

No. 2

SERMON

BY

J. W. Harris

Text, Mark, Matt. 9: 23. All

things are possible to him
that believeth

Subject, Essentials of

Character

--- Faith, ---

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DIRECTIONS.

To allow this cover and the sheets to lie open
and flat, tie loosely.

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ESSENTIALS OF CHARACTER. Num. 2.

mark

---Faith---

MTT. 9:23 ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE TO HIM THAT BELIEVETH.

We have seen that it is essential that we have an IDEAL after which we may pattern our life and toward which we can move with renewed assurance every day. Tonight let us think for a while of ~~the~~ a second essential of character, that is, faith.

We, of necessity, live by faith. No one has assurance of tomorrow. Yet ^{most of us} ~~every man~~ act and move as though ^{we are} ~~he is~~ to live on earth forever. You may have sacks of rice, beans, sugar and flour by the hundred weight, stored away for tomorrow's use, but that is no guarantee that you will live to eat the food prepared from ^{it} ~~these~~ grain. We do not throw this grain out to the animals because we believe we are going to live to enjoy it. We live by faith ~~on~~ rather on faith.

A student works hard over his lessons, the farmer endures the heat of the sun in care of his crops, and the workman begins his house by going down deep for a foundation, - they all alike work because they have faith in the future. A man buys cattle for his farm, trusting that the rains will fall and the grass will grow and his cattle will increase. God sends the showers and the grass. God provides fresh air for our lungs and maintains ~~our~~ and prolongs our life here. We have faith in him for these physical blessings. We, in an increased degree, must get this same faith in God, if we are ever to attain our ideals here and hereafter. There is a limit beyond which the farmer or any workman, cannot go in the production of his material. There is a limit in our work in the spiritual world beyond which we cannot go. We reach a point in life where we are forced to trust or to abandon our purposes. We come to a point where we see that our efforts are fruitless. They get us no where. God

must do for us or we fail. God must work thru us and in us and for us. We can never make substantial progress ~~till~~ toward our ideals till Christ is trusted with our tomorrows and our todays. Our character will always be lacking till we can trust our present as well as our future in the hands of Jesus. The sweetness and joy of life will be missed unless there is a faith in God, a faith that is intelligent and firm, that has been melted by the experiences of life into a ~~firm~~ conviction of flaming devotion to Christ as our prophet, Priest and King. We must have faith in God as revealed in Jesus Christ, *to realize our ideal.*

It follows that those who have true faith in God will also have faith in themselves. Not that man is able of himself to do anything but that he is enabled to do great things in Christ. You must become convinced that God has placed you in the world for some particular work. This work you can not

give over to another to do. It is your work and ^{you} can do it and will do it, in His strength. There may be others ^{who} ~~that~~ could do it far better than you. Doubtless many could excell you in doing that work.

But God has given it to you to do. And you can do it even better than more capable men would do it, because it is the particular work given you to do by the Lord.

This is why not many wise, not many noble (as the world counts nobility) are called to do the great works of

God. He takes a Moses while he is caring for his

sheep in Midian, . He calls ^{cho} ~~Elijah~~ while he is plowing

his farm. He takes Peter while fishing in Galilee. He

calls Cary while he is ^{repairing} ~~working on~~ old shoes, . He calls

John B. Gough while Gough was drunk lying in a gutter.

He calls Billy Sunday while playing on a baseball

league, and has filled Sunday full of the spirit to

convince men of sin and righteousness and judgment

to come. A belief in self resulting from a ~~reflect~~

a belief in God is the wholesome ozone of the

christian life. It will make you certain of results without the over self confidence of the worldly man. This belief in self is not synonymous with pride. There is no selfishness in a christian's belief in self. The man who believes in his regenerated self does not trust in his in himself but in the Christ who has come to dwell in him. He believes in himself as Paul believed: " I can do all things thru Christ." All things are possible to him that believeth.

