

FAITH
THAT
LIVES

M R S . C . N U Z U M



FAITH THAT LIVES

By Mrs. C. Nuzum

*These teachings of Mrs. Nuzum
have never before been published.
These were given to a close friend of hers.*

DEAR CHILDREN

We love to be "dear" to our loved ones, relatives and friends, but how inexpressibly sweet to be dear to God. Shall this be so because we win many souls to God ? No. Shall it be when we preach great sermons, heal many sick ones, perform miracles, have great spiritual wisdom or discernment or when we are great Bible teachers? No. These are all things God loves and greatly desires to see in our lives, but He does not say that these things make us His "dear children," though they would make us very useful. Have you not known people who were not so very useful as far as service was concerned, yet who were so very, very dear to you, not because of what they did, but who they were?

Notice the words of this text, *"Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us. "* (Ephesians 5:1, 2a) Many times Jesus said, "Follow Me." His whole life was an expression of love — a love — a sacrifice.

We cannot follow Him except as we walk in love. *"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love, "* First John 4:8. We have no more and no less of God than we have of love. But we are to love as Christ loved. His love was not shut up in His heart, but flowed out in love services and God bids us to "walk in love." Our whole life is a walk. Every thought, word and deed is a step in our walk of life. If I walk in a room I do not take one step outside of the room. If I walk in love, all my life must be love, only love. I must keep a watch over my mind. When Satan tries to inject a thought that is not loving, as he is sure to do, I must quickly thrust it back and refuse to accept it or think of it. Judging, criticizing, fault-finding, murmuring or repining are not love thoughts and must be quickly refused and replaced by thoughts of love.

There must also be the watch set at the "door of my mouth." If the mind is carefully guarded, it will not be so hard to keep the mouth, but we sometimes speak before we think. *"Out of... the heart the mouth speaketh."* (Matthew 12:34 b) So we must obey the words, *"Keep thy heart with all diligence."* (Proverbs 4:23 a) If our hearts are cleansed by the blood of Jesus and kept by watchfulness and prayer, and filled with the love of God, which has been shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost, then only love will come forth. There must be no deeds that are unloving, for this is largely the negative side of the love walk. We must have the more important side, the positive -love...in **deed**.

We may not have the means to make "love presents", but we can always give a smile of love to all we meet. Sometimes we can speak a love word, sometimes do a love service. but there are many people that we will never meet. Well, we can write love letters to some of these and we can pray for all of them. Perhaps the prayer of faith is the greatest of all love services.

Jesus has spent more than nineteen hundred years in praying for us. To follow **Jesus**, we must certainly be intercessors. There is not a person on the earth for whom we cannot perform a love service through intercession. No surroundings, conditions or circumstances can hinder this love ministry, and praise God, it is the greatest of all, because it sets the Almighty One to working good for them.

Our ability to do is so little, so circumscribed. How blessed that we can so love as to bring forth the help of One who is never limited or circumscribed and may secure for others, *"... whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing..."* (Matthew 21:22) Do not pray for people just because they are unkind and their wrong doing injures or hurts us. We should long for them to have the same sweet blessings of God that we desire for ourselves.

There are many to whom we may minister love by doing good for the evil they have done to us, by serving others at self-

sacrifice, ministering things temporal and spiritual, comforting, cheering, inspiring, uplifting, sacrificing our time, strength, comfort, and giving up our own way and choice that we may be a blessing to others.

The life poured out for others while self is denied and kept in the background is following Christ, *"who pleased not Himself."* (Romans 15:3) The Bible shows us that Christ's life was a "sweet savor" unto God. Our life, if lived in this way all the time, will also be a "sweet savor" unto God and we shall indeed be His dear children because we walk our life's journey in love to God and our fellowmen.

"And this commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God, loves his brother also." First John 4:21. *"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto me."* (Matthew 25:40) Shall we stop with love for the brethren? No. We are to love as Christ loved and He loved the whole world — every person. None were good, but He loved all. This constant walk of love, loving even the unlovable, annoying, unthankful people, makes us so dear to God. It is so much sweeter to be "dear children" than to be just merely children. *"The greatest...is love."* (First Corinthians 13:13)

MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD

We are told in first Peter 1:7 that the trial of our faith is much more precious than the trial of gold and we are told that the trial is with fire. First Peter 4:12 reads that the fiery trial is to try us — there is no escape from it.

Why is gold put in the fire? Is it because we do not care for the gold? No, it is because we value it highly, desire to have it, and desire it to be pure and beautiful. A handful of gold dust is worth much, but it often has mixed with it baser metals that are not valuable. So we put it in the fire, in order that the gold may be separated from the things that are mixed with it.

Just so, we are precious to God and He loves us, and His great love for us makes Him long to see us perfect. He prizes our faith more than anything else, for He tells us that without faith it is impossible to please Him. He calls this faith "precious" faith, because it is so dear to Him, but it has things mixed with it that God does not like.

