

"FAITH; LIFE'S GREAT DYNAMIC"

SERMON WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY OREGONIAN BY REV. NEWELL DOWIGHT HILLIS, PASTOR OF PLYMOUTH CHURCH, BROOKLYN, N. Y.

Text: Hebrews xi: "By faith Moses, by faith Joshua, by faith men triumphed, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith."

WHEN any leader proposes a new movement he must answer two questions: First, for what object is he striving? Second, how does he propose to secure the good end? The answer to the first question exhibits the full scope of his new enterprise. The answer to the second one exhibits the power through which he will achieve his purpose. For example, the abolitionists were leaders in the realm of reform; their object was the liberation of the slave; their method was agitation. Horace Mann was a leader in the realm of education; his object was the culture of all the nation's children; his method was the common school. James Watt was a leader in the realm of saving labor; his object was to lift coal out of the mine; his method was the power of steam. Not otherwise was Christ a leader in the realm of religion. His object was the transformation and perfection of individual character. His method was faith in God and His Son. Sabbathier calls religion "the life of God in the soul of man"; if so faith is the life cord along which his vitality passes. When we speak of Christ as the great originator in religion, we refer to his emphasis of faith as the greatest dynamic and force for righteousness known to mankind. Just as men had forgotten that they were immortal, and he revealed to them a pre-existing fact, so he did not create faith as a new faculty, but revealed it as a gift that had been forgotten. For faith is the great message, his secret, his discovery, his contribution to the world. To the individual disciple he said that faith lifts the soul into a new range of being, and so relates it with God that God's life and strength become ours. Then, when his three years of training were complete, he sent his disciples forth to the world with power for its transformation. He gave, also, a new law of service. Give the cup of cold water to earth's little ones, and by faith see them becoming large and divine. Go forth and sow, and by faith enter into far-off harvest. It is this that lifts Christianity, it has been said, out of the realm of the philosophers, in that the Christian soul ventures upon God, and lives by faith in his son.

A Much-Abused Word.

Never was a word so misunderstood, so embellished and betrayed, as this great word faith. There is one great word in every department of thought. For the home the great word is love. For the legislative hall the great word is liberty. In the history of the war the great word is patriotism. In the law courts the great word is justice. And in the personal religious life the outstanding word is faith. Innumerable books have been written to explain it. And the end thereof has been obscurity. The wise man speaks of the sayings that darken counsel. And many treatises of faith have hidden that which before was clear. Indeed, the word faith is like a rich jewel, covered with spider webs and thick dust, like the face of an old master, hidden under the smoke and grime of centuries; like a telescope whose lenses have been scratched until the stars have passed from your rich sky. Old and foolish conceptions dim the word so that men misunderstand it. But the faith faculty represents no new experience. It is no strange nor supernatural principle, peculiar only to the religious life. Faith is the everyday working principle by which men live and grow. Paul says that we walk by faith, and by faith also we ride; in a train whose engineer we never see, on a ship whose captain is to us unknown. By faith in tradition we take medicines, whose very nature and name we do not know, and so are healed. By faith we give our money to a teller whose honor we have never proved, and send checks to a foreign agent, whose existence we have never established. By faith we buy goods we have never seen, by faith we sell goods to purchasers we do not know. By faith the young go to the marriage altar, trusting all the coming years to the honor and continued love of another. Without faith there is no family, no commerce, no government, as well as no religion. Cut the faith principle, and society falls to pieces as the beads when the necklace is cut. Destroy faith in the home and the home becomes a hell. Touch faith in the market place and panic stalks through the streets. Question the stability of the bank, and the run breaks down an institution fundamentally strong. The whole structure of modern trade is built on faith and credit. Ninety-nine per cent of modern business is through checks, and the passing of coin is only a title of our trade. Without faith we can not please God, and without faith we cannot please ourselves or nature, the world of animals or men. From the very beginning faith has been wrought into the very constitution of man's nature. Therefore, this galaxy of heroes were all faith men. This being so, the apostle registers his recognition of this natural principle. The skillful marksman has two sights on his gun, a hind sight and a fore sight. Man lives partly by experience, but it is a hind sight, and chiefly by the foresight of faith. After centuries of testing, men have learned that it is safer to trust their hopes than their fears. Faith, therefore, is the very foundation principle of life itself, of work, of growth, of happiness and of Christian character.

Faith Defined.

