

faith becomes sight

"therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them." mark 11:24

now let me tell you a little story.

-----

there was a little about ten years of age. his grandmother had promised him a stamp album for christmas. christmas came, but no stamp album, and no word from grandmother. the matter, however, was not mentioned; but when his playmates came to see his christmas presents, his mom was astonished that after he had named over this and that as gifts received, to hear him add, "and a stamp album from grandmother."

she had heard it several times, and called him to her, and said, "but, georgie, you did not get an album from your grandmother. why do you say so?" there was a wondering look on his face, as if he thought it strange that she should ask such a question, and he replied, "well, mamma, grandma said, so it is the same as." she could not say a word to check his faith.

a month went by, and nothing was heard from the album. finally, one day, she said, to test his faith, and really wondering in her heart why the album had not been sent, "well, georgie, i think grandma has forgotten her promise." "oh, no, mamma," he quickly and firmly said, "she hasn't."

she watched the dear, trusting face, which, for a while, looked very sober, as if debating the possibilities she had suggested. finally a bright light passed over it, and he said, "mamma, do you think it would do any good if i should write to her thanking her for the album?" "i do not know," i said, "but you might try it."

a rich spiritual truth began to dawn upon her. in a few minutes a letter was prepared and committed to the mail, and he went off whistling his confidence in his grandma. in just a short time a letter came, saying: "my dear georgie: i have not forgotten my promise to you, of an album. i tried to get such a book as you desired, but could not get the sort you wanted; so i sent on to new york. it did not get here till after christmas, and it was still not right, so i sent for another, and as it has not come as yet. i am sending you three dollars to get one there. your loving grandma."

"as he read the letter, his face was the face of a victor. "now, mamma, didn't i tell you?" his words spoken came from the depths of a heart that never doubted, that, "against hope, believed in hope" that the stamp album would come. while he was trusting, grandma was working, and in due season faith became sight.

it is so human to want sight before faith when we step out on the promises of God, but our Savior said to thomas, and to the long roll of doubters who have ever since followed him: "blessed are they who have not seen, and yet have believed."

-----

child-like faith - that's what our Lord wants from us. it doesn't take any faith to believe for something readily available or even easily attainable. i am reminded again of the story about the town that was gathering together to pray for long-needed rain. it was only one small child who took her umbrella to the meeting and was confused why everyone else had not. she alone expected it to rain.

it takes faith to believe when all the facts are shouting otherwise at your senses; when scoffers and mockers abound. "the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ." 1 pet 1:7

how's your sight? can you see it now? if so, to all the doubting thomas' we boldly proclaim: "and this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith." 1 john 5:4 faith has enabled us to see!