

consciousness of the lack of that simple faith, that childlike obedience so essential for the Christian to have, that we instinctively feel, that, with so many imperfections, so many sins, we are yet very very far from the kingdom of God, and without a hope or prospect of ever entering into the presence of the Lord of Hosts. This is the experience of very many Christians. They think so much of their shortcomings that they lose hope, and live uncertain as to what the future may be. Such a state of doubt is very detrimental to Christian growth and development. One of the great causes of it is from looking too much at self, and from the mistaken notion that our attainments enter into the question of our salvation. We are thinking of self and not of God. He, and His promises are forgotten. We dream of what we can do, and forget what He has done. This is wrong. No one can have an assurance of redemption so long as he looks only to himself. His good works form no sure ground of hope. They are simply as the sinking sand. The only hope, the only assurance, the only certainty of eternal life which he can have, must rest on God, and on God alone. He is the Rock of Ages on which we may safely build, and nothing—not even the conclaves of hell—shall ever prevail against that blessed company of faithful people whose present and future are in His hands, who are supported and upheld by His gracious and eternal purposes.