

The Walk of Faith



"Above all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one." Ephesians 6:16

Our Mission Statement:

The reason for publishing this journal is to encourage youth to mature in the Lord. We desire all to be challenged to seek the reality of God in their own lives. We hope you will see, by the testimony of many youth, a Christian life that radiates the power of God. God's desire for all of us is much more than to escape Hell. It is for us to live a victorious life by abiding in Christ. All material will be edited with this goal in mind.

The Editors

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In Upcoming Issues...

Surrender & Commitment
Soulwinning—Practical Helps
Brokenness: God's Requirement

At this time, we plan to run these themes in this order, but if our readers desire an issue on a different topic, or submit material for an issue planned for a later date, we are willing to switch themes. Reader *feedback* is important!

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AS YOU CAME TO HIM, BY FAITH

—Andrew Murray

“As ye have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him: rooted and built up in Him, and stablished in the faith...abounding therein.” Colossians 2:6–7

In these words the apostle teaches us the weighty lesson that it is not only by faith that we first come to Christ and are united to Him, but that it is by faith that we are to be rooted and established in our union with Christ. Not less essential than for the commencement, is faith for the progress of the spiritual life. Abiding in Jesus can only be by faith.

These difficulties were like mountains in your way. And how were they removed? Simply by the word of God.

There are earnest Christians who do not understand this; or, if they admit it in theory, they fail to realize its application in practice. They are very zealous for a free gospel, with our first acceptance of Christ, and justification by faith alone. But after this they think everything depends on our diligence and faithfulness. While they firmly grasp the truth, *“The sinner shall be justified by faith,”* they have hardly found a place in their scheme for the larger truth: *“The just shall live by faith.”* They have never understood what a perfect Savior Jesus is and how He will each day do for the sinner just as much as He did the first day when he came to Him. They know not that the life of grace is always and only a life of faith, and that in the relationship to Jesus the one daily and unceasing duty of the disciple is to believe, because believing is the one channel through which divine grace and strength flow out into

the heart of man. The old nature of the believer remains evil and sinful to the last. It is only as he daily comes, all empty and helpless, to his Savior to receive of His life and strength, that he can bring forth the fruits of righteousness to the glory of God. Therefore it is: *“As ye have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him: rooted in Him, and stablished in the faith...abounding therein.”* As you came to Jesus, so abide in Him, by faith.

And if you would know how faith is to be exercised in thus abiding in Jesus, to be rooted more deeply and firmly in Him, you have only to look back to the time when first you received Him. You remember well what obstacles at that time there appeared to be in the way of your believing. There was first your vileness and guilt: it appeared impossible that the promise of pardon and love could be for such a sinner. Then there was the sense of weakness and death: you felt not the power for the surrender and the trust to which you were called. And then there was the future: you dared not undertake to be a disciple of Jesus while you felt so sure that you could not remain standing, but would speedily again be unfaithful and fall. These difficulties were like mountains in your way. And how were they removed? Simply by the word of God. That word, as it were, compelled you to believe that, notwithstanding guilt in the past, and weakness in the present, and unfaithfulness in the future, the promise was sure that Jesus would accept and save you. On that word you ventured to come, and were not deceived: you found that Jesus did indeed accept and save.



Apply this, your experience in coming to Jesus, to the abiding in Him. Now, as then, the temptations to keep you from believing are many. When you think of your sins since you became a disciple, your heart is cast down with shame, and it looks as if it were too much to expect that Jesus should indeed receive you into perfect intimacy and the full enjoyment of His holy love. When you think how utterly, in times past, you have failed in keeping the most sacred vows, the consciousness of present weakness makes you tremble at the very idea of answering the Savior's command with the promise, "Lord, from henceforth I will abide in Thee." And when you set before yourself the life of love and joy, of holiness and fruitfulness, which in the future are to flow from abiding in Him, it is as if it only serves to make you still more hopeless: you, at least, can never attain to it. You know yourself too well. It is no use expecting it, only to be disappointed; a life fully and wholly abiding in Jesus is not for you.

A soul filled with large thoughts of the Vine will be a strong branch, and will abide confidently in Him.

