

A WORD TO THE WAVERING ONES.

BY H. W. S.



OD'S unalterable plan, in all his dealings with the souls of men, is, "According to your faith it shall be done unto you."

The awakened sinner, seeking the forgiveness of his sins, may wrestle, and agonize, and plead with all the fervor and earnestness of which he is capable, but, until he believes, he cannot find peace. God does not deal with him according to the amount or fervor of his wrestlings or pleadings, but according to his faith. The moment he has faith to be saved, that moment he is saved, and never until then. The reason of this is, that God's salvation is not a purchase to be made, nor wages to be earned, nor a summit to be climbed, nor a height to be attained, but simply and only a *gift* to be received;—and nothing but faith can receive any gift from God.

But if this is his rule with regard to the poor awakened sinner, how much more must it be as regards his own family of children, who have been born of the Spirit, and upon whom He has bestowed all the riches and treasures that are in Christ. To them most assuredly, his word is, "What things soever ye desire when ye pray, believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them."

When, therefore, the child of God begins to be dissatisfied with the failing, halting experience, which is the too general condition of the Church, and begins to hunger and thirst after that higher life of victory, and of abiding rest, which he sees some other Christians enjoying, and which he realizes is his privilege also, what is an absolutely necessary condition to his entering into the blessed experience he seeks? Of course, the first condition is consecration, because none but the fully consecrated soul can fully believe. In order for the Lord Jesus to heal us, we must be willing to be healed, and must give ourselves up to his healing power. But I presuppose all this, and address only those souls who are conscious of being fully given up to the Lord, as far as they have light to see. And surely to such the rule applies with even greater power than to the unconverted, if that could be, that, according to their faith it shall be unto them.

But this principle is not always clearly recognised, and the result is, that many longing souls are delayed for months, and even for years, from entering into the land of rest, whose borders they have long before reached.

Satan understands this matter perfectly. He knows what God's plan is, and therefore his principal attacks are directed against our *faith*, and he knows how to come in such a garb as completely to deceive the unsuspecting soul.

In the first place, he occupies such a soul with itself, with its own goodness or badness, with its frames and feelings, with its fervour or its coldness, and thus effectually hinders it from looking at Jesus, and seeing in Him a Saviour able to save to the very uttermost.

And then, in the second place, when, through the grace of God, the believer has been brought out of this snare, and has been enabled for a blessed moment to take a definite step of faith, and to cast himself wholly upon the Lord Jesus, believing that He does receive him, and does indeed save him from the power as well as from the guilt of his sins; then Satan, baffled in his first purpose, endeavours to make this faith a wavering, intermittent faith. Thus he effectually hinders onward progress or increasing light. It is of this point especially I desire to write just now, because I am sure that much, if not