

All of Grace

by
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Summarized for Leadership Training

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Chapter 1. To You

No doubt many poor men and women will take up this little volume, and the Lord will visit them with grace. To this end, the very plainest language has been chosen.

Oh, that some might read it who will become great winners of souls!

Who knows how many will find their way to peace is what they read here? Will you be one of them?

Reader, do you mean business in reading these pages? Nothing short of your finding Christ and heaven is the business aimed at here.

Oh, that we may seek this together! **Providence has put these pages in your way.** Who knows, but perhaps the set time of placing his come for you?

Chapter 2. What Are We At?

It is not the object of this book to ask anything of you, but to tell you that salvation is all of grace—which means free, gratis, and for nothing.

Often times, when we are anxious to win attention, our hearer thinks: "Ah! Now I am going to be told my duty. It is the man calling for that which is due to God, and I am sure I have nothing wherewith to pay. I will not be at home.

This book does not come to make a demand upon you, but to bring you something.

We are not going to talk about law and duty and punishment, but about love and goodness and forgiveness and mercy and eternal life.

Do not turn a deaf ear, or a careless heart.

I come in God's name to bring you a free gift, which it shall be to your present & eternal joy to receive.

Open the door, and let my pleadings enter.

Do not refuse the Lord Jesus who knocks at your door, for He knocks with a hand which was nailed to the tree for such as you are.

Harkin diligently, and let the good work sink into your soul.

Faith comes by hearing, and reading is a sort of hearing. Faith may come to you while you are reading this book.

Chapter 3. God Justifies The Ungodly

This message is for you...

Romans 4:5 tells us, *“to him that works not, but believes on Him that justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.”*

I have heard that men who hate the doctrines of the cross bring it as a charge against God that He saves wicked men and receives to himself the vilest of the vile. This Scripture accepts the charge and plainly states it!

By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he justifies the ungodly.

He makes those *just* who are *unjust*, forgives those who deserve to be punished, and favors those who deserve no favor.

You probably thought that if you were excellent, then God would reward you. We, according to the natural legality of our hearts, are always talking about our own goodness and our own worthiness.

God, who sees through all deceptions, knows that there is no goodness in us. Therefore the Lord Jesus comes, not because we are just, but to make us so.

Jesus justifies the ungodly.

God has devised ways and means of making the ungodly man to stand justly accepted before him. He has set up a system by which, with perfect justice, he can treat the guilty as if he were wholly free from sin.

Jesus justifies the ungodly... Christ came into the world to save sinners.

I know by a full assurance that I am justified by faith, which is in Christ Jesus. I, who am altogether undeserving am treated as if I had been deserving.

I am loved with as much love as if I had always been godly.

Who can help being astonished at this? *Gratitude for such favor stands dressed in robes of wonder.*

Notice how available it makes the gospel to you. If God justifies the ungodly, then he can justify you. If you are unconverted at this moment, if you have lived without God, and you have been the reverse of godly, then you have lived as if there were no God. You would have been pleased if there was no God.

Possibly, you are now pretty well settled in your ways. Possibly, you have regularly attended to all the outward forms of religion, and yet you have had no heart in them at all... but have been really ungodly.

*Though meeting with the people of God,
you have never met with God for yourself.*

You have lived without any love for God in your heart or regard to His commands in your life.

Well, you are just the kind of man to whom this gospel is sent – this gospel which says that God justifies the ungodly. How I wish that you would accept it!

If any of my readers are perfectly righteous, you want no justifying. You feel that you are doing your duty well, and almost putting heaven under an obligation to you. What do you want with the Savior, or with mercy? What do you want with justification? **You will be tired of my book by this time, for it will have no interest to you.**

Listen to me. You will be lost, as sure as you are alive.

*Men whose righteousness is all of their own working,
are either deceivers or deceived.*

For the Scriptures cannot lie: there is none righteous; no, not one.

I have no gospel to preach to the self-righteous.

Look at that righteousness of yours till you see what a delusion it is. Flee from it!

Jesus never undertakes that which is superfluous.

To justify the ungodly–this is a miracle worthy of a God.

The great remedies of grace and redemption are for the sick and soul.

If you feel that you are spiritually sick, the Physician has come into the world for you. If you are altogether undone by reason of your sin, you are the very person aimed at in the plan of salvation.

It is truly so, that Jesus seeks in saves that which is lost. **He died and made a real atonement for real sinners.**

Our Lord Jesus did not die for imaginary sins, but his heart's blood was spilled to wash out deep crimson stains, which nothing else can remove.

The law is for the self-righteous, to humble their pride; the gospel is for the lost, to remove their despair.

If you are not lost, what do you want with the Savior?

The medicine is for the diseased. The quickening is for the dead. The pardon is for the guilty.

Liberation is for those who are bound. The opening of eyes is for those who are blind.

This sinner is the Gospels reason for existence.

You my friend, if you are undeserving, ill-deserving, hell-deserving, you are the sort of man for whom the gospel is ordained and arranged and proclaimed.

God justifies the ungodly.

I would like to make this very plain. It is only the Lord that can make a man see. It does at 1st seem most amazing to an awakened man. Salvation comes to him before he has any of the results of salvation. Ungodly is all that he is when God's gospel comes to justify him.

Oh, friend, he can abundantly pardon.

Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

Forgiveness is for the guilty.

Do not attempt to touch yourself up and make yourself something other than you really are.

The gospel will receive you into its halls if you come as a sinner, not otherwise.

Come to your heavenly Father with all your sin and sinfulness. Come to Jesus just as you are: filthy, naked, neither fit to live nor fit to die. Come, you that are the very "sweepings of creation."

Come and ask the Lord to justify another ungodly one.

Come, for this great mercy of God is meant for such as you are.

Chapter 4. "It Is God That Justifies" - Romans 8:33

A wonderful thing it is, this being justified, or made just.

He who has never done anything which he ought not to have done, is justified by the law. But you, dear reader, are not of that sort.

Therefore, you need to be justified.

If you justify yourself, you will simply be self deceived. If you ask your fellow mortals to justify you, what can they do? Their judgment is not worth much. Our text says it is God that justifies.

