesus.* Put it in his hands who is “able to save,” and without a fear or doubt, leave it there. This is faith in Christ for safety.

You become conscious now of other wants. The question as to personal