Does God reject our faith because it is imperfect? No, He begins to work on it to perfect it by separating it from the things that are not good, and in this way enables us to have a perfect faith. As with gold, nothing but fire can separate from it the baser metals, so only fire can separate foreign substances from our faith. Thus, God lets the fiery trials come to us and it is proof of His great love to us that makes Him desire us to be separated from all that can mar our beauty and usefulness.

When we are put in the fire, it is proof that we have faith, because it is our faith that God tries — never our unbelief; but He tells us in Hebrews 12:1 to "*lay aside the sin which doth so easily beset us,* " which is the sin of unbelief. We ought to be so thankful that we have some faith to be tried, and still gladder that God has undertaken to purify it and bring it to perfection. So He tells us not to think it "*strange*" that we are thus tried, but to

recognize it as proof of His loving interest in us.

What does God wish to separate from our faith? All desire to see or feel, so that when we ask God for something He has promised to us, we shall obey Mark 11:24, by truly believing we receive it when we pray.

Often we see and feel the opposite, but that is the fiery trial that is intended to burn up all dross from our faith. God desires that you shall stand by bare faith in God's Word and faithfulness. If we, like Paul, say, "*Sirs, I believe God,*" and utterly disregard all we see and feel — refuse to be affected by these things in the least degree, then the fire has freed our faith from depending on what we see and feel.

Sometimes we ask for something God has promised and then watch to see if the old things are being replaced by the new — watch for changes without being conscious that we are watching things instead of being occupied with God and His Word alone.

God lets all things appear just as they were before we prayed, and this is the fiery trial: but if we will dare to believe that we truly have what we believe for, the very reason that God says, "Be it as thou hast believed," we shall know we have it because of God's faithfulness. The fiery trial has consumed our looking at things and has enabled us to fasten our gaze upon the Lord and His Word alone.

Sometimes we are affected by seeing some of God's dear children fail to receive what they have asked for, and this may cause God to let our answer to prayer be delayed until we believe Him without looking at the experience of others.

Let us stand on Mark 11:24 and say, "*I did believe that I received when I prayed and so I have the answer now. All the powers of darkness cannot change the 'shall have' of my Lord.*" Again, the delayed evidence of the thing given when we prayed burns up all looking at the failures of others, and makes us fix our gaze on the One who never fails. Sometimes we have the

habit of begging, teasing, and coaxing God for things which He has already purchased for us, given to us, and announced in the Bible.

God may delay the answer and thus let the fire burn until we realize that all that He bought for us was ours the moment we asked for it and believed we received it. Then we owed God praise and thanks, but we changed into begging for what had been already given.

God's way for us is to take what He offers and then praise and thank Him because we have it, even though it is not yet in sight, and God says, *"if we believe we HAVE it, we shall have it."* God tells us in one version of Psalm 50:23 that praise prepares the way of the Lord. *"Whoso offereth the sacrifice of praise glorifieth me and prepareth a way whereby I may show him the salvation of God."* So all the delays and sufferings are fiery and painful, but will make our faith perfect if we will let them turn us to God and His Word. First Peter 1:7 shows that when our faith is thus tried with fire, it will be found worthy of praise, honor and glory.

Oh, let us turn away from all things and people and see only God, His Word, and His faithfulness and thus escape some of the fire. Dependence on the faith and prayers of others will often have to be burned up when God wants to promote us from the place of babyhood to the stature of men and women, and beyond that, to the measure of the fullness of Christ. It is only the weak ones who are to be borne up by the strong. God's full overcomers deal directly with Him.

WALK IN LOVE

Jesus often said, *"Follow Me."* Ephesians 5:1-2 reads, *"Be ye followers of God, as dear children, and walk in love."* To follow God and walk in love would seem to mean that we are only following Him when we walk in love. We have just as much of God as we have of love, no more and no less. Our whole life is just one walk. Every thought is a step in my walk. If I walk in love, I must not think one thought that is not a love thought. *"Love...thinketh no evil."* (First Corinthians 13:5) Evil is on every side of us. If I think on it at all, even for a second, I do not walk in love. *"Love covers."* (Proverbs 10:12) Love puts away the remembrance of evil quickly and refuses to think on it.

Every word I speak is a step in my walk of life. If I speak one word that is not filled with love, whether it is what I know or have heard and even if it is all true — I am not walking in love. This world is full of evil and I have to come in contact with it constantly, but God says, *"Who is so blind but my servant or deaf as my chosen, seeing many things but not observing?"* That means you put away from you an evil thing as soon as you see it and refuse to remember it. God says, *"Hearing many things but not comprehending."* That means as quickly as you hear an evil thing you put it away and refuse to think on it even for a second. The only way you can do this is to instantly put your mind on God — what He is and on His Word. Every act is a step in the walk of life. If I do one act that is not filled with love and because of love, I do not walk in love. God looks back on all I think, say and do, to see the motive that caused me to do it. If I have no motive except to please God and help all people, it is done in love. If I do things because I want something my way, or to please me, or because I think it is right, I do not love God or people, but I do love myself. To live the love life, self must never be considered or humored.

God says, *"Love covereth all sins."* If I walk in love, no matter what sin I see in others, I must quickly cover it over with

love and positively refuse to see it, think of it, or remember anything about people except what is good. But love is never to cover anything in myself, because I am not to love myself. God says if I cover sin in myself, I shall not prosper. To excuse myself or blame somebody for causing me to do wrong is to cover my sin. I am to confess and forsake all evil I can find in myself. Then and only then, God will forgive me and blot it out.

To walk in love is to do something good in return for every evil thing that is done to me. God says we must love in deed. We can love in deed by giving love gifts, speaking loving words, by a hearty hand shake, a smile, a loving letter, by thinking good thoughts of them and by praying God to give them just the same good things we most desire for ourselves.

To walk in love we must also love God. *"He that loveth me keepeth my sayings,"* all of them. (John 14:21) *"He that keepeth not my sayings, loveth me not."* (John 14:24) If we fail to keep just some of His sayings, we are not walking in love. *"He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me."* (John 14:21) We must search the Word to find all God has said and then do all that He says all the time to really walk in love. God has not put a thing in His Word that He will not enable us to do if we set our wills to do it and then watch. He tells us we are to love Him with all our minds. Love clings to the loved object.

To love God with all our minds is to keep our minds on Him all the time. People have done this and God has helped them to attend to their business well. God says, *"If you commit your works to the Lord, your thoughts shall be established"* — that means that He, the Almighty One, will see that your work is done well and also He will enable you to keep your thoughts on Him while you work.

God says if we walk in love we shall be *"dear children"*. As we follow God and do good for evil, we prove that we have been born again and have God's nature and are His children and He says if children, then also heirs of God. Will it not pay a

hundred fold for all sacrifice and hardship in loving everybody to really be joint heirs with Jesus and inherit everything God has? Because the thing is hard to do, God gives a mighty reward.

To walk thus is to dwell in love. God says, "*He that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God and God in him.*" (First John 4:16) That means you would have the presence and fellowship of God every moment of your life. But it means you must love everybody all the time.

God tells us to follow after love. He means that as we keep practicing this way, we shall get so we can do it constantly and fully.

God says if we live this love life perfectly, we shall not fail Him in a single thing but be made perfect in love. He says, "*Love never faileth.*" (First Corinthians 13:8) If we walk in love we cannot criticize, judge, condemn, murmur, find fault, speak against people, complain, be dissatisfied, displeased, or try to make other people do things our way or the way we like.

Satan tells saints they ought to tell the evil they see in others to other saints in order that they may know how to pray for them. This is all a cunning device of the devil to get saints to disobey God by thinking and speaking evil. God tells us to "*...speak evil of no one.*" (Titus 3:2) That would not allow us to speak of the evil even when we want someone to pray for them. God says we must not do evil that good may come.

God knows people's sins and faults far better than we do. Say to the saints, "*Let us pray for that person.*" Unite to ask God to deliver him from all wrong, all sins and all things that are not pleasing to God and make him what God would have him to be.

God knows what to do and how to do it. Prayer changes *things* and *people* also. God says, "*That servant that knew his Lord's will and prepared not himself to do it, shall be beaten with many stripes.*" We know all this is God's will because it is in His Word. Let us set ourselves to do it and escape the beating

and the stripes. *"If ye know these things, happy* (or blessed—
God will surely bless) *are ye as ye do them."* (John 13: 17) Only
constant watchfulness and prayer will enable us to do it. I say
unto all watch, watch and pray.

DO

In these days when Christ's coming is so very near, Satan sets himself to cause God's children to fail God. One way he uses so very much is to tell them God and Christ have to do all, and all we have to do is to believe. Right there he starts out with a lie because James tells us faith without works is dead and as useless as our bodies are when our spirits leave them. We are not justified by faith only but by works also. James chapter 2 verse 18 says, *"I will show you my faith by my works."* Galatians 5:6 says, *"Nothing brings good but faith that worketh by love"* and Christ said love obeys the Word of God.

When Satan sees we want to be holy, he says, *"Ask God and He will do the work for you,"* but God says, *"If we hear the Bible and do not do what it says, we deceive ourselves"* and God commands us to be doers of the word. Christ said if we do not do what the Word says we shall go down just as a house goes down that has no foundation, thus teaching us that obedience to God's Word is the only foundation we can have. The Bible says Christ is the chief corner stone of that foundation because it is His words of the New Testament that we must obey.