Oh, that you would learn a lesson from the time of your first coming to the Savior! Remember, dear soul, how you then were led, contrary to all that your experience, and your feelings, and even your sober judgment said, to take Jesus at His word, and how you were not disappointed. He did receive you, and pardon you; He did love you, and save you—you know it. And if He did this for you when you were an enemy and a stranger, what think you, now that you are His own, will He not much more fulfill His promise? Oh, that you would come and begin simply to listen to His word, and to ask only the one question: Does He really mean that I should abide in Him? The answer His word gives is so simple and so sure: By His almighty grace you now are *in Him*; that same almighty grace will indeed enable you to abide in Him. By faith you

became partakers of the initial grace; by that same faith you can enjoy the continuous grace of abiding in Him.

And if you ask what exactly it is that you now have to believe that you may abide in Him, the answer is not difficult. Believe first of all what He says: "*I am the Vine.*" The safety and the fruitfulness of the branch depend upon the strength of the vine. Think not so much of yourself as a branch, nor of the abiding as your duty, until you have first had your soul filled with the faith of what Christ as the Vine is. *He really will be to you all that a vine can be*—holding you fast, nourishing you, and making Himself every moment responsible for your growth and your fruit. Take time to know, set yourself heartily to believe: My Vine, on whom I can depend for all I need, is Christ. A large, strong vine bears the feeble branch, and holds it more than the branch holds the vine. Ask the Father by the Holy Ghost to reveal to you what a glorious, loving, mighty Christ this is, in whom you have your place and your life; *it is the faith in what Christ is*, more than anything else, that will keep you abiding in Him. A soul filled with large thoughts of the Vine will be a strong branch, and will abide confidently in Him. Be much occupied with Jesus, and believe much in Him, as the True Vine.



And then, when Faith can well say, "He is my Vine," let it further say, "I am His branch, I am in Him." I speak to those who say they are Christ's disciples, and on them I cannot too earnestly press the importance of exercising their faith in saying, "I am in Him." It makes the abiding so simple. If I realize clearly as I meditate: Now I am in Him, I see at once that there is nothing wanting but just my consent to be what He has made me, to remain where He has placed me. *I am in Christ*: This simple thought, carefully, prayerfully, believingly uttered, removes all difficulty as if there were some great attainment to be reached. No, *I am in Christ*, my blessed Savior. His love has

prepared a home for me with Himself, when He says, "Abide in my love"; and His power has undertaken to keep the door, and to keep me in, if I will but consent. *I am in Christ*. I have now but to say, "Savior, I bless Thee for this wondrous grace. I consent; I yield myself to Thy gracious keeping; I do abide in Thee."

It is astonishing how such a faith will work out all that is further implied in abiding in Christ. There is in the Christian life great need of watchfulness and of prayer, of self-denial and of striving, of obedience and of diligence. But "*all things are possible to him that believeth.*" "*This is the victory that overcometh, even our faith.*" It is the faith that continually closes its eyes to the weakness of the creature, and finds its joy in the sufficiency of an Almighty Savior, that makes the soul strong and glad. It gives itself up to be led by the Holy Spirit into an ever-deeper appreciation of that wonderful Savior whom God hath given us—the Infinite Immanuel. It follows the leading of the Spirit from page to page of the blessed Word, with the one desire to take each revelation of what Jesus is and what He promises as its nourishment and its life. In accordance with the promise, "*if that which ye have heard from the beginning abide in you, ye shall also abide in the Father and the Son,*" it lives by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. And so it makes the soul strong with the strength of God, to be and to do all that is needed for abiding in Christ.

Believer, you would abide in Christ: only believe. Believe always; believe now. Bow even now before your Lord, and say to Him in childlike faith, that because He is your Vine, and you are His branch, you will this day abide in Him.

Note by Andrew Murray

"I am the True Vine.' He who offers us the privilege of an actual union with Himself is the great I AM, the almighty God, who upholds all things by the word of His power. And this almighty God reveals Himself as our perfect Savior, even to the unimaginable extent of seeking to renew our fallen natures by grafting them into His own Divine nature.