Demosthenes said that all right living begins with definition. In the interest of clear thinking, therefore, let us analyze the meaning of faith for its contents. Analyzing the sunbeam, it breaks up into seven colors. Analyzing faith, it breaks up into first, an imaginative picture of an ideal good desired and, second, into the confidence that God's power is equal to the task of helping us realize that ideal. Invention illustrates this double element in faith. When you question the young mechanic about risking his labor and time, he answers that he has faith in his machine. But will it work? you say. Work? he answers. Why, I have seen it work. Seen it with what instrument? With the eye of imagination he has seen it. Closing his eyes, sitting in the dark in his garret, the inventor sees the wheels start, the belts revolve, the lever rise and fall, and when his imagination has given the ideal good, reason bids him trust that God will make him equal to realizing that ideal. The first gives an end to be secured; the second element gives a new impulse toward a

noble industry. Yet it will be months before the machine that exists in the inventor's mind is realized in a model of iron and steel. The artist illustrates the same faith principle. In his "Stones of Venice," John Ruskin tells us that the great masters are faith men, whose imagination sees an ideal beauty never put on canvas, men who then toil with inconceivable ardor to fasten that vision upon the wall. Also the patriot, like Samuel Adams and Patrick Henry, achieved the Revolution by faith. In their dreams, imagination enabled them to see all the citizens going to the hall to register their votes, saw all young feet turning toward the school house, saw all religious teachers free to present their own convictions. Once the ideal good had been seen in their vision hour, they believed that God would enable them to realize it; and realize it they did in their Declaration of Independence. By faith, therefore, the young merchant lays the foundation of his little store. By faith the manufacturer opens his little shop. By faith the country boy comes up to the great city to make his fortune. By faith man discovers heaven and the future life. Witness John's vision of the new paradise. His imagination brings together everything that is ideally beautiful in the world about him. All cool streams and rivers, all fruitful trees, with those that bear fruit every month. All beautiful gems for the gates and streets, together with all that is praiseworthy among great men, all sweet sounds, all fidelity to truth, all heroism, all martyrdom, all wisdom and purity and goodness. Every evil thing and all liars and unclean ones are to be excluded. Only the ideal elements are to be brought into that realm. Then, when by imagination he has set up this new city of God, by faith he adds trust that God can realize his highest dreams, and so he goes toward death, faithing it for the future. Do you say this is irrational? Is it irrational for a youth and maiden to faith it toward the future, setting up their desire altar? Is it irrational for the young clerk, in founding his new enterprise, is it not the highest reason for the artist to believe in his dream of ideal beauty, until at last he realizes that beauty is a canvas that is worth a King's ransom? Faith irrational? It is the highest form of reason. What? Faith something against common sense? It is common sense glorified, struck through and through with light, with all aberrations corrected.

The Workings of Faith.

Consider the way faith works and controls character. Strictly speaking, faith is the instinct of relationship. The shrub, perfumed, is related to the soil by a root; by the wing the bird is in relationship to the sunny South, and guided by its instinct, lone wandering, it is not lost. By memory the salmon leaves the home where it is hatched, puts out to sea for a thousand

miles and is guided home again to the warm rocks where it began its career. By the eye man stands in relationship to the light, and by the ear to all sweet sounds. By the intellect he is related to the library, and by love to the home. But is there no nerve of relationship between the soul and its God. Do you not see that the faith faculty is the nerve of relationship to the unseen Father? If memory relates you to your yesterday, if love relates you to your fellow-men, faith joins you to God. Do you say you want to see God, or hear his voice or his footsteps, or observe his stately tread through lands or sea or sky? Do you insist that you will not believe unless you can prove? Knowledge does not come through proof. Knowledge comes through a few facts that are seen, then from inferring laws and accepting them by faith. By faith Newton discovered gravity. One day he saw an apple fall from a tree. By the greatest feat of gymnastics the world has ever seen, Newton vaulted from a falling apple to a falling sun. Of the millions on millions of stars in the world, the eye of man never beholds over twenty-five thousand. And it sees these stars over and over again. How does Newton know that the millions of unseen planets move around him? By proofs, by sight, by observation? No; he proves two things that are seen, and faith it toward the millions that are unseen. By faith Columbus discovered America. One morning the Italian navigator, walking on the sand beach of Portugal, picked up an old road cast up by the waves. It was a kind of trail that he had never seen. A pebble was caught in a crack, with coils he saw unknown to Europe. Then by faith Columbus leaped from the pebble to the Western continent, from which it came; leaped from the little piece of driftwood to the great Western forest of America. In that hour the New World was discovered. Months later, standing on the brow of the Santa Maria, Columbus discovered through his sailors the New World that he had discovered months before. This is why all the minds of the first order of genius are faith men. The mediocre mind crawls, it believes nothing that it cannot feel with its hands or taste with its tongue. Crawling along on the ground, it says that it believes in proofs like paving stones, wants certainty and unconsciously publishes its own mediocrity. But the great supreme intellect, the noble army of inventors and discoverers, and statesmen and heroes, and apostles and prophets, were all faith men; entreprising into the future, living for their vision, believing that God will help them realize their dreams of liberty and beauty and character and immortality. Faith is glorified reason, the imagination in its luminous hours. Beware of your dull and golden hours, when the brain is heavy and reason clogged, when you believe only in bread and soft rainment. For these are hours of peril, of common-