In the 1st place, nobody else but God would ever have thought of justifying those who are guilty. They have lived in open rebellion. They have gone from bad to worse. They have broken the law and trampled on the gospel. They have persisted in ungodliness. How can they be forgiven?

They are hopeless cases. But not so with their God.

He, in the splendor of his electing grace, having chosen some of them before the foundation of the world, will not rest till he has justified them and made them to be accepted in the beloved.

You see there are some whom the Lord resolves to justify. Why should not you and I be one of the number?

None but God would ever have thought of justifying me.

Look at Saul of Tarsus, who foamed at the mouth against God's servants. Like a hungry wolf, he worried the lambs and the sheep yet God struck him down on the road and changed his heart... this man became the greatest preacher of justification by faith that ever lived.

None but God would have ever thought of justifying such a man.

Even if anybody had thought of justifying the ungodly, none but God could have done it.

David says, in the 51st Psalm: *"against you, you only, have I sinned and done this evil in your sight."*

None but the great God, against whom we have committed the sin, can blot out that sin. Let us, therefore, see that we go to him and seek mercy at his hands.

You had better see to your soul's matters yourself and leave them in no man's hands.

Only God can justify the ungodly, but he can do it to perfection.

With no other reason for it but his own infinite goodness, He has prepared a glorious way by which He can make Scarlet sins as white as snow and remove our transgressions from us, as far as the east is from the west.

He delights in mercy—Micah 7:18.

If you profess to deal with the righteous Lord on your terms, everlasting wrath threatens you, for that is what you deserve.

Read carefully the parable of the prodigal son, and see how the forgiving father received the returning wanderer with as much love as if he had never gone away. **However guilty you may be, if you will only come back to your God and Father, He will treat you as if you had never done wrong!** He will regard you as just and deal with you accordingly.

The justification which comes from God himself must be beyond question.

If the judge acquits me, who can condemn me?

The Holy Spirit, by its means, breeds peace over our entire nature, and we are no longer afraid. With

this we shall be able to die. With this we shall boldly rise again.

The Lord is great forever. **Do not doubt the power of Almighty love.**

You must not measure God's corn with your bushel.

The Holy Spirit, who enabled me to believe, gave me peace through believing. I felt as sure that I was forgiven as before I felt sure of condemnation. I had been certain of my condemnation because the Word of God declared, and my conscience bore witness to it. But when the Lord justified me, I was made equally certain by the same witness.

A sinner justified by God stands on even better footing than a righteous man justified by his own works.

We can never be sure enough that we have done enough good works.

But when God himself justifies, and the Holy Spirit bears witness by giving us peace with God.

No tongue can tell the depth of that which comes over the soul, which has received the peace of God which passes all understanding.

Chapter 5. Just And The Justifier

We now make the inquiry: **How can a just God justify guilty men?**

Romans 3:21-26 offers a full answer.

"But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the prophets; even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all, and upon all them that believe. For there is no difference. For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God has set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are passed, through the forbearance of God; to declare, I say, at this time his righteousness; that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believes in Jesus."

When I was under the conviction of sin, I had a clear and sharp sense of the justice of God. Sin, whatever it might be to other people, became to me an intolerable burden.

I knew myself to be horribly guilty, feeling that if God did not punish me for sin, He ought to.

All the while, I had deep concern for the honor of God's name, and the integrity of his moral government.

The sin I had committed must be punished.

The doctrine of the atonement is, to my mind, one of the surest proofs of the divine inspiration of holy Scripture. Who would or could have thought of the just Ruler dying for the unjust rebel?

This is no teaching of human mythology or dream of poetical imagination. God ordained it.

The light was there, but I was blind. It will have to come as a revelation to every newborn child of God whenever he sees.

Dear friend, have you ever understood how God can be just, not remitting penalty nor blunting the edge of the sword, and yet can be infinitely merciful, and can justify the ungodly who turned to him?

It was because the Son of God undertook to vindicate the law by bearing the sentence due to me, therefore God is able to pass by my sin.

The law of God was more vindicated by the death of Christ than it would have been had all transgressors then sent to help.

Jesus has born the death penalty on our behalf.

Behold the wonder! There He hangs upon the cross! This is the greatest site you will ever see.

There He hangs, the just for the unjust, to bring us to God.

Oh, the glory of that sight! Why did he suffer, if not to turn aside the penalty from us?

There is more in the atonement by way of merit than there is in all human sin by way of demerit. .

The great gulf of Jesus' loving self-sacrifice can swallow up the mountain of our sins.

*It was a miracle of miracles that the Lord Jesus Christ
should stand in our stead.*

He did do it... It is finished!

God will spare the sinner because he did not spare his son.

What is it to believe in him? It is not merely to say, He is God and the Savior, but to trust him wholly and entirely, and take him from this time forth and forever more as your Lord, your Master, your All.

If you believe on him, I tell you, you cannot go to hell, for that would be to make the sacrifice of Christ of no effect.

The Lord would not receive this offering on your behalf and then condemn you to die. The Lord cannot read our pardon written in the blood of his own son and then smite us. That would be impossible.

He justifies the ungodly. It is God that justifies.

He does it through the atoning sacrifice of his divine Son. Therefore it can be justly done—so justly done that none will ever question it.

Chapter 6. Concerning Deliverance From Sinning

A plain word or two to those who understand justification by faith in Christ Jesus, but *whose trouble is that they cannot cease from sin.*

We can never be happy, restful, or spiritually healthy until we become holy.

We must be rid of sin.

But how? This is the life or death question of many.

The old nature is very strong, and they have tried to curb entertainment. But it will not be subdued. And they find themselves, though anxious to be better, if anything, growing worse.

The heart is so hard, the will is so obstinate, the passions are so furious, the thoughts are so volatile, the imagination is so ungovernable, the desires are so wild, man feels that he has a den of wild beasts within him, which will eat him up sooner than be ruled by him.

A man might as well hope to hold the north wind in his hand as expected to control his fallen nature.

Dear friend, salvation would be a sadly incomplete affair if it did not deal with this part..

We want to be purified as well as pardoned.

Justification without sanctification would not be salvation at all.

It would stop the stream for a time, but leave an open fountain of defilement, which would sooner or later break forth with increased power.