"To realize the glorious Deity of Him whose call sounds

forth to longing hearts with such exceeding sweetness, is no small step towards gaining the full privilege to which we are invited. But longing is by itself of no use; still less can there be any profit in reading of the blessed results to be gained from a close and personal union with our Lord, *if we believe that union to be practically beyond our reach*. His words are meant to be a living, an eternal, precious reality. And this they can never become unless *we are sure that we may reasonably expect their accomplishment*. But what *could* make the accomplishment of such an idea possible—what could make it reasonable to suppose that we poor, weak, selfish creatures, full of sin and full of failures, might be saved out of the corruption of our nature and made partakers of the holiness of our Lord—except the fact, the marvelous, unalterable fact, that He who proposes to us so great a transformation is Himself the everlasting God, as able as He is willing to fulfill His own word. In meditating, therefore, upon these utterances of Christ, containing as they do the very essence of His teaching, the very concentration of His love, let us, at the outset, *put away all tendency to doubt*. Let us *not allow ourselves so much as to question whether* such erring disciples as we are can be enabled to attain the holiness to which we are called through a close and intimate union with our Lord. If there be any impossibility, any falling short of the proposed blessedness, it will arise from the lack of earnest desire on our part. There is no lack in any respect on His part who puts forth the invitation; with GOD there can be no shortcoming in the fulfillment of His promise."—*The Life of Fellowship; Meditations on John 15:1, 11* by A. M. James.

It is perhaps necessary to say, for the sake of young or doubting Christians, that there is something more necessary than the effort to exercise faith in each separate promise that is brought under our notice. What is of even greater importance is the cultivation of a trustful disposition towards God, the habit of always thinking of Him, of His ways and His works, with bright confiding hopefulness. In such soil alone can the individual promises strike root and grow up. In a little work published by the Tract Society, *Encouragements to Faith*, by James Kimball, there will be found many most suggestive and helpful thoughts, all pleading for the right God has to claim that He shall be trusted. *The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life* (by Hannah Whitnall Smith) is another little work that has been a great help to many. Its bright and buoyant tone, its loving and unceasing repetition of the keynote—we may indeed depend on Jesus to do all He has said, and more than we can think—has breathed hope and joy into many a heart that was almost ready to despair of ever getting on. In Frances Havergal's *Kept for the Master's Use*, there is the same healthful, hope-inspiring tone. /

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Annals of Faith—An Assortment

Sometimes the difficulties we face seem insurmountable, and it seems impossible to walk in faith.

The story is told that Frederick Douglas, the great slave orator, once said in a mournful speech, when things looked dark for his race: “The white man is against us, governments are against us, the spirit of the times is against us. I see no hope for the colored race. I am full of sadness.”

Just then a woman rose in the audience and said: “Frederick, is God dead?”

—Unknown

As long as you are waiting, hoping, or looking, you are not believing. You may have hope or an earnest desire, but that is not faith, for “faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” (Hebrews 11:1)

—A. B. Simpson



Faith is the hand that reaches out and lays hold of the promises of God.

An Account of Faith

Notice the faith is exercised by both the giver and the receiver:

“August 22: In my morning walk, when I was reminding the Lord of our need, I felt assured that He would send help this day. My assurance sprang from our need, for there seemed no way to get through the day without help being sent. After breakfast I considered what might be sold for money for the dear children. But all seemed not nearly enough to meet the requirements of the day.

In our deep poverty, after I had gathered together a few things for sale, a sister who earns her living by the labor of her hands brought eighty-two pounds. This sister was convinced that believers in our Lord Jesus should act out His commandments: “Sell that ye have, and give alms” (Luke 12:33); “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth” (Matthew 6:19). Accordingly, she drew her money out of the bank and stocks, two hundred and fifty pounds, and brought it to me at three different times for the benefit of the orphans, the Bible, missionary, and school funds, and the poor saints.



About two months ago she brought me one hundred pounds more after she had sold some other possessions. The eighty-two pounds she brought today is from the sale of her last earthly possession. She never expressed the least regret for the step she took, but went on quietly laboring with her hands to earn her daily living.” /

Taken from The Autobiography of George Mueller, page 114–115. For information on how to get a copy of this book, see page 11.

