

"The Walk of Faith" na  
1956

Scripture Lesson:-

Text:-

Introduction:- The Christian life is a walk of faith. The step of entry into the Christian life is a step of faith. It is not a step of works, "lest any man should boast. No one can plead any merits for acceptance by the Lord. All our righteousness is as filthy rags in his sight. We cannot work our way into the kingdom, neither can we buy our way into the kingdom of God. We cannot enter by reason of any place or heritage that we may have in the world. In moral worth, every man is bankrupt. The faith of entry into the kingdom of God is a faith of self-surrender and acceptance. The faith that surrenders all is abundantly rewarding. Whatsoever we surrender for Christ always proves to be a big investment. We never lose in anything we surrender for him, but we always gain.

I.

Jesus said, "And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or land, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundred-fold, and shall inherit everlasting life." (Matt. 19:29). The dividend returns on the things that we surrender for Christ in a hundred-fold in this life and eternal life in the world to come. The faith surrender for Christ yields the largest returns of any investment that can possibly be made.

The faith of entry into the Christian life is a faith of acceptance. Christ's promise of salvation is to those who receive him as their personal Savior. The promise which he has given is, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." (John 1:12) Christ is the heavenly guest which makes a bid for entry into every human heart. He represents himself as standing and knocking at the door. The invitation which he extends

as he stands and knocks at the door is, "If any man will open the door, I will come in and sup with him and he with me". Christ will do all but open the door. But he will not open the door. We must open the door. When we open the door, Christ comes in and a new life begins. It is the beginning of the walk of faith. Christ walks with us down the journey of life. He has promised never to leave us nor forsake us. He will be with us always even unto the end of the world. As we walk in this way with Jesus Christ our Lord, life becomes an unfolding panorama of new vistas and a new glory.

## II.

This way in which we walk has its dangers and pitfalls. It has its sorrows and disappointments. The walk with Jesus does not prevent us from encountering these things. The dangers and pitfalls along the way are summarized by the Apostle Paul in these words, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword; as it is written, for thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are counted as sheep for the slaughter". This would indeed be a sad and discouraging which the Apostle portrays if he stopped with these words, "We are counted as sheep for the slaughter". But the apostle does not end with these words. After portraying these trials and tribulations, the Apostle rises in a magnificent way, saying, "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us".

The Apostle Peter exhorts Christians to think it not strange when fiery trials beset them. He says "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you: but rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the Spirit of glory and of God resteth on you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified".

The testings which beset us in the walk of faith ~~xx~~ teach us to rely on him who is able to do for us exceedingly above all that we ask or think. Through these trials we learn of Christ's inexhaustible resources to meet our need under the most trying circumstances of life.

### III.

In the walk of faith we must ever move on. We must never waver. We must never stop. We must never turn backward.

The faith of surrender lays down all arms of rebellion against God. The faith of consecration places on the altar, all of the talents, resources and gifts at our command to be used according to the will of Christ in his service. There are two definite steps of faith in the faith of the completely consecrated like. The first step of faith is to place all on the altar for the sake of, and for the glory of Christ our Lord. The second step of faith is to believe that this gift is accepted by Christ and that the altar makes holy the gift.

In the Christian life the fellowship with our Lord grows more intimate. Just as the fellowship and intimacy of the married state is beyond that of the state of the betrothed, so the fellowship and intimacy of the married is on a holy plane.

Conclusion:- The walk of faith is a walk to maturity. In the maturity of faith there is an enrichment that lifts the soul to heights that have never been known before, and to depths that have never before been fathomed. Maturity is the crown of the walk of faith in this life. It has been the source of inspiration and comfort to those of less experience to come in contact with those who are mature in the faith. Those who are mature in faith are ripening for heaven. They move with confidence and assurance toward life's sunset and evening glow. They are the salt of the earth. The walk of faith leads to glory. Their walk leads safely across the valley of the shadow into the Fathers house.