

## **The Wednesday Word, Sept. 17, 2014: The Believing Believer**

It is the Holy Spirit alone who draws us to the cross and fastens us to the Saviour. He is the revealer of Christ. Just as the Son brings us to the Father so the Spirit brings us to the Son. In the gift of the Holy Spirit, we have the gift of Christ Himself (John 14:18). What a splendid gift!

To become believers, we need the regenerating power of the Holy Ghost. If we think that anyone can come alive to God without the power and action of the Spirit, we have yet to learn the extent of human sinfulness and helplessness. We were dead in trespasses and sin and, therefore, needed divine intervention to bring us to life (Ephesians 2:1). That's why we read in Ephesians 2:8-9, "By grace are ye saved, through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."

The Holy Spirit generates faith and it is this faith that links the sinner to the Sin-bearer. Faith, however, does not qualify us to receive God's acquittal, for salvation is by grace alone. Faith, on the other hand, receives and understands the sufficiency of His great sacrifice for our sin. Faith makes the gospel personal. Faith sees that the Faithful Shepherd has laid down His life, not merely for the sheep (John 10:11), but for us in particular. Faith causes us to see that the Lord Jesus came to this earth for the express purpose of ransoming, not in general (Matthew 20:28), but in particular (Galatians 2:20b). Faith sees that Christ came not simply to say something about our sin, but to do something about our sin. Indeed, faith sees that Christ came, not primarily to preach the gospel but that we would have a gospel to preach. Faith recognizes that salvation is something that God has already accomplished outside of us, in the person of Jesus (Acts 13:32-33, 38-39). Faith lifts us up to heaven where our righteousness resides in a person, the Lord Jesus, and receives His righteousness as our own.

"The best obedience of my hands

Dares not appear before thy throne;

But faith can answer thy demands,

By pleading what the Lord has done."

Faith is not something that buys us salvation; the believing believer knows this and takes God at his word. The believer gives God credit for speaking the honest truth when he declared that, "Christ died for the ungodly" (Romans 5:6). Faith recognizes that because of Christ's death for sinners, no further payment is necessary!

But what if my faith is weak?

All of us, at times, suffer from weak faith, nevertheless our rest comes from two words--'in Christ' (1 Corinthians 1:30a; 1 Corinthians 15:22). We are in union with Christ, we are in Him. His destiny is our destiny. The strength of our faith, therefore, is not our security. Faith is not the purchaser of our salvation. Faith has no blood with which to pay for anything. Christ alone has bought us! Christ alone has redeemed us. A weak faith may indeed sometimes interfere with our enjoyment of salvation, but our security is in Christ alone. He is our covenant head. All that He has is ours! We may feel like the lowest and the least; we may feel that we are too weak to even grasp the promises---but no matter, the promises have grasped us. Our Saviour has already taken a hold of us and He will never lose us (Hebrews 13:5).

And that's the Gospel Truth!