

“Faith lends its realizing light,
The clouds disperse, the shadows fly.”

The faith by which the Christian lives in abounding hope, is exactly similar to that by which he grasped the blessing of pardon, or purity. It is preceded by absolute abandonment of every other aid, and relies entirely on God by His sovereign mercy to fill the soul with Gospel hope. Just as we walk in Christ through faith, so we abound in Hope through the Holy Ghost.

Notice the practical benefit of this divine arrangement. Perfect hope becomes ours every moment as our faith grasps it. We have not to wait for its slow developement through patient toil, but it springs up in the breast fully armed and equipped to drive out its opposites, like as in Grecian fable, Minerva sprang from the cleft head of Jupiter, a goddess fully armed and matured.

If then, dear reader, you are this moment troubled by shadowy fears, or freighted with gloomy distrust of the future, you may this moment by one act of immediate, appropriating faith, welcome this radiant visitor, who will drive out all your enemies, and flood your soul with the roseate hues of Gospel hope.

Again, let us learn to call things here by their right names. All despondence, the absence of abounding hope, is sin, and as such should be abhorred, confessed, and forsaken; not caressed and dandled, as if it appealed to our sympathies, and made us interesting to our friends. Discouragement is of the Devil, whilst hope comes from God. Let us cherish the one, but wage a relentless war with the other, not even permitting a temporary truce.

And now abideth Faith, *Hope*, and Love, these three. But whilst the greatest is love, yet hope is one of the three, and abideth, and will ever abide in the heart of him who walketh by faith in the love of Christ.

VOLUNTARY HUMILITY.

Humility is a grace of the Spirit of surpassing value, so god-like in its quality that all imitations fall immeasurably short of its perfect beauty, and yet short-sighted humanity is ever trying its hand at accomplishing the impossible in this respect—hence, the term voluntary humility as contrasted with the distinct work of the Holy Ghost. Notice, the word voluntary explains the difference between the two