

The faith that works by love

(The key of knowledge)

Preface

If the leaders in Israel had received Christ, He would have honored them as His messengers to carry the gospel to the world. To them first was given the opportunity to become heralds of the kingdom and grace of God. But Israel knew not the time of their visitation. The jealousy and distrust of the Jewish leaders had ripened into open hatred, and the hearts of the people were turned away from Jesus.

The Sanhedrin had rejected Christ's message and was bent upon His death; therefore Jesus departed from

Jerusalem, from the priests, the temple, the religious leaders, the people who had been instructed in the law, and turned to another class to proclaim His message, and to gather out those who should carry the gospel to all nations. See Desire of Ages, pp.231,232.

The beginning of the end

Oh, how Christ longed to open to Israel *the precious treasures of the truth!* But such was their spiritual blindness that it was impossible to reveal to them the truths relating to His kingdom. They clung to their creed and their useless ceremonies when *the truth of Heaven* awaited their acceptance. They spent their money for chaff and husks, when *the bread of life* was within their reach.

They would not receive Him as the Christ of God. With priests and people, the first rejection of the

demonstration of the Holy Spirit's power was the beginning of the end.

In like manner, an unwillingness to yield up preconceived opinions, and to accept the truth resulted in shutting away, in a great measure, the special power of the Holy Spirit that God longed to impart to His people in 1888. See Selected Messages, Vol.1, p.234,5.

This first rejection of the light that was to illuminate the whole world with its glory was, as well for the leaders as for the people, the beginning of the end.

"The prejudices and opinions that prevailed at Minneapolis are not dead by any means; the seeds sown there in some hearts are ready to spring into life and bear a like harvest." Testimonies to Ministers, p.467.

«The great leaders of the religious thought in this generation sound the

praises and build the monuments of those who planted the seed of truth centuries ago. Do not many turn from this work to trample down the growth springing from the same seed today? The old cry is repeated, 'We know that God spoke unto Moses; as for this fellow (Christ in the messenger He sends), we know not from whence he is.' John 9:29. *As in earlier ages, the special truths for this time are found, not with the religious authorities, but with men and women who are not too learned or too wise to believe the word of God.*" Christ's Object Lessons, p.79.

The faith that works by love

The Scriptures teach that there is "one faith" only, namely "the faith that was once delivered unto the saints," and that without this faith, "it is impossible to please God." *Ephesians 4:5; Jude 3; Hebrews 11:6.*

This faith, says the apostle Paul, is "the faith that works by love." Gal.5:6.

It is the faith that lays right hold upon the merits of a crucified and risen Saviour to bring His righteousness into the life.

"Righteousness is love and love is the light and the life of God." Mount of Blessing, p.18.

Thus "The only faith that will benefit us is that which appropriates His merits to ourselves." Desire of Ages, p.347.

"God will accept everyone that comes to Him *trusting wholly* in the *merits* of a crucified and risen Saviour. *Love springs up in the heart*. There may be no ecstasy of feeling but there is an abiding, peaceful trust. Every burden is light; for the yoke which Christ imposes is easy. Duty becomes a delight, and sacrifice a pleasure. The path that before seemed shrouded in darkness becomes bright with the beams of the Sun of Righteousness. This is walking in the light as He is

in the light." *Selected Messages, Vol.1, p.354.*

"The moment His yoke (love) is adjusted to your neck, that moment it is found easy; then the heaviest spiritual labour can be performed, the heaviest burdens born, because the Lord gives the strength and the power, and He gives gladness in doing the work." *Selected Messages, Vol.1, pp.110,111.*

"All are to be united in carrying out God's requirements, revealing at every advance step that faith which works by love to purify the soul." *Selected Messages, Vol.1, p.115.*

"Every soul saved will be saved through Love, which begins with God." *Ibid, p.115.*

Love accomplishes everything.

Thus, when the apostle Paul speaks of "the righteousness which is of God by faith," (*Philippians 3:9*) he is speaking of the love of God which is shed

abroad into the hearts of all who appropriate to themselves the merits of a crucified and risen Saviour. *Romains 5:5; 13:10.*

The measure of that love

The purpose of this study is to examine more closely what is the *measure of that love* that should dwell into the hearts of God's people so that the law of God may be "magnified and made honourable," so that the earth may be lightened with the glory (character) of God! *Isaiah 42:21; Revelation 18:1.*

This is the light that has been kept away from the church and from the world in a large degree and that is the reason why the second coming of Christ has been so long delayed. See *Selected Messages, Vol.1, p.235.*

"There is nothing that Christ desires so much as agents who will represent to the world His Spirit and character. There is nothing that the

world needs so much as the manifestation through humanity of the Saviour's love. All heaven is waiting for channels through which can be poured the *holy oil* to be a joy and blessing to human hearts." *Christ's Object Lessons*, p.419; *Isaiah 60:1-3*.

This should explain why the following testimonies were sent to the professed people of God over a hundred years ago:

"We may be active, we may do much work, but without love, *such love as dwelt in the heart of Christ*, we can never be numbered with the family of Heaven." *Christ's Object Lessons*, p.158.

"The *fervour* of the love of God is wanting in our hearts, but it is this very fervour of love that makes God's people *the light of the world*." *Faith and Works*, p.83.

"The love that was in the heart of Christ is to be in our hearts that we

may reveal to those around us the light of life." *Sons and Daughters of God*, p.84.

As we can see, the message contained in these solemn declarations is of the highest consequence. To help us grasp its significance we need to follow this instruction:

"The Testimonies themselves will be the key that will explain the messages given as Scripture is explained by Scripture." *Selected Messages, Vol.1, p.42; 1 Corinthians 2:13.*

The gold tried in the fire

The true Witness counsels us to buy of Him "gold tried in the fire." *Revelation 3:17,18.*

"The gold tried in the fire is faith that works by love. Only this can bring us into harmony with God. We may be active, we may do much work, but without love, such love as dwelt in the

heart of Christ, we can never be numbered with the family of Heaven." *Christ's Object Lessons*, p.158.

It is impossible to be the light of the world unless the same Love that dwelt in the heart of Jesus Christ dwells in our hearts. In other words, "His experience is to be ours." *Desire of Ages*, p.363; *Revelation* 3:21.

"Oh, how greatly we need a moral renovation. Without the faith that works by love, we can do nothing. May God give us hearts to receive this testimony." *Testimonies to Ministers*, p.188.

This is the testimony of the Faithful and True Witness addressed to the church at Laodicea. We need to meditate upon this message day and night:

"The gold tried in the fire is faith that works by love. Only this can bring us into harmony with God. Without love, such love as dwelt in the

heart of Christ, we can never be numbered with the family of Heaven." *Christ's Object Lessons*, p.158.

The Holy Spirit says, "To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not tedious, but for you it is safe." *Philippians 3:1*.

Now, the question is, What was the measure of that love which dwelt in the heart of Christ?

The hoarded love of eternity!

"When God gave His Son to our world, He endowed human beings with imperishable riches, riches compared with which all the treasured wealth of men since the world began is nothingness. Christ came to the earth and stood before the children of men with the hoarded love of eternity, and this is the treasure that, through our connection with Him, we are to receive, to reveal, and to impart." *Ministry of Healing*, p.37.

The hoarded love of eternity! "Thank God for His unfathomable gift." 2 Cor.9:15. So this is the measure of the grace that dwelt into the heart of Jesus of Nazareth and it is the treasure that awaits our demand by bringing to God the merits of Christ. It is the treasure that awaits those who come to God trusting wholly in the merits of a crucified and risen Saviour. This hoarded love of eternity (the fullness of divine love) is to be shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us. Rom.5:5.

"The indwelling of the Spirit will be shown by the out flowing of heavenly love. The *divine fullness* is to flow through the consecrated human agent, to be given forth to others." *Christ's Object Lessons, p.419.*

"The intercession of Christ in our behalf is that of pleading His divine merits in the offering of Himself to the Father as our Substitute and Surety, for He ascended up on High to make atonement for our

transgressions." Faith and Works, p.105.

He who spilled His blood is pleading His divine merits at the throne of grace, claiming the gift of the Spirit that He may pour it upon all who come to God trusting wholly in the merits of a crucified and risen Saviour.

This Gift brings all other blessings in its train for the Spirit floods the soul with the glory of divinity! See *John 17:22; 2 Thessalonians 2:14.*

"In Christ dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. This is why, although He was tempted in all points like as we are, He stood before the world, from His first entrance into it, untainted by corruption, though surrounded by it. Are we not also to become partakers of that fullness, and is it not thus, and thus only, that we can overcome as He overcame?" E.G. White, Bible Commentary, Vol.7, 907.

The golden candlestick

The representation of the golden candlestick in *Zachariah* 4 shows that the "faith which works by Love" is the "corner stone" upon which God builds the temple of the soul, to become "a habitation of God through the Spirit." *Zachariah* 4:6,7; *Ephesians* 2:22.

"And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep." *Zachariah* 4:1.

These words speak of a spiritual awakening. The servants of God are asleep. This representation was given to Zechariah for our instruction upon whom the ends of the world are come. *1 Corinthians* 10:11.

"The prophets of God spoke less for their own time than for the ages to come, and especially for the generation that would live amid the last scenes of this earth's history." *Signs of the Times*, Vol.3, p.445.

"Each of the ancient prophets spoke less for their own time than for ours, so that their prophesying is in force for us." *Selected Messages, Vol.3, p.338.*

Back to the representation:

"The angel said unto me: What do you see? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof: And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof. So I answered and spoke to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these my Lord? Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, do you not know what these be? And I said, No my Lord." *Zachariah 4:2-5.*

Like Nicodemus in the days of Christ, Zechariah, a spiritual leader and prophet in Israel, lacked spiritual discernment. Today's spiritual leaders are asleep. There is nothing

new under the sun. A spiritual awakening is our greatest need:

"Surely one entrusted with the religious interests of the people should not be ignorant of truth so important for them to understand as the condition of entrance into the kingdom of Heaven." *Testimonies to Ministers*, p.369.

"The lesson to Nicodemus I present as highly applicable to those who are today in responsible positions as rulers in Israel, and whose voices are often heard in council giving evidence of the same spirit that Nicodemus possessed. Will the lesson given to the chief ruler have the same influence upon their heart and life? Nicodemus was converted as the result of this interview. The words of Christ are spoken just as verily to presidents of conferences, elders of churches, and those occupying official positions in our institutions. 'Verity, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born

again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.' " *Ibid*, p.369.

There is a direct connection between the representation given to Zechariah, the words spoken to Nicodemus, and the parable of the ten virgins:

"We all need to study as never before the parable of the ten virgins. Five of them were wise, and five were foolish. The wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. This is the holy oil represented in *Zechariah 4*. This representation is of the highest consequence to those who claim to know the truth. If we do not practice the truth, we have not received the holy oil, which the two golden pipes empty out of themselves. The oil is received into vessels prepared for the oil. It is the Holy Spirit in the heart which works by love and purifies the soul." *Bible Commentary, Vol.4, p.1179.*

"No man can impart that which he himself has not received. In the work of God humanity can originate

nothing. No man can by his own effort make himself a light-bearer for God. It was the golden oil emptied by the heavenly messengers into the golden tubes, to be conducted from the golden bowl into the lamps of the sanctuary, that produced a continuous bright and shining light. It is the Love of God continually transferred to man that enables him to impart light. Into the hearts of all who are united to God by faith, the golden oil of Love flows freely, to shine out again in good works, in real, heartfelt service for God." *Ibid*, p.419.

So, in this vision, the gold represents the faith without which it is impossible to please God; the oil represents the Love of God which is shed abroad into the hearts of those who are united to God by faith; and the continuous bright and shining light represents the good works through which God is glorified, hence the faith which works by love! *Galatians 5:6*.

