

"But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible." Matt. 19: 26.

15. When God made a promise to Abraham that it seemed almost impossible to fulfill, how did the patriarch receive it?

"He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but *was strong in faith, giving glory to God.*" Rom. 4: 20.

16. For what was Abraham's faith under these circumstances counted?

"For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness." Verse 3.

17. What should be the burden of one's prayer, who is troubled with unbelief?

"Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." Mark 9: 24.

18. What do the Scriptures say of him who believes that he receives the things for which he asks?

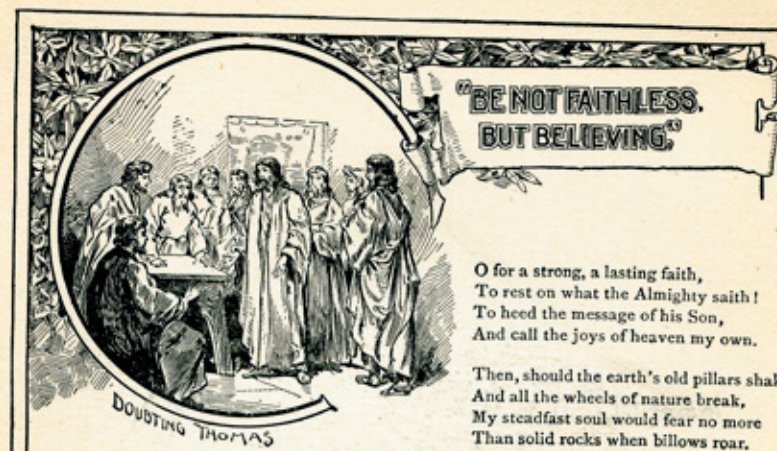
"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark 11: 24.

AWAY, my unbelieving fear!
Fear shall in me no more have place:
My Saviour doth not yet appear,
He hides the brightness of his face;
But shall I therefore let him go,
And basely to the tempter yield?
No, in the strength of Jesus, no;
I never will give up my shield.

Although the vine its fruit deny,
Although the olive yield no oil,
The withering fig-trees droop and die,
The fields elude the tiller's toil,
The empty stall no herd afford,
And perish all the bleating race;
Yet I will triumph in the Lord,
The God of my salvation praise.

Barren although my soul remain,
And not one bud of grace appear,
No fruit of all my toil and pain,
But sin and only sin is here;
Although my gifts and comforts lost,
My blooming hopes cut off I see,
Yet will I in my Saviour trust,
And glory that he died for me.

CHARLES WESLEY.



Unbelief.

BY what are men justified?

"Therefore being *justified by faith*, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Rom. 5: 1.

2. Then how are the just to live?

"Now *the just shall live by faith*: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him." Heb. 10: 38.

3. Why did not Israel of old attain to the law of righteousness?

"Because *they sought it not by faith.*" Rom. 9: 32.

4. When one told Christ of the disciples' failure to heal his afflicted son, what did he say of that generation?

"He answereth him, and saith, *O faithless generation*, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me." Mark 9: 19.

5. What did the Saviour say to Thomas when he met him, because he did not believe the testimony of his brethren that had seen Christ alive after his crucifixion?

"Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side; and *be not faithless, but believing.*" John 20: 27.

NOTE.—If men are *justified by faith*, and are to *live by faith*, it follows that to be unbelieving is not to be justified, and consequently not to live in the sense brought to view in the Scriptures. The Lord rebuked Thomas for his unbelief, because he would not accept the testimony of so many credible witnesses as the other ten disciples. How much more reprehensible is that unbelief which holds out against the present cloud of witnesses of the goodness and power of God to save sinners!



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"They Could not Enter in Because of Unbelief."

6. In view of the great cloud of witnesses to faith presented by the apostle in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews, what does Paul exhort all to do?

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and *the sin which doth so easily beset us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us." Heb. 12:1.

NOTE.—The "every weight" here introduced includes those traits of character and habits of life that would clog one's path, and be a hinderance in running successfully the Christian race. These are to be laid aside. But there is one other thing that is here considered more than a weight: it is a *sin*, and one that so easily besets all. It is the sin of unbelief. To be unbelieving is to be sinful.

7. Why were the most of the children of Israel prohibited from entering the promised land?

"And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that *they could not enter in because of unbelief*." Heb. 3:18, 19.

8. How was their unbelief regarded, and how did it affect God?

"But with whom *was he grieved* forty years? was it not with *them that had sinned*, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness?" Verse 17.

9. What lesson does the apostle exhort us to draw from the course of the Israelites?

"Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it." Heb. 4:1. God does not change. If he was grieved at the unbelief of the Israelites, and refused them admittance to Canaan in consequence, he cannot permit us to enter the heavenly rest as long as we indulge in unbelief.

10. What should all labor to do?

"Let us labor therefore to *enter into that rest*, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief." Verse 11.

11. Should one lose heart when trying to be a Christian, even though he feels that God is chastising him?

"My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him." Heb. 12:5.

12. Who are they that seem to have the greatest amount of affliction?

"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." Verse 6.

13. If one has no chastisement to bear, how may he regard himself?

"But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons." Verse 8.

14. When the disciples became almost discouraged at one of Christ's sayings, and asked, "Who then can be saved?" what answer did Christ make?