The Bible says obedience is more pleasing to God than all burnt offerings and sacrifice, which means that God is better pleased with perfect obedience than He is with all the gifts we give Him and all the work we do for Him. Then Satan says, *"You are trying to go to Heaven on your own righteousness and God says your righteousness is like a filthy rag in God's sight."* Again Satan lies. No one will get to Heaven or be righteous except he has Christ's righteousness only. God will not put the righteousness of Christ on disobedient people. And if they had been obedient and God put Christ's righteousness on them, God will not let that righteousness of Christ remain on them if they cease to obey.

How many people we see backslide and are no longer like Christ? They have disobeyed and God took the

righteousness of Christ from them and they are no longer like Christ as they once were.

Obedience is our foundation and when we cease to obey, Christ's words become true and their house goes down. 1 John 2:5 tells us the *only way* we can *know* we are in Christ is if we are obeying Him by keeping *His commandments* — all of the New Testament all the time. He says in 1 John 2:4, "*If we say we know God and do not keep His commandments (by obeying the New Testament), we lie.*" It is only as we obey all the New Testament that we can be sure we know Him and are in Him. God said these things and God says He never changes and that He has made His Word greater than even His, great name and that this Word shall judge us when we stand before God. Oh, let us so fully and constantly obey all the New Testament so that when we stand before God we can look in His face and say, "*God I have obeyed all the New Testament all the time,*" and what a happy day that will be for us.

Whatever God offers to do for us He will always do for us when we meet His conditions, but what He tells us to do, He will never do for us. If we do not do it, Christ, who cannot lie or make a mistake, says we will go down as surely as the house built on the sand went down. Obedience is the only foundation upon which God will place Christ's glorious righteousness that will take us to Heaven and give us all God's wonderful promises.

Let us look at some of the things God tells us to do. One is to repent and that means cease from all sin and obey the New Testament and God promises. It shall not be too hard. He will give us His strength, but we have to do the repenting. He tells us to live as Christ lived, to be a heavenly people, to be perfect even as our Father in Heaven is perfect, to obey the New Testament just as fully as Christ obeyed the Old Testament.

He tells us to do nothing that will not bring glory to God, nor in a way that will not bring glory to God. Christ said, "*Be holy for I am holy.*" (1 Peter 1:16) He said to keep the bridle on our tongues and keep our minds on God and to no more live for

ourselves, but to live for Him that died for us. He said forsake our ways and go God's way. He said forsake our thoughts and set our minds on things above where Christ sitteth. He said do not let a member serve the old things of sin and self, but make your members serve the new things of Christ.

He said, "*Keep thy heart with all diligence for out of it flow the issues of life and death.*" (Proverbs 4:23) Satan puts things in our hearts, but God says we are to watch all the time and put all evil out at once by filling our minds, mouth and heart with praises, thanks and rejoicings to God for all He is and all He has done for us and promised to us. As we are thus busy with God and what He loves, we may still be conscious of evil in our minds, but we have put it out of our hearts by filling our hearts with the things God loves and asks for. God does not charge the evil things up against us at all — we have obeyed. We have put off the old man and his deeds, and it is not in our hearts.

God tells us to crucify self and we do that by never doing what self wants us to do. but by *compelling* self to do what the Bible says. Often this will hurt self as much as being nailed to a cross would hurt our bodies, because self always wants to do as it likes to do.

God tells us to do *all* we do in love and we are to love others as much as we love ourselves. This love is not to be just in words but in deeds and as *we make all our members* do love deeds and look love looks and speak love words. God is so pleased with our obedience that He puts His divine love in our hearts and we are able to not only act in love, but the genuine, true, sweet love of God rises up within us and we *feel* love for them as well as act it toward them. God says we are to do good for the evil people do to us. God says everything we do must be done in love - **walk in love.**

But one says how can anyone do all these hard things? Christ said, "*...without Me you can do nothing*" (John 15:5) — not one good thing. He never says He will do it for us. but says we can do all things because Christ strengthens us.

If we did not eat for weeks we could not work, but if we eat daily, we can do much work. The food does not do the work for us, but the food makes us strong so that we can do the work through the strength the food gives us. Just so, when Christ sees we set our hearts to do just as He tells us to do and make our members obey God, God makes us strong to really succeed in doing it, just as the food gives us strength to work.

God says *He will never leave us*, but is always at our side and *will not let things be harder* than we can do. He will put His almighty strength in back of our wills. When we set our wills to just *make* our members do what God tells us to do — God then puts His almighty strength in back of our set wills, then we are able to do all we have set our wills to do and all that God has commanded us to do. And we find the Bible to be true that says, "*He is a present help in every time of need*", (Psalms 46:1) and "*I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me.*" (Philippians 4:13) Oh, our blessed God never fails us! Let us be sure to never fail Him. If Enoch obeyed God in *all things* for three hundred years, we can also.