“Active faith gives thanks for a promise even though it is not yet performed, knowing that God’s contracts are as good as cash.”

Matthew Henry

A Meditation on Hebrews 11

–Josiah Rocke

I would like to share some reflections I have had on faith while I have studied Hebrews 11. Some may not seem very positive; some may be more rhetorical than declarative. Ponder with me on faith:

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1) Faith is the composition of that for which we are striving. It is not physical, like an apple or orange, but it is unseen. It is at times mystic, always intriguing, and never dull. Faith *is* our walk with God.

Consider: No man can prove or disprove the existence of God, or His marvelous plan of salvation through Jesus Christ. Hebrews 11:1 tells us so. Faith is the evidence. I have often listened to or read debates between scientists concerning God’s Creation and man’s theory of evolution. I am always amazed by the vast and varied scientific data that Creationists have found to support Creation, but I have often wondered, “Without believing the Bible, can Creation be proved? Hebrews 11:3 would seem to say no.

It is through faith that we can realize the truth of the Creation.

“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.” It is through faith that we can realize the truth of the Creation.

Faith is not something a person can touch. Neither is it intellectual property, which can be copyrighted or patented. It can’t be written, sung, or built with the physical elements of life.

Our faith can be *expressed* through writing or singing, but it cannot be traded or exchanged. Faith isn’t divulged through song or pen; others are merely able to glimpse on the faith that indwells the author.

What Will Faith Do?

So, what is faith? Hebrews doesn’t answer that immediately. Instead, it gives us example after example of what faith will do. By Faith:

- € The elders obtained a good report. (Verse 2)
- € Abel offered an acceptable sacrifice to God. (v. 4)
- € Enoch was taken up so that he would not see death, for he obtained the witness that he was pleasing to God. (v. 5)
- € Noah built the ark, not knowing what a flood was, or when the flood would occur. (v. 6)
- € Abraham went out of his homeland to live in a foreign country, believing God’s promise. (vs. 8–10)
- € Sarah bore Isaac. (v. 11)
- € Abraham offered up Isaac, his only son. (v. 17)
- € Isaac blessed Jacob. (v. 20)
- € Jacob blessed the sons of Joseph. (v. 21)
- € Joseph ordered that his bones be carried up to Canaan during the Exodus, still 400 years away. (v. 22)
- € The parents of Moses hid their son, fearing God, rather than the Pharaoh. (v. 23)
- € Moses forsook worldly riches and fame to seek the true riches of Christ. (v. 24–27)
- € Moses kept the Passover, the command of a God Who would only reveal Himself as “I

AM.” (v. 28)

€ The children of Israel passed through the Red Sea. (v. 29)

€ The walls of Jericho were felled. The Hebrews believed the Word that God sent, although it seemed dangerous and absurd. (v. 30)

€ Rahab was spared. (v. 31)

Here, the author sees he must stop his list. *“And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets.”* (Hebrews 11:32) For the next several verses, the author recounts the amazing feats that these people accomplished by faith.

Have you ever thought, “Why did these people have so much faith?” Remember, these people were placing their faith in God’s promise to send a Savior. The Savior had not yet come. Today, we place our faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior; back then, they only had the promise. (Hebrews 11:13)

Despite the fact that those of old had not received the promised Savior, they too were saved by faith alone. Even the sacrifices were of no saving value. Consider Abel—the Bible does not record any commandment from God to Adam or his children to sacrifice, or in what way the sacrifice should be made. Abel sacrificed, and it was acceptable to God. Why?

Now, I am sure it is safe to assume that Abel’s parents taught him about God. They probably



had taken him to the entrance of the Garden. He must have heard the story of the Fall, and the estrangement of mankind from God. So why did he bother trying to please God? His brother Cain did not. Was it because he had an inner conviction that God wanted man to serve Him? Abel probably didn’t know *how* to please God, so he made a gift of his possessions to God. The Bible does not record what Abel sacrificed, and I doubt that he followed all the procedures that were later set down for the priests, yet God was pleased with Abel because of his faith.