Remember, Jesus came to take away sin in 3 ways. He came to remove the **penalty of sin**, the **power of sin**, and at last, the **presence of sin**.

The angel said of the Lord, you shall call his name Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins.

Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil in us.

If, however, you are troubled about the power of sin, here is a promise. God, who cannot lie, has said in Ezekiel 36:26... " A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit like put within you. And I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh."

The Lord knows you cannot change your own heart and cannot cleanse your own nature. But he also knows that He can do both.

Hear this, and be astonished: He can create you a 2nd time. He can cause you to be born again. This is a miracle of grace.

All things are possible with God.

He can reverse the direction of your desires in the current of your life. He can make your whole being tend upward toward God. And we know from Scripture that all believers are in the covenant. **What a wonderful promise!**

When the Lord takes away the stony heart, that deed is done. And no power can ever take away that new heart and the right spirit which he puts within us.

He does not take away what He once has given.

Let Him renew you, and you will be renewed.

Man's reformations and cleanings up soon come to an end, "for the dog returns to his vomit." But when God puts a new heart into us, the new heart is there forever, and never will it harden into stone again.

The new nature follows after "right," as naturally as the old nature wanderers after "wrong."

What a blessing it is to receive such a nature! Only the Holy Spirit can give it.

If you yield yourself up to his divine working, the Lord will alter your nature. He will breathe new life into you. Put your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will take the stony heart out of your flesh, and he will give you a heart of flesh.

Where everything was hard, everything shall be tender.

Where everything was vicious, everything shall be virtuous.

The lion of anger shall give place to the lamb of forgiveness. The raven of uncleanness shall fly before the bird of purity. The vile serpent of deceit shall be trodden under the heel of truth.

I have seen with my own eyes such marvelous changes of moral and spiritual character that I despair of no one. I could point out those who were once unchaste women and who are now pure as the driven snow...

Thieves are made honest, drunkards sober, liars truthful, and scoffers zealous.

Wherever the grace of God has appeared to a man, it has trained him to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present evil world.

You might say: **I cannot make this change. Who said that you could?** The Scripture of which we have quoted speaks not of what man will do, but of what God will do.

Trust in him to fulfill his Word to you, and it will be done.

“But How?” you asked. **What business is that of yours?** Must the Lord explained his methods before you will believe him?

The Lord's working in this matter is a great mystery. The Holy Spirit performs it. He who made the promise has the responsibility of keeping the promise. God promises to carry it out for all who receive Jesus...

Oh, that you would believe it!

Oh, that you would believe that God cannot lie! Oh, that you would trust him for a new heart, a right spirit, for he can give them to you!

May the Lord give you faith in his promise, faith in his Son, faith in the Holy Spirit, and faith in Him. And to Him shall be praise and honor and glory ever and ever! Amen.

Chapter 7. By Grace Through Faith

Ephesians 2:8—*“by grace you are saved, through faith.”*

The fountainhead of our salvation is the grace of God.

By grace you are saved. Because God is gracious, therefore sinful men are forgiven, converted, purified, and saved. It is not because of anything in them, that they are saved, but because of the boundless love, mercy, and grace of God.

What an abyss is the grace of God!

It is because his mercy endures forever that men are not destroyed, and because his compassions fail not, that sinners are brought to him and forgiven.

Remember this, or you may fall into error by fixing your minds so much upon the faith, which is the channel of salvation, as to forget the grace which is the fountain and source of faith itself.

Faith is the work of God's grace and us.

“No man comes on to me, except the Father, which has sent me, draw him.” –Jesus Christ

So faith, which is coming to Christ, is the result of divine drawing. Grace is the 1st and last moving cause of salvation. Faith, essential as it is, is only an important part of the machinery which grace employs.

We are saved through faith, but salvation is by grace.

By grace you are saved. Faith occupies the position of a channel or conduit. Grace is the fountain and the stream. Faith is the aqueduct along which the flood of mercy flows down to refresh the thirsty sons of men.

The aqueduct must be kept open to convey the current. **Faith must be true and sound, leading right up to God and coming right down to ourselves, so that it may become a serviceable channel of mercy to our souls.**

We must not look so much to faith that we exalt it above the divine source of all blessing, **the grace of God.**

Never make a Christ out of your faith, nor think of it as if it were the independent source of your salvation. **Our life is found in looking unto Jesus, and not in looking to our own faith.**

The power is not in the faith, but in the God upon whom faith relies.

See then, dear friend, that the weakness of your faith will not destroy you.

A trembling hand may receive a golden gift.

The Lord's salvation can come to us though we have only faith as a grain of mustard seed.

The power lies in the grace of God and not in our faith.

Great messages can be sent along slender wires.

Chapter 8. Faith: What Is It?

By grace you are saved, through faith. There are many descriptions of faith. Almost all definitions I have met with have made me understand it less than I did before I saw them.

Faith is the simplest of all things, and perhaps because of its simplicity it is the more difficult to explain.

What is faith? It is made up of 3 things: knowledge, belief, and trust.

Knowledge comes first. I want to be informed of a fact before I can possibly believe it.

Faith comes by hearing. We must 1st hear, in order that we may know what is to be believed.

Search the Scriptures and learn what the Holy Spirit teaches concerning Christ and his salvation. May the Holy Spirit give you the Spirit of knowledge, and the fear of the Lord!

Know the gospel. Know what the "good news" is.

Endeavor to know more and more of Christ Jesus. Endeavor especially to know the doctrine of the sacrifice of Christ, for the point upon which saving faith mainly fixes itself is this: God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their sins unto them.

Drink deep of the doctrine of the substitutionary work of Christ.

Faith begins with knowledge. The mind goes on to believe that these things are true. The soul believes that God is, and that He hears the cries of sincere hearts; that the gospel is from God; that justification by faith is the grand truth, which God has revealed in these last days by his Holy Spirit more clearly than before. Then the heart believes Jesus is the Truth, our God and Savior, the Redeemer of man, the Prophet, Priest, and King of his people.

All this is accepted as truth, not to be called into question. So far you have made an advance towards faith. Only one more ingredient is needed to complete it, which is trust. Commit yourself to the merciful God.

Rest your hope on the gracious gospel.

The Puritans were accustomed to explain faith by the word "recumbency." It meant leaning upon a thing. Lean with all your weight upon Christ.

Cast yourself upon Jesus. Rest in him.

Faith is not a blind thing, for faith begins with knowledge. It is not a speculative thing, for faith believes facts of which is sure. It is not an unpractical, dreamy thing, for faith trusts, and stakes its destiny upon the truth of revelation.

Faith is believing that Christ is what He said, and that He will do what he has promised to do, and then to expect this of him.

The Scripture speaks of him as having made an end of sin, and brought in everlasting righteousness.

He rose again from the dead, He ever lives to make intercession for us, he has gone up into the glory and has taken possession of heaven on the behalf of his people, and that He will shortly come again to judge the world.

Faith also believes that Christ will do what He has promised – to cast out none that come to him.

Faith believes that since Jesus said it, it must be true.

Whatever Christ has promised to do, He will do. And we must believe this, so as to look for pardon, justification, preservation, and eternal glory from his hands, as He has promised them to believers in him.

Next, Jesus is what He is said to be. Therefore we must each trust him.

This is a saving faith, and he that has it has everlasting life.

Whatever his darkness and depression, whatever his infirmities and sins, he that believes on Christ Jesus is not condemned and shall never come into condemnation.

Trust, and be at rest.

Better the poorest real faith actually at work, then the best ideal of it left in the region of speculation.

The great matter is to believe on the Lord Jesus at once. Never mind distinctions and definitions.

A hungry man eats, though he does not understand the composition of his food, the anatomy of his mouth, or the process of digestion. He lives because he eats. Another, far more clever person understands thoroughly the science of nutrition, but if he does not eat, he will die with all of his knowledge.

There are, no doubt, many at this hour in hell who understood the doctrine of faith, but did not believe.

On the other hand, not one who has trusted in the Lord Jesus has ever been cast out, though he may never have been able intellectually to define his faith.

Chapter 9. How May Faith Be Illustrated?

Though the Holy Spirit alone can make my readers see, it is my duty and my joy to furnish all the light I can, and to pray the Divine Lord open blind eyes. Oh, that my reader would pray the same prayer for himself!

Faith is the mouth which feeds upon Christ. Before food can nourish us, it must be received into us.

Paul says, in Romans, the Word is near you, even in your mouth. Now, then, all that is to be done is to swallow it – to suffer it to go down into the soul.

Oh that man had an appetite!

You cannot turn anywhere in life without seeing faith in operation between man and man, or between man and natural law. Now, just as we trust in daily life, even so are we to trust in God as He is revealed in Christ Jesus.

Faith exists in different persons in various degrees, according to the amount of their knowledge or growth in grace.

The sinner's life is to cling to Christ. Thousands of God's people have no more faith than this. They know enough to cling to Jesus with all their heart and soul, and this suffices for present peace in eternal safety. Jesus Christ is to them a Savior, strong and mighty, a Rock immovable and immutable.

They cling to him for dear life, and this clinging saves them.

A blind man trusts himself with his guide because he knows that his friend can see. Therefore he freely puts his hand into the hand of the seeing one, and follows his leadership. **We walk by faith, not by sight. Blessed are they which have not seen, and yet have believed.** We know that Jesus has about him merit, and power. **We trust Him as the blind man trusts his guide.**

Every boy that goes to school has to exert faith while learning. That is what you will have to do with Christ, if you were going to be saved. You must simply know because He tells you; believe because He assures you; and trust your self with him, because He promises you that salvation...

Almost all that you and I know has come to us by faith.

You must do the like with regard to Jesus. Because He teaches you certain truths, you are to be his disciple and believe his words.

If you receive him and his words, you shall be saved.

Another and a higher form of faith is that faith which grows out of love.

Blessed and happy are they who had a sweet faith in Jesus, intertwined with deep affection for him, for this is a restful confidence.

We love him, and He loves us, and therefore we put ourselves into his hands... We feel that nothing can be wrongly ordered while He is the director of our affairs, for He loves us too well to let us perish.

Faith is the root of obedience.

Faith is clearly seeking in the affairs of our lives through obedience.

When a patient believes in a physician. He carefully follows his prescriptions and directions.

Faith which refuses to obey the commands of the Savior is a mere pretense and will never save the soul.

He gives us directions as to the way of salvation. We follow those directions and are saved.

Trust Jesus and prove your trust by doing whatever He bids you.

A notable form of faith arises out of a sure knowledge. This comes with growth in grace and is the faith which believes Christ because it knows him and trusts him because it has proved him to be infallibly faithful.

How easy it is to trust a tried and proved Savior!

You will rise to strong faith in due time. This mature faith asks not for signs and tokens, but bravely believes.

It is a wonderful thing. It is a blessed thing to leave altogether the shores of sight and feeling, and to say, goodbye, to inward feelings, cheering providences, signs, tokens, and so forth.

It is glorious to be far out on the oceans of divine love, believing in God, and steering for heaven straightaway by the direction of the Word of God.

Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

Chapter 10. Why Are We Saved By Faith?

Why is faith selected as the channel of salvation? Why is faith selected rather than hope, love, or patients?

Because there is a natural adaptation in faith to be used as the receiver.

*The hand seems made on purpose to receive. So, in our mental frame,
faith is created on purpose to be a receiver.*

There is a fitness in receiving grace by faith.

Faith is chosen by God to be the receiver of salvation because it does not pretend to create salvation, nor to help in it, but it is content humbly to receive it.

Faith, is doubtless selected because it gives all the glory to God.

God will not give salvation in a way which will suggest or foster pride. **Faith excludes all boasting.**

The hand which receives charity does not say, "I am to be thanked for accepting the gift."

Faith sets the crown upon the right head.

Faith saves us because it makes us cling to God.

Faith is a blessing because it unites us to God!

Faith is also chosen because it touches the springs of action.

Most grand deeds have been born of faith.

God gives salvation to faith because by creating faith in us, He thus touches the real mainspring of our emotions and actions.

When the heart has come into the possession of God, then we are saved from sin, and are moved toward repentance, Holiness, zeal, prayer, consecration, and every other gracious thing.

*What oil is to the wheels, what wings are to a bird, what sails are to a ship,
that, faith is to all holy duties and services.*

Have faith, and all other graces will follow.

