

examination, and I think I am beginning to understand the reason why Christ has seemed so far away from me, and why I have experienced so little in the way of spiritual results in my church work. I fear I have never been saved at all."

The earnestness of this friend, together with her frank admission of failure, assured me that the Holy Spirit was effectively working in her heart.

"What are you depending upon for salvation, Mrs. B—?"

"I do not know that I am really depending upon anything," she answered. "I know that it is right to be religious; I strive to be good; I seek to be as useful as possible in the church; and for that reason I suppose that God will be kind and merciful to me."

"Do you find anything like that in the Bible?" I asked.

"What Scriptures would lead you to think that God will forgive if you try to be good? Where have you read in the Bible that religious activities and desires for good things are sufficient to blot out the sins that you have committed?"

She looked puzzled for a moment. That she must find her instructions in the Bible seemed an entirely new thought to her. "I will look it up," she said, "and when I return another day, I will let you know."

She did return Sunday and Monday and on through the week, but avoided giving me the opportunity of speaking with her—leaving immediately, with the others in the group, as soon as the service closed. Throughout the meetings, she paid close attention to the messages, turning up the passages in her Bible as they were quoted, and checked up the speaker continually. Not until Friday night did the burden of her heart impell her to come forward for further help.

At the close of the meeting on that night, I observed Mrs. B— coming towards the front of the auditorium and so I made

an opportunity for a personal conversation with her. Stepping to one side where we might be quiet, she said rather impulsively: "I am ready now to be saved. These two weeks have caused me to examine my heart carefully, and my life as well, and I find that all I have is religion. It has been a good religion and orthodox in every way as far as I can find, but there never has been a personal meeting with Christ in my experience."

Seating ourselves, I turned to the Scriptures and read to her:

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us" (Titus 3:5).

"Do you suppose that this passage is true?" I asked her.

"It must be true," she replied, "although I never knew before that such a statement was in the Bible. Even now I do not understand it. It seems to me that if I do not work for salvation I will never get it. Do you mean that I should just do nothing at all to be saved? If I quit trying to be saved, will God save me anyway?"

This statement caused me to turn to Romans 5:6, which reads: "When we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly."

"You will never be saved, Mrs. B—, until you acknowledge your helplessness, your weakness, and your inability to save yourself."

Her response to this statement was one that I have often heard, and one that is very commonly made by those who do not see that Christ Jesus alone is the Saviour from hell and the Giver of eternal life: "But doesn't the Bible say somewhere that 'faith without works is dead'? Doesn't that mean that we should believe what the Bible says and then do all the good we can, in order that we may be saved?"

"Yes," I answered, "the Bible does make that statement in