Again, let us see, according to this representation, what *is the measure of that Love* which is to be imparted to the human agent in order for him to be an influence for good:

"In this vision the two trees which stand before God are represented as emptying the golden oil out of themselves through golden tubes into the bowl of the candlestick. From this the lamps of the sanctuary are fed, that they may give a bright, continuous light. So from the anointed ones that stand in God's presence *the fullness of divine light and love and power* is imparted to His people, that they may impart to others light and joy and refreshing. Those who are thus enriched are to enrich others with the treasure of God's love." *Prophets and Kings*, p.594.

What is the measure of that love which is to be imparted to God's people that they may become fit

vessels for the Master's use? It is nothing less than the fullness of divine light and love and power! This is the love that dwelt into the heart of Jesus of Nazareth and it is the treasure that we, through our connection with Him, are to receive, to reveal, and to impart!

The two anointed ones are the angels who stand in God's presence to impart to God's people this holy oil:

"And when these angels empty from themselves the golden oil of truth into the heart of him who is teaching the word, then the application of the truth will be a solemn, serious matter. The angel messengers will expel sin from the heart, unless the door of the heart is padlocked and Christ is refused admission. Christ will withdraw Himself from those who persist in refusing the heavenly blessings that are so freely offered them." *Testimonies to Ministers*, p.338.

"There are men who stand in the pulpits as shepherds professing to

feed the flock, while the sheep are starving for the bread of life. There are long-drawn out discourses, largely made up of the relation of anecdotes; but the hearts of the hearers are not touched. The feelings of some may be moved, they may shed a few tears, but their hearts are not broken. The Lord Jesus has been present when they have been presenting that which was called sermons, but their words were destitute of the dew and rain of Heaven. They evidenced that the anointed ones described in Zechariah *chapter 4* had not ministered to them that they might minister to others. When the anointed ones empty themselves through the golden pipes, the golden oil flows out of themselves into the golden bowls, to flow forth into the lamps, the churches. This is the work of every true, devoted servant of the living God. The Lord God of Heaven cannot accept much that is brought into the pulpit by those who are professedly speaking the word of the Lord. They do not inculcate ideas that will be a blessing to those who hear. There is

cheap, very cheap fodder placed before the people." *Ibid*, p.336,337.

The man of the situation

"Then the angel answered and spoke unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but my My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts." *Zechariah 4:6*.

Zerubbabel was the man of the situation chosen of God to rebuild the sanctuary and the walls of the city. He represents those whom God will use as His instruments in these last days to rebuild His church, the spiritual temple of the soul, which has been ruined by apostasy and sin. *1 Corinthians 6:19; Ephesians 2:22*.

"Those who build the temple of the Lord are to build according to the pattern shown in the mount, the divine similitude." *Desire of Ages*, p.354.

And this is to be accomplished, not by human power or might, but by the Spirit of the Lord. Those represented by Zerubbabel are to build this temple upon the foundation stone with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it! *Zechariah 4:7.*

And we already know what the "foundation stone" of this spiritual temple must be: the faith that works by love and purifies the soul. This faith is the only true faith and the key of knowledge: "Faith working by love is the key of knowledge, and everyone that loveth 'knoweth God.'" *The Desire of Ages, p.139.*

"God will accept everyone that comes to Him trusting wholly in the merits of the blood of a crucified and risen Saviour. Love springs up in the heart. There may be no ecstasy of feeling but there is an abiding, peaceful trust." *Selected Messages, Vol.1, p.354.*

This is the faith that brings the hoarded love of eternity into the hearts of men.

"It is the Holy Spirit in the heart that works by love to purify the soul." *Bible Commentary, Vol.4, p.1179.*

It is by the action of the Holy Spirit that the kingdom of God is established in the earth:

"Not by the decisions of courts or councils or legislative assemblies, not by the patronage of worldly men, is the kingdom of Christ established, but by the implanting of Christ's nature in humanity through the work of the Holy Spirit. Here is the only power that can work the uplifting of mankind." *Desire of Ages, p.509,510; John 1:12,13.*

"It is the privilege of every believer in Christ to possess Christ's nature, a nature far above that which Adam and Eve forfeited by

transgression." The Upward Look, p.18.

As by faith the believing sinner appropriates to himself the merits of Christ, "Christ places His own merits upon him and thus elevates him in the scales of moral value, with God." Our Father Cares, p.121.

Of the disciples of Christ, during the days following Pentecost, it is written that "great grace was upon them all." Acts 4:33; 2 Peter 1:10,11. In order to accomplish their God-given task, the fullness of the Spirit was imparted to them. Up until then the influence of the Holy Spirit had often been revealed in a marked manner but never in its fullness:

"During the patriarchal age the influence of the Holy Spirit had often been revealed in a marked manner, but never it its fullness. Now, in obedience to the word of the Saviour, the disciples offered their supplications for this gift, and in Heaven Christ added His intercession. He claimed the gift of the Spirit,

that He might pour it upon His people." *The Acts of the Apostles*, p.37.

Thus, when the day of Pentecost was fully come, "The Spirit came upon the waiting, praying disciples with a fullness that reached every heart. The Infinite One revealed Himself in power to His church. It was as if for ages this influence had been held in restraint, and now Heaven rejoiced in being able to pour out upon the church the riches of the Saviour's grace. *All Heaven bent low to behold and to adore the wisdom of matchless, incomprehensible Love.* Lost in wonder, the apostles exclaimed 'Herein is Love.' They grasped the imparted gift. And what followed? The sword of the Spirit, newly edged with power and bathed in the *lightnings* of Heaven, cut its way through unbelief. Thousands were converted in a day." *Ibid*, p.38.

"The Saviour knew that no argument, however logical, would melt hard hearts or break through the crust of worldliness and selfishness. He knew that His disciples must receive the heavenly endowment; that the gospel would be effective only as it was proclaimed by hearts made warm and lips made eloquent by a living knowledge of Him who is the way, the truth, and the life. The work committed to the disciples would require great efficiency; for the tide of evil ran deep and strong against them. A vigilant, determined leader was in command of the forces of darkness, and the followers of Christ could battle for the right only through the help that God, by His Spirit, would give them." *The Acts of the Apostles*, p.31.

"Christ's visible presence was about to be withdrawn from the disciples, but a new endowment of power was to be theirs. The Holy Spirit was to be given them in its fullness, sealing them for their work." *Ibid*, 30.

Mountains of difficulty

"Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain." *Zechariah 4:7.*

This "great mountain" represents the difficulties the people of God will have to encounter since the leader of the forces of darkness is determined to do all in his power to prevent this bright light from shining into the hearts of men:

"Throughout the history of God's people, great mountains of difficulty, apparently insurmountable, have loomed up before those who were trying to carry out the purposes of Heaven. Such obstacles are permitted by the Lord as a test of faith... Before the intrepid spirit and unwavering faith of a Zerubbabel, great mountains of difficulty will become a plain." *Prophets and kings, p.595.*

Clothed with the full armour of God, the people of God will be surrounded

as by an encompassing wall of fire which the powers of hell shall not prevail against:

"I will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her." *Zechariah 2:5*.

"The gift of the Holy Spirit, rich, full, and abundant, is to be to His people as an encompassing wall of fire, which the powers of hell shall not prevail against." *Testimonies to Ministers, p.18*.

"You want to be like little children, hanging upon the merits of a crucified and risen Saviour, and then you will be fortified. How? The angels of God will be around you as a wall of fire, the righteousness of Christ will go before you and the glory of God will be your rearward." E.G. White, Ms 9, 1891.

"Human power and human might did not establish the church of God, and neither can they destroy it. Not on the rock of human strength, but on

Christ Jesus, the Rock of ages, was the church founded, 'and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.' The presence of God gives stability to His cause. God's glorious work, founded on the eternal principles of right, will never come to nought. It will go on from strength to strength, 'not by might, not by power, but my My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts.'" *Prophets and Kings, p.595,596.*

What is the church of Christ? "The church is God's fortress, His city of refuge, which He holds in a revolted world." *The Acts of the Apostles, p.11.*

"The soul that is yielded to Christ becomes God's fortress, which He holds in a revolted world, and He intends that no authority shall be known in it but His own. A soul thus kept in possession by the heavenly agencies is impregnable to the assaults of Satan." *Desire of Ages, p.324.*