Faith draws the heart after the best things.

He that believes in God will love God.

Faith is an act of the understanding. But it also proceeds from the heart.

Faith creates peace and joy.

He who has faith rests, is tranquil, and is glad and joyous, and this is a preparation for heaven.

Faith furnishes us with armor for this life and education for the life to come.

Faith enables a man to both live and die without fear.

Faith does for us what nothing else can do.

**Those who would be saved by works are pushing at
heaven's gate without result. But faith is the key
which opens the gate at once.**

Chapter 11. Alas! I Can Do Nothing!

Many are groaning, I can do nothing. They are not making this into an excuse, but they feel it as a daily burden. This feeling seems to make all the gospel null and void. What is the use of food to a hungry man if he cannot get at it?

It's sometimes seems to the troubled heart that the simple gospel of "believe and live" is not, after all, so very simple, for it asks the poor sinner to do what he cannot do.

To be really awakened, but half instructed there appears to be a missing link. Yonder is the salvation of Jesus. But how is it to be reached? **The soul is without strength and knows not what to do. It lies within sight of the city of refuge but cannot enter its gate.**

Is this need of strength provided for in the plan of salvation? It is.

The work of the Lord is perfect.

Many awakened persons are not only troubled about their sin but about their moral weakness. They have no strength with which to escape from the mire into which they have fallen, nor to keep out of it in after days. They not only lament over what they have done but over what they cannot do. They feel themselves to be powerless, helpless, and spiritually lifeless.

Happily, it is written in Romans 5:6—when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

Our helplessness is extreme.

We had no strength whatever which could aid in our sin. Our Lord's words were emphatically true: without me, you can do nothing.

To be dead is even more than to be without strength.

In due time Christ died for the ungodly. Believe this, and all inability will disappear.

Our varying needs and weaknesses become blessings when faith deals with them.

Let us dwell upon certain forms of this want of strength. To begin with, one man will say, Sir, I do not seem to have enough to collect my thoughts and keep them fixed upon those solemn topics which concern my celebration. I am not capable of those high thoughts which are necessary for a soul to be saved.

This is a very common form of sinful weakness. You need not, therefore, despair...

That which is necessary to salvation is not continuous thought but a simple reliance upon Jesus.

Fix your mind on the gospel and rest there.

Christ died for the ungodly when they were yet without strength.

Jesus did not die for our righteousness, but he died for our sins.

Jesus did not come to save us because we were worth the saving, but because we were utterly worthless, ruined, and undone.

In due time, he died for those whom he describes, not as godly, but as ungodly. **Let this text lie under your tongue like a sweet morsel till it dissolves into your heart and flavors all your thoughts.**

I hear other men cry: I cannot repent sufficiently! What a jumble it all is when in our unbelieving state we begin to judge our own condition! It is like a blind man looking at his own eyes.

Remember that the man who truly repents is never satisfied with his own repentance.

We can no more repent perfectly than we can live perfectly. However pure our tears, there will always be some dirt in them.

To repent, the main point is the turning of the heart from sin to Christ.

If there is turning, there is the essence of true repentance, even though no alarm and no despair should ever have cast their shadow upon your mind.

Surely, the cross is that wonder-working rod which can bring water out of a rock. If you understand the full meaning of the divine sacrifice of Jesus, you will repent.

Repentance will not make you see Christ, but to see Christ to give you repentance.

I have heard others say: I am tormented with horrible thoughts. A man might as well hope to fight a swarm of flies with the sword as to master his own thoughts the mayor set on by the Devil.

A poor, tempted soul, assailed by satanic suggestions, is like a traveler about whose head, ears, and the whole body there came a swarm of angry bees. He could not keep them off nor escape from them. They stung him everywhere and threatened to be the death of him.

Remember Martin Luther's way of cutting the Devils head off with his own sword. Oh, said the devil to Martin Luther, you are a sinner. Yes, said Martin Luther, and Christ died to save sinners. Thus Luther struck Satan with his own sword.

These thoughts, if you hate them, are none of yours, but are injections of the devil for which he is responsible and not you. It is by means of these thoughts that the devil would drive you to despair, or at least keep you from trusting Jesus.

Jesus died for those who are guilty of all manner of sin... He will not refuse those who are unwillingly the captives of evil thoughts.

Cast yourself upon him, thoughts and all, and see if he be not mighty to save.

In his own way, he can and will save you, and give you perfect peace.

Trust him.

Indeed, it is a very curious thing, this whole matter of believing, for people do not get much help in trying to believe.

Believing does not come by trying.

When God declares that there is salvation in Christ Jesus, I must either believe that once, or make him a liar.

Possibly you have been trying too much to believe.

Be satisfied to have a faith that can hold one truth: while we were yet without strength, in due time, Christ died for the ungodly. He laid down his life for men while as yet they were not believing in him. **He died from men, not his believers, but as sinners.**

He came to make sinners into believers and Saints.

If you will trust your soul with Jesus, who died for the ungodly, even though you cannot believe all things, nor move mountains, nor do any other wonderful works, yet you are saved.

It is not great faith but true faith that saves.

Salvation lies not in the faith but in the Christ in which faith trusts.

Faith as a grain of mustard seed will bring salvation.

It is not the measure of faith but the sincerity of faith which is the point to be considered.

There is no place like Calvary for creating confidence.

Alas! Cries another, I cannot quit my sin and I know that I cannot go to heaven and carry my sin with me. I am glad that you know that, for is quite true.

You must be divorced from your sin or you cannot be married to Christ.

You must quit your sin, or quit hope.

Trust Jesus. Apart from him, the strong man armed will hold you forever his bond slave. Personally, I could never have overcome my own sinfulness. I tried and failed.

Thankfully, the doctrine of the cross can be used to slay sin.

How can I live in sin when he has died to save me from it? At times I have thought, when I have done preaching, that I have laid down the gospel so clearly, that the nose on one's face could not be more plain. And yet I perceived that even intelligent hearers have failed to understand. Converts usually say that they did not know the Gospel till such and such a day. And yet they had heard it for years.

The gospel is unknown, not from want of explanation, but from absence of personal revelation.

I hear another bewailing: I do not seem to keep long in one mind!

If those words are sincere, this weakness can be met by divine grace. The Holy Spirit can cast out the evil spirit of the fear of man.

He can make the coward brave.

Take a firm grip on this truth: Christ died for the ungodly, while they were yet without strength. This is your way out of your cowardice.

A true sense of the love of Christ lifts the mind above all fear of what man can do to us.

Chapter 12. The Increase of Faith

How can we attain an increase of faith? We waste time in discussing methods when the action is simple.

The shortest way to believe is to believe.

If the Holy Spirit has made you candid, you will believe as soon as truth is set before you.

The gospel command is clear: believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved.

The order is plain. Let it be obeyed.

But still, if you have difficulty, take it before God in prayer. Ask him by his Holy Spirit to solve the question.

Divine explanation satisfies the heart of a true seeker.

The Lord is willing to make himself known. Go to him, in your prayer closet and cry out, O Holy Spirit, lead me into the truth! **Teach me.**

We believe many things because we have heard them so often.

It is written, faith comes by hearing. Therefore, hear often.

Only mind you hear the gospel, and do not distract your mind with either hearing or reading that which is designed to stagger you.

Listen, then, to those who tell you how they were saved, how they were pardoned, and how they were changed in character. If you will look into that manner, you will find that somebody just like yourself has been saved.

When you see others believe in the Lamb of God and notice their joy and peace, you will yourself be gently led to believe. The experience of others is one of God's ways of helping us to faith.

You have either to believe in Jesus, or die.

There is no hope for you but in him.

You have good authority for coming to Christ, for the Lord himself bid you to trust him.

Study the 4 Gospels, study Paul's letters, and then see if the message is not such a credible one that you were forced to believe. If that does not do, then think upon the person of Jesus Christ.

Why crucify him a new by unbelief? Is not this crowning him again and spitting upon him again?

They made him a martyr, but you make him a liar.

If none of these things work, then there is something wrong about you altogether, my last word is, submit yourself to God!

Prejudice or pride is at the bottom of your unbelief.

You are a rebel, a proud rebel, and that is why you do not believe your God. Give up your rebellion. Throw down your weapons. **Surrender to your King.**

Never did a soul throw up its hands himself to spare, and cry, Lord, I yield, but that faith became easy to it before long.

It is because you still have a quarrel with God and resolve to have your own will in your own way that therefore you cannot believe.

Personal pride creates unbelief.

Submit. Yield to your God, then shall you sweetly believe in your Savior.

May the Holy Spirit now work secretly but effectually with you and bring you at this very moment to believe in the Lord Jesus! Amen.

Chapter 13. Regeneration and the Holy Spirit

“You must be born again.” - Jesus, the Christ

The new birth is from above, not in the creature's power. The new birth is supernatural, it cannot be created by the sinners own self. Read the 3rd chapter of John. The 3rd verse says: Jesus answered and said unto him, *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*

The Lord produces the new birth and all who believe in Jesus. And **they're believing is the surest evidence that they are born-again.**

It is ours to believe; it is the Lord's to create us a new.

He will not believe for us, neither are we to do regenerating work for him.

A saving change of heart is the work of the Holy Spirit. The work of the Holy Spirit is secret and mysterious, and it can only be perceived by its results.

If a man were bidden to sow a field, he could not excuse his neglect by saying that it would be useless to sow unless God caused the seed to grow.

God works in Providence, men do not therefore sit still.

In grace, we repent and believe, though we could do neither if the Lord did not enable us.

We forsake sin and trust in Jesus, and then we perceive that the Lord has created in us to will and to do of his own good pleasure.

There is no discrepancy between the truth that the sinner believes, and that his faith is created in him by the Holy Spirit.

No man would refuse to enter a lifeboat because he did not know the specific gravity of bodies, neither would a starving man decline to eat till he understood the whole process of nutrition.

If you will not believe till you can understand all mysteries, you will never be saved at all.

If you allow self invented difficulties to keep you from accepting pardon through your Lord and Savior, you will perish in a condemnation.

Do not commit spiritual suicide through a passion for discussing metaphysical subtleties.

Chapter 14. My Redeemer Lives

Christ crucified is the great hope of the guilty. But it is our wisdom to remember that our Lord has risen from the dead and lives eternally.

You are not asked to trust in a dead Jesus, but in one who has risen again for our justification.

You may go to Jesus at once, he is not a mere memory, but it continually existent person who will hear your prayers. He is interceding for sinners at the right hand of the father.

Come and try this living Savior.

This living Jesus is also raised to an eminence of glory and power (Acts 5:30-31).

It is well for us that as sin lives, and the flesh lives, and the devil lives, so Jesus lives. And it is also well that whatever these may have to ruin us, Jesus has still greater power to save us.

Let my reader raise his eyes to these hills of glory, whence his help must come.

We have a friend at court; a friend on the throne. He will use all his influence for those who entrust their affairs in his hands.

No case ever failed which was left with this great Advocate.

Chapter 15. Repentance Must Go With Forgiveness

Repentance is bound up with the forgiveness of sins.

In Acts 5:31 we read that Jesus is exalted to give repentance and forgiveness of sins. These 2 blessings come from that sacred hand which once was nailed to the tree.

Repentance and forgiveness are riveted together by the eternal purpose of God.

Repentance must go with remission. It cannot be that pardon of sin should be given to a stubborn sinner. This would teach him to think little of evil.

Innumerable mischiefs would certainly occur if you could divide repentance and forgiveness, and pass by the sin while the sinner remained as fond of it as ever.

**If we believe in the holiness of God, it must be so, that if we
continue in our sin, and will not repent of it,
we cannot be forgiven.**

We are promised that if we will forsake our sins, confessing them, and will by faith accept the grace which is provided in Christ Jesus, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

But, there can be no promise of mercy to those who continue in their evil ways, and refuse to acknowledge their wrongdoing.

**No rebel can expect the King to pardon his treason while
he remains in open revolt.**

If we could be forgiven, and then could be permitted to love sin, and to wallow in lust, what would be the use of such a forgiveness? Might it not turn out to be a poisoned suite, which would most effectually destroy us?

