

FAITH

The item directly below is part of a symposium on the Fruits of the Spirit, entitled FAITH by Brother Buehler, 1914 Convention Report, P. 49.

The Apostle in our text says in part that faith is one of the fruits of the Spirit. Elsewhere the same inspired writer tells us that "faith is the basis of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." In the 6th Volume of Scripture Studies, we read that "faith is the exercise of our minds toward God, toward the Word of God, that it is the exercise of proper confidence in the Word of God." There are two essential elements in faith -- intellectual assurance and heart reliance. Briefly stated, it is through the intellectual assurance that we are able to grasp the fundamental promises of the Divine truth, that is, that we were all under sentence of death, and Christ redeemed us by His sacrifice finished at Calvary, and we know by abiding faith and fullness of consecration through which God will dispense His blessings to the race of mankind, that we have the heart reliance that "All things work together for good to them that love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

It is this element of heart reliance that is most important to the Christian in the development of the various graces of the Christian character. No one would be able to exercise this grace unless he first set to his seal that God is true, that God changes not, that He has once called us and accepted us in that school, and that we shall continue there so long as we are earnest and sincere disciples, that nobody can pluck us out of His hands. It is this element of heart reliance that will help me through as I trust in Him.

Not only so, dear friends, we are to exercise confidence in the Teacher in this school, and that Teacher is our glorified Redeemer, our Elder Brother, and we are learning lessons from Him, principally the lesson of faith and trust in God. We find that nowhere, at any time, did He ever doubt. At no time was He fearful or discouraged, but He had an intimate acquaintance with the Father. He knew Him intimately because He had been with Him, and we are to take notice of the Lord's will and to develop our faith so that we can trust Him where we cannot trace Him. Surely, dear friends, those who have this sincere faith in God will take Him at His word that all that He has promised He will surely fulfill, that He with infinite wisdom, justice, love and power is right at our side and that He will help us, assist us and will teach us. Do we believe it? Yes. How much confidence have we in this? Dear friends, when we are dealing with a brother or fellow citizen and we lack his confidence, how can we deal with him? How can God deal with us if we lack confidence in Him? Surely, dear friends, the Lord has promised that whatever we have committed to Him He will keep. How long? Just as long as we have committed it to Him. If we have committed it to him until 1914 or 1915, or some other time, it is not proper to suppose that He will keep it longer than that time. We have committed our all to the Lord forever, and if we have committed anything to Him until a

specified time He will find it out. Surely, dear friends, the Lord would not have accepted them at the beginning if we had committed them to Him for a specified time. If we are greatly distressed concerning the future, we must assume that we are losing confidence in that which we first believed. But the Lord has made ample provision for those who are fearful of results, for those who believe the Word, that they might not be in darkness concerning the chronology. We notice that the Lord has set a steward over all His goods. Put the emphasis where it belongs over ALL His goods; and a part of His goods is chronology; and if the Lord threatened that faithful servant with punishment if he would doubt that chronology, what would He do with those who are unfaithful fellow servants? Surely we cannot believe our Redeemer would threaten anyone with punishment for doubting something that is not true. Surely He intends us to be assured that our chronology is correct. So let us have confidence in this as in every other feature of the present truth.

The Apostle tells us, "We who have believed do enter into rest." And whereas God rested on the seventh day we also rest with Him. How can this be that we can rest with God? Dear friends, God has fully entrusted His beloved Son, our glorious Redeemer, to undo the words of Satan, not only in connection with the church during this Gospel Age, but also with the world of mankind, and He rests because He knows Jesus will carry it out. So those who have believed do enter into rest with God. We have committed our all to God and He will take care of it. Did He promise? Yes. Brethren, let us have confidence and listen to the Apostle's exhortation, "Cast not away, therefore, your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward."