

"Victorious Faith"

B.C.
July 28, 57
A.M.

Scripture Lesson: - I John 5: 1-15.

Text: - I John 5: 4.

Introduction: - The world is full of action today. Everywhere there men in a mad rush of action in a great world struggle. The watchword on every hand is "speed". The cry is to speed up production, speed up enlistment of men in the army and navy, and speed up the rushing of men and supplies to battle fronts of the world.

In this day of materialism, rush and hurry, men may allow their faith to be smothered. We need something more than faith in ourselves and our abilities. We need the inner spiritual faith that lays hold of the eternal things of life. These abiding, eternal things give new meaning to the fleeting, physical things.

There is a chapter in the Bible which is called the "faith chapter". It is the 11th chapter of Hebrews. This chapter has sometimes been called "the Westminster Abbey of the Bible". It contains a record of the achievements of a celebrated group of heroic souls. These men and women wrought valiantly through faith.

The achievements of faith as recorded in this chapter include the framing of the world by the word of God, the subduing of kingdoms, quenching the violence of fire, escaping the edge of the sword, weakness made strong, and "turning to flight the armies of aliens". These are marvelous achievements of action. Faith always brings large results. It pays big dividends.

II.

The conquering faith of the Bible is something more than pump-priming. It is something more than whistling in the dark to keep courage. It is something more than morale. The faith of the Bible is that of a soul anchored and rooted in God through Christ.

whose life is committed to his will and his leadership. The faith of the Bible has something to cling to when everything else has been swept away. It is something that the forces of the world can never reach. The life that is hid with Christ in God had an anchorage that holds in the midst of every storm.

Not only is faith needed for quickening lives toward the highest endeavor, but faith is needed as the divine spark to release the potential powers which is possible for every soul to possess. There are multitudes who have been moving along on the same plane year in and year out. They have arrived at a certain dead level from which it seems impossible for them to rise. There seems to be no future of enlargement for them. Faith is the divine spark that awakens the latent possibilities of the souls of men, enabling them to have a new vision to thrust their lives out upon larger planes of living.

We may have plenty of action without faith, but faith gives meaning to our action. One of the essential elements in life is an unwavering enthusiasm. Youth has enthusiasm, and eventually this enthusiasm may run down like a clock, when the hands have not been wound. Men may be active in making money. Someone has said, "A millionaire has spent his enthusiasm". The secret of the life of faith is, that enthusiasm is never spent. There is something new each day. Life becomes an unfolding panorama of divine glory under the miraculous touch of God in our lives.

III.

Faith is an antidote for the burdens and problems that press upon our lives. If we take these burdens and try to carry them in our own strength, it is an indication of our lack of faith. If we have faith in Christ as we should, we will cast these things upon him. These things that give occasion for anxiety, worry, and concern are too great for human strength. But there has been made provision through God's infinite grace and power for all the things that cause people to spend sleepless nights.

God has said in his word, "Cast thy burden upon the

Lord, for he careth for you." Why should I exercise undue anxiety and concern about these material things that press so heavily upon me? I certainly am not to have a reckless lack of concern about these things, but I am not to allow these things to weigh me down to the place where I am incapacitated for delivering my best strength and effort in the solution of problems about me which I may be well nigh overcome.

IV.

A cool head and a warm heart are needed in meeting the aggravating things of life. It is easy under the stress of vexing circumstances to give ourselves to worry, but worry never solved any problem. Worry rather incapacitates us for the solution of our problems. Faith will cause us to answer the call of God, and will thrust us out into the work of his kingdom. We will not be shore-bound when faith is manifest in our lives, but we will be outbound. The great deep of God's ocean calls men from the shores. On the ocean more action and strength are required to survive than when hugging the shoreline.

Conclusion:- The victory that overcomes the world is faith. John wrote in his epistles, "This is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith". But the world becomes an increasing problem to overcome. Sin multiplies itself, and becomes more complicated. It is much more difficult to live a Christian life in the present complicated structure of society than in the simple, pastoral days when the Psalms were written.

Faith works a transformation within us that releases new power and strength for meeting situations at hand. It is something done for us within, that enables us to remove the mountains of difficulty.

Jesus said:- "Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that these things which he

saith cometh to pass; he shall have whatsoever he
saith. Yea, if ye have faith, though it be even
as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall ask what ye
will; and nothing shall be impossible to you".
Jesus also said, "Out of the heart come the issues
of life". We must obtain the right attitude in the
heart before we can have the right approach to any
situation. God grant, that you and I shall become
more and more pleasing to God in this respect.