ness, of mediocrity. But trust your great moments, when the soul is big with faith and immortality. Prove God, prove heaven and immortality. No father can prove to his little son the solicitude of a father's love, and when the boy grows into the stature of a man, and is himself a father, he will marvel that he did not understand from the beginning. What if the young girl should ask her love to prove that in forty years he would have offices and lands, that he would have wealth and honor, how many Romeos and Juliets do you suppose there would be? Supposing a young scorn should say: "There are many chances against my becoming an oak. It is hard work fighting against the wind and storm and frost. Prove to me that there is a future for me named the state of an oak." But the great mortal oak answers: "You can come toward me by growth, but I cannot return to you, and prove the experience through which I have passed." The great oak for experience, trusting their intuitions, and at last they scorn the proof, for the heart stands up and answers: "I have felt."

In daily life, the first use of faith is to support the worker, giving the man growth and progress. There is a club in Canada, composed of distinguished men in the very highest walks of life. They meet each month to study the great financial and economic truths. One night a merchant said he was tired of discussing the feeling questions, and proposed a Winter on the big themes that abide. At the next meeting these men took as their subject "Faith." Each man, merchant, inventor, banker or surgeon or physician discussed the subject from the viewpoint of his profession. It happened that one of the members was a railway president, whose recreation was water color. When his turn to speak came the railway president unwrapped a large canvas, on which he had set forth his idea of faith. On the right hand were hills behind the Red River Valley. In the foreground of the canvas is a new cabin, and at the door stands a young man. The cabin is poor, the pantry has scarce more than one loaf, the open purse lies on a chair and the single coin left suggests the emergency. But one form of treasure is there—a sack filled with wheat. What matters the one loaf, with these bags of grain? And yet the rugged youth comes forward, lifts the sack, turns toward the field, and walking down a black furrow, the sower casts away the grain. Why was that seed not saved against the young wife's hunger on the morrow? Each time the young husband opens his hand the possibility of a loaf is thrown away, and yet, while the seed is vanishing the girl stands smiling, for in her heart rises the first note of the harvest song. And when the long day is done the boy returns at night with an empty bag, and the sower and his beloved one stand hand in hand before the single loaf. By faith they see the black furrows waving with golden grain. They see the reaper moving through the corn, they hear the shouts of harvesters, the hum of the threshing, they see that gran-

Recently Presented at the Court of St. James



HALLIE ERMINE RIVES, THE AMERICAN NOVELIST, KISSES THE KING'S HAND.

MISS HALLIE ERMINE RIVES is the latest distinguished American woman to be received at the Court of St. James. The young Virginian made her curtsy at Their Majesties' Court, held on May 28, at Buckingham Palace, the first drawing-room of the season. She was presented by the wife of the Ameri-

can Ambassador, the occasion being Mr. Choate's last official evening. Miss Rives' success in London, social as well as literary, has been pronounced. Her kinship with the Rives of Danbury Court, and through them with many of England's oldest names, has made the young novelist's way easy.

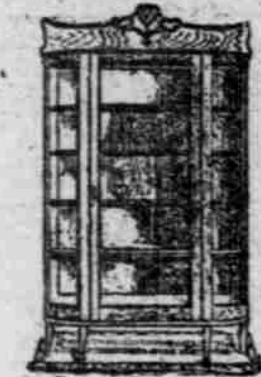
Like most Americans in social London, Miss Rives has been noted for her costumes. Her presentation gown, made by Paquin, was one of the most exquisite workmanship of this season. Over child-son fell a trailing tulle of rare old rose-pink, forming the entire skirt, and the soft satin Empire court train was embroidered in deep pearls and opals. Miss Rives wore the Prince's feathers and a necklace of pearls and carried a white orchid and fern bouquet.