Still another element of faith which we need to embody in our character is that faith in righteous principles. Scientists tell us that the waters at the bottom of the oceans are stationary, that the heat at the centre of the earth is so intense that all is resolved into a molten mass. We know that there is no place on earth's surface that is ~~not~~ fixed or stationary. The thermometer is rising or falling all

the time. The rocks are either developing or decomposing constantly. Everything is in a state of change that is near at hand. Just so with all ^{things} ~~things~~ that are not rooted in great principles. Righteous principles go down deep. They are not on the surface of change. They are forever settled. ^{any} One of these principles, if adhered to with all your strength, will make you strong. We need to get away from the superficial, and even apparently good motives and and to get down to the deep and underlying principles of which Albert Barnes wrote,

"That the divine law is essentially the same in principle with the human law, both conscience and the Bible clearly teach." The principle of justice is essentially the same on earth as in heaven. It is operative here and there. Here it is directed and influenced ^{all too often it is in the hands of men} ~~to a great extent~~ by man. For this reason

justice is not always attained in this world. But there is one thing certain-- justice is sometime to be meted out to all. The thing is to find out ~~these~~ ^{what they are,} principles and follow them.

Robert E. Speer, in his study of the Gospel of John, speaks of certain laws that are vital. ~~Dr.~~ Speer mentions the "law of gain by loss, ^{the gain} of power by renunciation, ^{the gain} of victory by surrender, ^{the gain} of life by death."

^{young people}
You lose by coming to this school, the fellowship of your relatives. Most of you will never again return to your homes to live as you were living as children. That life is lost now to you. It is a loss that has meant a gain to you and an honour, a gain in that you are being developed. It is a loss to your parents because they do not have your presence, but it is their ^{honour} gain in that you are accomplishing that which they hope you to attain. You are being transformed and prepared for a fuller life. You know that you are receiving power by having renounced not alone the bad things but even your personal rights. Paul felt that he had a right to eat

meat offered to idols, yet he said if by eating
this meat I make some one to fall, I will eat no
meat while the world standeth. To surrender is
to give yourself over to the direction of another.

The student ^{who} ~~the~~ most thereby gives the direction
of his intellectual life over to his teacher and
seeks to follow where the teacher leads is the
student who will, all things being equal, get the most
out of his studies. He will win the victory because
he surrendered himself to his teachers. The best
teacher to surrender one's self to is Jesus. The
law of life by death is every where exemplified.
There is no real growth till there is a death.

^{pear}
The mango falls from the tree, is covered over in
the soil, dies and out of its dead self springs a
great tree. A man is dead so long as he lives for ^{the}
pleasures of life. When he chooses the right and
the good without counting the cost, then he is alive.

The greatest principle of life is love as revealed in Jesus Christ. Love for one's neighbor was in olden times measured by love of self. Jesus gave us a new commandment, "That ye love one another as I have loved you" Jno 13:34. It costs to love as Jesus loved. It is no easy thing to do. But we know that such love is strong enough to make us forget self, and high enough to lift us above the lusts of the eye and flesh. ~~The love of Jesus is being rejected by men today more so than it was when they crucified Him.~~ His love lead Him to Calvary. His love will today thrust us out into the hard places of life, as it did Paul when he said "The love of Christ constraineth us".

Our faith in God leads us to a further ^{conviction} ~~step~~ and that is, that whatever is right and good is sure to triumph. We are not in a losing battle

The knowledge of the glory, that is the character of God will cover the earth as the waters cover the seas. The time is coming ~~an~~ when Jesus shall reign over all. Sin will be overcome.

in God & yourself also
Does your faith grasp these truths? Does it make *right is right, since God is God & right the day must win;* you ~~to~~ accept as your law of life that *that* you gain by

losing, that you secure power only by renunciation, that you win victories only as you surrender to Jesus, that you live by dying, that the greatest motive power in life is ~~the~~ love ^{as} set forth by Jesus?

Can you say with Paul, I can do all things thru Christ, which strengtheneth me"? (All things are possible to him that believeth", to the man of faith.)

If you can you are then on the road to victory, for