**To be pronounced clean and yet to have leprosy would be the very
mockery of mercy.**

We thank God that he who forgives our sins also heals our diseases. He who washes us from the stains of the past also uplifts us from the foul ways of the present and keeps us from failing in the future.

Repentance and remission cannot be separated.

To divide the work of grace would be to cut the living child in halves, and those who would permit this have no interest in it.

I will ask you whether you would be satisfied with one of these mercies alone? Would it content you if God would forgive you your sins and then allow you to be as worldly and wicked as before? Oh, no!

Repentance and forgiveness are joined together in the experience of all believers. There never was a person forgiven who has not repented of his sin.

Hatred of sin and a sense of pardon come together into the soul, and abide together while we live. These 2 things act and react upon each other.

When we are sure that we are forgiven, then we hate sin.

When faith grows into full assurance, it is then that repentance reaches to its greatest height.

Repentance grows as faith grows.

Repentance is not a thing of days and weeks, a temporary penance to be over as fast as possible! No. It is the grace of a lifetime, like faith itself.

Repentance is the inseparable companion of faith.

The tear of repentance glitters in the eye of faith.

Faith and repentance, like Siamese twins, are vitally joined together. In proportion as we believe in the forgiving love of Christ, in that proportion we repent.

We will never value pardon unless we feel repentance. And you will never taste the deepest draught of repentance until you know that you are pardoned.

These 2 covenant gifts are the mutual assurance of each other.

Faith and repentance are but 2 spokes in the same wheel, 2 handles of the same plow.

Repentance has been well described as a heartbroken for sin, and from sin. It is a change of mind of the most thorough and radical sort, **and it is attended with sorrow for the past, and a resolve of amendment in the future.**

*Repentance is to leave
the sins we loved before;
and show that we in earnest grieve,
by doing so no more.*

The Lord never made a heart to be broken for sin and broken from sin without pardoning it.

Do not regard your repentance as the cause of your remission, but as the companion of it. Do not expect to be able to repent until you see the grace of our Lord Jesus and his readiness to blot out your sin.

Repentance of sin is as truly the work of grace as the making of an atonement by which sin is blotted out.

Salvation, from first to last, is of grace alone.

It is not the Holy Spirit who repents. He has never done anything for which he should repent. **We must ourselves repent of our own sin, or we are not saved from its power.**

The will, the affections, the emotions, all work together most heartily in the blessed act of repentance for sin. Yet **at the back of all that is our personal act, there is a secret holy influence which melts the heart, gives contrition, and produces a complete change.**

The Spirit of God enlightens us to see what sin is, and thus makes it loathsome in our eyes.

The Spirit of God works in us to will and to do according to God's good pleasure.

By grace you are saved.

Chapter 16. How Repentance Is Given

Our Lord Jesus Christ has gone up so that grace may come down.

He is exalted to give repentance. And this we shall see if we remember a few, great truths. **The work which our Lord Jesus has done has made repentance possible, available, and acceptable. The law makes no mention of repentance, but says plainly: the soul that sins, it shall die.**

If the Lord Jesus had not died and risen again what would your repenting or mine be worth? We might feel remorse with its horrors, but never repentance with its hopes.

When Jesus was exalted on high, the Spirit of God was poured out to work in us all needful graces.

The Holy Spirit creates repentance in us by supernaturally renewing our nature and taking away the heart of stone out of our flesh.

He uses both bitters and sweets, trials and joys, that he may produce in sinners a better mind toward their God.

Be thankful for the providence which has made you poor, or sick, or sad. For by all this, Jesus works the life of your spirit and turns you to himself.

The Lord's mercy often rides to the door of our hearts on the black horse of affliction.

Jesus uses the whole range of our experiences to wean us from earth and woo us to heaven.

He can bring to your mind some heartbreaking text out of holy Scripture which shall conquer you right speedily. He can mysteriously soften you, and cause a holy frame of mind to steal over you when you least look for it.

He is even now waiting to give repentance to you. Ask him for it at once. **Christ gives this repentance to the most unlikely people in the world.**

What a marvel of grace!

The Lord can give repentance to the most unlikely, turning lions into lambs, and ravens into doves. Let us look to him that this great change may be made in us.

Contemplation of the death of Christ is one of the surest and fastest methods of gaining repentance.

Do not try to pump up repentance from the dry well of a corrupt nature.

Take your heart in prayer to him who understands it, and say: Lord, cleanse it. Lord, renew it. Lord, work repentance in it. The more you try to produce repentant emotions in yourself, the more you will be disappointed. But if you are leaving... only think of Jesus dying for you, repentance will burst forth.

Meditate on the Lords shedding his heart's blood out of love to you.

He who died for you can, by his gracious Spirit, make you die to sin.

Draw your soul after him, away from evil, and toward holiness.

Look not beneath the ice to find fire.

Look to the living one for life.

Remember: Christ is all!

Chapter 17. The Fear of Final Falling

A dark fear haunts the mind of many coming to Christ. They are afraid that they shall not persevere to the end.

Some who have been afraid to trust Christ for all eternity, have failed because they had a temporary faith, which never went far enough to save them. They set out trusting Jesus in a measure, but looking to themselves for continuance and perseverance in the heaven-ward way. So **they set out vocally, and, as a natural consequence, turn back before long.**

If we trust to ourselves for our holding on, we shall not hold on. Even though we rest in Jesus for a part of ourselves, we shall fail if we trust to self for anything.

No chain is stronger than its weakest link. If Jesus be our hope for everything except one thing, we shall utterly fail, because in that one point we shall come to ruin.

Beware of mixing even a little of self with the mortar with which you build, or you will make it untempered mortar, and the stones will not hold together.

He is Alpha. See to it that you make him Omega also.

Let the Lord be all in all to you.

The urgent need of the believing soul is confirmation, continuance, final perseverance, and preservation to the end. This is the great necessity of the most advanced believers. Such men are the very persons who most assuredly feel that they have daily need of new grace if they are to hold on, and hold out, and come off conqueror's at the last.

Because you are men of God, therefore you feel the daily demands of the spiritual life.

The marble statue requires no food. But the living man hungers and thirsts.

In some, there is a painful fear that they shall not persevere in grace because they know their own fickleness. Like butterflies they flipped from flower to flower, till they visit all the beauties of the garden, and settle upon none of them. They are never long enough in one place to do any good.

