

they had faith, and faith ever overcomes difficulties. They carried the man to the top of the house, and let him down through the tiling of the roof, with his couch "into the midst before Jesus." This was the proof of their faith. They believed Jesus had *power* to heal; they believed He was *willing* to heal; and they acted according to their faith. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said unto him,

"MAN, THY SINS ARE FORGIVEN THEE."

Oh! what words. How they must have thrilled the heart of that poor, helpless invalid, and the hearts, too, of the four who brought him! What an answer of faith!

But there were others there in whom there was no faith—scribes and pharisees, who "began to reason, saying, Who is this that speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?" Here was "reason" instead of "faith." And was not their reasoning true? Who could forgive sins, but God only? None. So far their reasoning was true. But had "faith" been there it would have discerned that God was there—"God was manifest in the flesh," (I Tim. iii. 16)—and then could they have said, "Who is this which speaketh blasphemies?" Their reason led them to reject the Son of God; and all the wondrous grace revealed in Him, and in the blessed words of the Lord Jesus, produced no thrill of joy in their cold and dead hearts.