The true sign of discipleship

"For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel." *Zechariah 4:10.*

"The way of the world is to begin with pomp and boasting. God's way is to make the day of small things the beginning of the glorious triumph of truth and righteousness." *Prophets and Kings, p.595.*

"The Sun of Righteousness did not burst upon the world in splendor, to dazzle the senses with His glory. It is written of Christ, 'His going forth is prepared as the morning.' *Hosea 6:3.* Quietly and gently the daylight breaks upon the earth, dispelling the shadow of darkness, and waking the world to life. So did the Sun of Righteousness arise, 'with healing in His wings.' " *Malachi 4:2.*

The "plummet" in the hand of those who are represented by "Zerubbabel" is the law of God, the standard of character:

"Without the law, men have no just conception of the purity and holiness of God or of their own guilt and uncleanness. They have no true conviction of sin and feel no need of repentance. Not seeing their lost condition as violators of God's law, they do not realize their need of the atoning blood of Christ. The hope of salvation is accepted without a radical change of heart or reformation of life. Thus superficial conversions abound, and multitudes are joined to the church who have never been united to Christ." *The Great Controversy*, p.468.

The servants of God cannot accomplish their God-given task unless they restore the law to its rightful position:

"It is only when the law of God is restored to its rightful position that there can be a revival of

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primitive faith and godliness among His professed people." *Ibid*, 478.

In order to restore the law in its rightful position, it must be enthroned in the hearts of all who seek God. "Hearken unto Me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is My law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings." *Isaiah 51:7*.

It is only as the Love that dwelt in the heart of Christ is implanted in our hearts that we can be the people in whose heart is God's law written:

"If the divine love is implanted in the soul, will not the law of God be carried out in the life? When the principle of Love is implanted in the heart, the new-covenant promise is fulfilled: 'I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them.' And if the law is written in the heart, will it not shape the life? *Obedience--the service*

and allegiance of Love--is the true sign of discipleship." *Steps to Christ*, p.60.

And this is the "corner stone" upon which the spiritual temple of the soul must be built: "The faith which works by love to purify the soul," for "Love is the fulfillment of the law." *Galatians 5:6; Romans 13:10*. The love that dwelt in the heart of Christ, the fullness of divine light and love and power, is the treasure that we, through our connection with Him, are to receive, to reveal, and to impart!

"The fullness of divine light and love and power is to be imparted to the people of God, that they may impart to others light and joy and refreshing. Those who are thus enriched are to enrich others with the treasure of God's love." *Prophets and Kings*, p.594.

This is the only way the law of God may be "magnified and made honourable." *Isaiah 42:21*.

"The indwelling of the Spirit will be shown by the out flowing of heavenly Love. The divine fullness will flow through the consecrated human agents, to be given forth to others." *Christ's Object Lessons, p.419.*

In full and final display

"To His church, Christ has given ample facilities, that He may receive a large revenue of glory from His redeemed, purchased possession. The church, being endowed with the righteousness of Christ, is His depository, in which the wealth of His mercy, His love, His grace, is to appear in full and final display." *Testimonies to Ministers, p.18.*

"Christ came to destroy the works of the devil, and He has made provision that the Holy Spirit shall be imparted to every repentant soul, to keep him from sinning." *Desire of Ages, p.311.*

"The power of evil has been strengthening for centuries, and the submission of men to this satanic captivity was amazing. Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty Agency of the Third Person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power... to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress Christ's character upon His church." *Ibid*, 671.

Ministry of healing

What happens when the fullness of divine light and love and power is imparted to the human agent:

"The love (fullness of divine love) that Christ diffuses through the whole being is a vitalizing power. Every vital part, the heart, the brain, the nerves, it touches with healing. It frees the soul from the guilt and sorrow, the anxiety and care that crush the life forces. By

it the highest energies of the being are roused to activity. With it come serenity and composure. It implants in the soul a joy that nothing earthly can destroy, joy in the Holy Spirit, health-giving, life-giving joy." *Ministry of Healing*, p.115.