MONDAY MONEY-SAVER—\$48 FOR \$35



NO. 3—As a leader for Monday only we place on sale these beautiful all-wood parlor, den or porch sets at a saving of \$13. They are in Golden Oak and Mahogany—two sets—now on display in one of our Yamhill-street windows. They have beautiful lines, have perfect piano finish, and are as serviceable as they are artistic. Regular price of divan is \$20, rocker \$15, chair \$13, but for Monday they are on sale at only \$35.

\$20 China Closets \$16



NO. 268—An exquisite model, made of golden oak—piano finish, with heavy glass door and black bent glass end adjustable shelves; always sells for \$20, but this week only \$16.

\$35 Buffet for \$28



NO. 415—A splendid little Buffet, made of quarter-sawn golden oak, hand-painted, has French plate mirror, 52 1/2 inches, two drawers with well-fronted, well-polished doors hung with strong brass hinges, top is 24 1/2 inches; regular price \$35, but this week the price is \$28.

Princess Dressers \$2 Less



NO. 50—This is the handsomest low-priced Princess Dresser we have in stock, and it has proved to be the most popular one. They are made on very graceful lines in Birdseye Maple, Golden Oak and Mahogany, two well-fronted drawers, top 24 1/2 inches, with French mirror, 17 1/2 inches. The illustration does not do the article justice, you must see it to appreciate its beauty. They sell right along at \$21, but to give a little additional relief to our advertising, we put it in this list of bargains.

\$21

NO. 43—The 56 kind, \$20.
NO. 44—The 57 kind, \$19.
NO. 45—The 58 kind, \$18.
NO. 46—The 59 kind, \$17.

\$11 Dressing Chair \$6.50



NO. 574—This mahogany Chair is beautiful in design and finish—hand-rubbed, piano polish. It is a fitting accessory to any dressing table, and is an unusual bargain. These chairs sell regularly at \$11, as a leader we make the price \$6.50.

Alaska Refrigerators \$3 Less

NO. 6100—Is made of hard wood in golden oak finish; outside dimensions, 22 inches wide by 13 deep, and 50 inches high; provision chamber measures 17x12x20 inches, and is supplied with two adjustable shelves, and is finished in beautiful white enamel. This week \$22 value for \$19.

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173-175 FIRST ST.

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any, empty now, overflowing with treasure against the winter. How sublime that act of casting the seed away! What force is faith! How little do men realize that faith subdued this continent, covered it with pastures and meadows, with herds and flocks, with cities and civilizations. Faith is the greatest of all ethics. It is the first dynamic in society. Its power is such as to make the force of steam contemptible, and the world is full of sowers. Here are the parents casting the truth into their children's minds, and faithing it; the teacher giving wisdom to his pupils and faithing it; the statesman, and reformer and patriot scattering the good seed of liberty and faithing it for the harvest. For without faith society would be-

come a sandheap. Without faith you cannot please nature, therefore you cannot please God.

Fancy Pigeons Abnormal.

Country Life in America. Pigeon fancying is art for art's sake. Its distinguishing marks are great beauty and complete utility. And the fullness of the fancier's success is the measure of the bird's helplessness. The "fancy" is a study in artificialities. From the time when Babylon was young to the present hour the fanciers have been perfecting their birds in impotence. The beauty mark of the bird is the record of its disability. Nothing insults one of the tribe so keenly as to suggest a use for his birds—as for squabbling, or speedy flight, or message-bearing. By increasing, abnormal environment, massage and nagging, the birds qualify for blue ribbons.

Enter a representative lot and see the vision of decadent types. There is a Tumbler, throwing epileptic fits, an Archangel, whose luster is kept from the sun by some fancier, a trembling Fantail that goes through life with its head ceaselessly rebounding from the cushion of its tail to the lobe of the perpendicular, a Jacobin robbed of side sight, like a horse with blinkers; and a poor, half-blind obese Trumpeter, tumbling over the floor. "The wings of the morning" is not descriptive of such equipment. These birds see life from a diseased angle. They are manufactured invalids. The most vulgar little piebald outdoor sparrow shames them.

Danderine

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This little girl had no more hair than the average child before using Danderine, while now she has the longest and most beautiful head of golden hair ever possessed by a child of her age in the world.

Danderine makes the scalp healthy and fertile and keeps it so. It is the greatest scalp fertilizer and therefore the greatest hair-producing remedy ever discovered. It is a natural food and a wholesome medicine for both the hair and scalp. Even a 25c. bottle of it will put more genuine life in your hair than a gallon of any other hair tonic ever made.

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