



Faith Is the Victory

Without faith it is impossible to please him. – Heb.11:6

A hindrance in the way of him who would be holy is imperfect faith. When Paul wrote to his followers in Thessalonica, he praised them for being examples to all that believed in Macedonia and Achaia, and added: "In every place your faith to godward is spread abroad." That was the best believing group in all Europe, and so real and sturdy was their faith that they could endure much persecution. Paul says of them, "We were comforted over you, in all our affliction and distress, by your faith."

Strong faith that, but it was not perfect, for Paul adds, "Night and day [we are] praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and perfect that which is lacking in your faith." And because of their imperfect faith, they were not sanctified; so we find the apostle praying, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly."

All who are born of God, and have the witness of His Spirit to their justification, know full well that it was not through any good works of their own, nor by growing into it, that they were saved, but it was "by grace ... through faith." But very many of these dear people seem to think that we are to grow into sanctification or are to get it by our own works.

But the Lord settled that question and made it as plain as words can make it, when He told Paul that He sent him to the Gentiles to "open their eyes, and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me."

1 Thess. 1:8; 3:7, 10; 5:23; Eph. 2:8; Acts 26:18