All of us must feel our own weakness if we are really quickened of God.

Do you not find enough in any one single day to make you stumble? If we were to shut ourselves up in the shell the hermit crab, temptation would follow us. **For as long as we cannot escape from ourselves, we cannot escape from incitements to sin.**

If he does not confirm us, we are so weak it we shall stumble and fall—not overturned by an enemy, but by our own carelessness.

Lord, be our strength. We are weakness itself.

Besides that, there is the weariness which comes of a long life. I pray God that the energy of our youth may continue with us, so long as it is the energy of the spirit and not the mere fermentation of proud flesh.

The world is a howling wilderness to many of God's people. The road is rough.

The world is no friend to grace.

For we dwell in an enemy's country. **Everywhere we need to travel, we need to travel with the drawn sword.** For we will have to contend for every inch of our way.

True religion is supernatural at its beginning, supernatural in its continuance, and supernatural and its close. It is the work of God from 1st to last.

Chapter 18. Confirmation

Paul says, who shall confirm you unto the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It would be an awful thing to confirm a man in ways of sin and error.

It would be a deplorable thing for a man to be confirmed in unbelief and ungodliness.

Divine confirmation is the work of the Holy Spirit. He who gives faith strengthens and establishes it. He who kindles love in us preserves it and increases its flame.

What a strength to a church is a confirmed Christian! He is a comfort to the sorrowful, and a help to the weak.

Confirmed believers are pillars in the house of our God.

They are not carried away by every wind of doctrine, nor overthrown by sudden temptation. They are a great state others, and act as anchors in the time of church trouble.

One of these days, you who are now a babe in Christ shall be a father in the church.

All who are in Christ will be confirmed in him till that illustrious day. Has he not said, because I live you shall live also? He also said, I give unto my sheep eternal life. And they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

The work of grace in the soul is not a superficial Reformation.

The promises of God made to believers are not a transient character.

We are kept by the power of God, through faith, unto salvation. **Of the sheep of his fold, Jesus will lose none.** For our Lord Jesus has obtained eternal salvation for us, and that which is eternal cannot come to an end.

To be kept holy is better than merely to be kept safe.

It is a dreadful thing when you see religious people blundering out of one dishonor into another. They have not believed in the power of our Lord to make them blameless.

The lives of some professing Christians are a series of stumbles. They are never quite down, and yet they are seldom on their feet. This is not a fit thing for a believer. He is invited to walk with God, and by faith he can attain steady perseverance and holiness, and he ought to do so.

We need not yield to temptation. **Sin shall not have dominion over you.** We are bound to live holy lives. For without holiness, no man shall see the Lord.

This is the triumph of the saints—to continue to follow the Lamb wherever he goes, maintaining our integrity as before the living God.

May we never turn aside into crooked ways... Of the true believer it is written: he keeps himself, and that wicked one touches him not.

The Lord can give you an irreproachable character. Even though in your past life you may have gone far into sin, the Lord can altogether deliver you from the power of former habits, and make you an example of virtue.

He can make you hate every false way and follow after all that is saintly.

Do not doubt Him.

The chief of sinners need not be a whit behind the purest of the Saints. Believe for this, and according to your faith shall it be unto you.

Chapter 19. Why Saints Persevere

1st Corinthians 1:9 = God is faithful, by whom you were called unto the fellowship of his son, Jesus Christ. The apostle does not say, you are faithful. Alas! The faithfulness of man is a very unreliable affair. Instead, he says: **God is faithful.** If we are found faithful, it will be because God is faithful.

We are variable as the wind, frail as a spiders web, weak as water. No dependence can be placed upon our natural qualities. But God abides faithful. He is faithful in his love. He is faithful to his purpose. **He does not begin to work and then leave it undone.** As a Father, he will not renounce his children. He is faithful to his promises and will never allow one of them to fail to a single believer. He is faithful to his son, and will not allow his precious blood to be spilled in vain. He is faithful to his people, to whom he has promised eternal life.

This faithfulness of God is the foundation and cornerstone of our hope of final perseverance.

The saints shall persevere in holiness, because God perseveres in grace. He perseveres to bless, and therefore believers persevere in being blessed. He continues to keep his people, and therefore they continued to keep his commandments.

From the effectual call of his grace, the Lord never turns.

If you are indeed called by divine grace, you have come into fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ, so as to be joint owner with him in all things. Henceforth, you are one with him in the sight of the Most High. The Lord Jesus took your sins in his own body on the tree, being made a curse for you.

And at the same time, he has become your righteousness, so that you are justified in him.

You are Christ's and Christ is yours.

Believers are members of the body of Christ, and so, are one with him by a loving, living, lasting union. God has called us into this union. Consequently, by this he has given us the token and pledge of our being confirmed to the end.

As one with Jesus, we are made partakers of his nature and are endowed with his immortal life.

Our destiny is linked with that of our Lord.

If you are indeed a believer, you are one with Jesus, and therefore you are secure.

Christ and the believing sinner are in the same boat. Unless Jesus sinks, the believer will never drown.

So, then, with the utmost confidence, let us go forward into the unknown future, linked internally with Jesus.

Knowing these glorious things, we cannot be discouraged.

Chapter 20. Close

if you do not desire the choice blessing which I would have brought to you, at least do me the justice to admit that the blame of your final doom will not lie at my door.

There is no life like that of one who lives in the favor of God.

To receive all as a free gift preserves the mind from self-righteous pride and from self accusing despair.

If you are saved, be on the watch for the souls of others. Your own heart will not prosper unless it is filled with intense concern to bless your fellow man.

The life of your **soul**, lies in faith; its health lies in love.

He who does not try to lead others to Jesus has never been under the spell of love himself.

Get to the work of the Lord—the work of love. Beginning at home, then visit your neighbors.

Scatter the Word of the Lord wherever your hand can reach.

Reader, meet me in heaven! Do not go down to hell.

Why do you wish to enter the way of death when Heaven's Gate is open before you?

Do not hesitate and delay. Come to action.

Remember, dear soul, it may be now or never with you.
Let it be now.

Again... I charge you: meet me in heaven.