Is this not the only authentic ministry of healing? (Without minimizing the importance of health-reform).

"The religion of Jesus Christ is one which will revolutionize the entire man. The truth of God has power to transform the character. We are to have the faith that works by love and purifies the soul. A faith that does not result in this is of no value." *Testimonies to Ministers*, p.185.

"The only true faith is that which works by love to purify the soul. It is as leaven to transform the character." *Mount of Blessing*, p.53.

"Oh, how greatly we need a moral renovation. Without the faith that

works by love, (the love that dwelt in the heart of Christ) you can do nothing. May the Lord give us hearts to receive this testimony." *Testimonies to Ministers, p.188.*

Spoken of throughout the whole world

As we read Paul's letter to the Romans we see that in the days of the Apostles this faith was "spoken of throughout the whole world." *Romains 1:8.* This same faith will, in these last days, make God's people the light of the world. It is this faith that will allow the Lord to finally and promptly execute on the earth what He has resolved! *Romains 9:28.*

"It is that faith which works that you want. How does it work? It works by love. What love? Why, the love flashing from the cross of Calvary. It is set up midway between earth and heaven, and salvation is gained by looking at this cross. The devil is working against this all the time. It is the faith that works by love that

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is witnessed by Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary. It is the love that He has had for my soul." *Faith and Works*, p.72.

Let us repeat it, "We may be active, we may do much work, but without love, such love as dwelt in the heart of Christ, (the fullness of divine light and love and power) we can never be numbered with the family of Heaven."

"And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge... and have not Love, (the love that dwelt in the heart of Christ) I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor but have not Love, it profits me nothing." *1 Corinthians 13:1-3*

"The faith that works by love is the key of knowledge." *Desire of Ages*, p.139.

It is the faith that lays right hold upon the merits of a crucified and risen Saviour to bring His

righteousness (the fullness of divine light and love and power) into the life. This "great grace" accomplishes everything for it imparts all the powers, all the grace, all the repentance, all the inclination, all the pardon of sins, and it is made manifest in obedience to all the commandments of God. See Faith and Works, p.24,64.

We take good care of our keys. We always make sure that we have them in our possession. Their loss can cause us many headaches and sorrows. How much more should we take care of

THE KEY OF KNOWLEDGE!

✧ End ✧

Extra

The burning bush

"And the Angel of the Lord appeared unto Moses in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush; and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed."
Exodus 3:2.

The symbol chosen for the representation of the Deity was a lowly shrub, that seemingly had no attraction.. God's glory was enshrouded in a most humble type. This enshrined the infinite, the invisible glory in the visible human form! See *Desire of Ages, p.23.*

So it is with the true child of God. His humanity is united to Christ's divinity, a consuming fire which purifies the soul. The love of God is a consuming fire, consuming sin without consuming the sinner!

By His life and His death, Christ has achieved even more than recovery from the ruin wrought through sin. It was Satan's purpose to bring about an eternal separation between God and man; but in Christ we become more

closely united to God than if we had never fallen. In taking our nature, the Saviour has bound Himself to humanity by a tie that is never to be broken. Through the eternal ages He is linked with us.

"God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son."

He gave Him not only to bear our sins, and to die as our sacrifice; He gave Him to the fallen race. God gave His only-begotten Son to become one of the human family, forever to retain His human nature.

"Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder." *Isaiah 9:5,6.*

God has adopted human nature in the person of His Son, and has carried the same into the highest heaven. Christ glorified in our brother. Heaven is enshrined in humanity, and humanity is enfolded in the bosom of

infinite Love! See *Desire of Ages*,
p.25,26.

Of His people, God says, "They shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon His land. For how great is His goodness, and how great is His beauty!" *Zechariah 9:16,17; Daniel 12:3.*

The exaltation of the redeemed will be an eternal testimony to God's mercy. And through endless ages as the redeemed walk in the light of the Lord, they will praise Him for His unspeakable gift, Immanuel, "God with us."

Suggested readings:



Christ's Object Lesson, last chapter.



Prophets and Kings, chapter 48.