Let’s examine another character from Hebrews 11. Look at Rahab. Here is a woman who has grown up in a culture steeped in idolatry and immorality, full of superstition. Although the rest of Jericho was greatly afraid of the Israelites, Rahab risked her life on the hope that the Jewish God was better than anything she had experienced.

Extreme Faith

The walk of faith calls for an extreme, radical faith. Such faith can have risks. (I speak of risks in human terms.) Consider the faith of a bungee-jumper, a person who entrusts his life to a thick rubber band. He jumps off a platform hundreds of feet in the air, trusting that the cord is not too long, too weak, or too elastic. Many people will not bungee-jump. “The risks are too high,” they say, “the ‘what ifs’ too many.” They can’t place enough faith in the bungee cord to jump.

Is it that way with us as youth? Are we afraid to follow God because we think the risks are too high? The cost too great? The way too dark? I am afraid that most of us will have to admit that we have been reluctant to *completely* follow God *all* the time. My greatest fear has been that God will choose to “waste” me—have me stay in a little place, raise a family, have a job, but never allow me to be involved in a “ministry.” Perhaps that is difficult to understand, so let me use an illustration from the Bible:

James, the son of Alphaeus was slain with the sword shortly after Pentecost. Just when God was opening up the world to the Gospel, James

was killed. It seems that he missed out on the ministry of evangelization. Why? Unlike men such as Samuel Morris or Jim Elliot, James did not seem to leave a legacy behind. The Bible is silent. James was killed, end of story.

Peter was also arrested and was going to be killed. Yet God delivered him. This doesn't seem fair from human eyes. Was James less worthy than Peter? There is no possible way to build an argument for that from Scripture. In fact, the argument could be made that James was more worthy because he hadn't denied Christ three times.

Either we please God by walking in faith, or sin and depart from the Living God through unbelief

So why did God allow James to be killed? We will never know on this earth. That is one of the risks of faith. What are your fears? Are you afraid of being wasted? Abandoned? Embarrassed? Would you have to lay aside your security to trust Him? I don't know what your reasons may be, but they feel real, don't they?

A Hard Place

Hebrews 11:6 can place us between the Rock and a hard place *“For without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”* Take that in the light of Hebrews 3:12 *“Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God.”* Also consider Romans 14:22–23 *“Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God...But he who doubts is condemned...for whatever is not from faith is sin.”*

Now, as youth who want to serve God, we are left with a stark contrast—either we please God by walking in faith, or sin and depart from the Living God through unbelief. I do not write in

condemnation to any, I am struggling with walking in faith right now. However, this is the reality that we must face.

Yes, I think the risks may be high from a finite human perspective, but let me share some events from my life when God has not disappointed.

1. When God called us to start Abide, we knew that it would require a large amount of financial support. We felt that God did not want us to charge a subscription, but rather to trust Him to provide. (This also gave us a way to determine God's direction for Abide: No money, no Abide.)

As we have cried out to God to provide, I can say we have never lacked. Yes, we have had to sacrifice at times, but He has provided way beyond what I could think or ask. Several times, the very day that we cried out to God to provide, He did. Perhaps not in the large ways I wanted, but still, He provided.

2. Our family had been praying for several years that certain dear friends would surrender their lives to Christ. Many times, we gave up hope, but God has answered those prayers.

Perhaps the most important thing that must be remembered is this: *When we ask in faith, God will answer our prayers.* However, many testify that He usually does it in ways we aren't expecting.



Darkest Night

One struggle that I have is that I seem to have God's clear direction for my life, and just when I get acclimated to it and things start to work out in that direction, all the doors seem to shut tight. What went wrong? Did I misunderstand God? Was I deluding myself?

Oswald Chambers states that God often will show His children His plan for them and the light will shine brightly for a time. Then the darkest, stormy night will encompass and threaten to extinguish their very existence. Chambers says that faith is what hangs onto the



vision received, and enables the believer to weather the storm. He likens it to a ship that has received the course it is to take, but is threatened by a hurricane on the way.

I have often wondered when I come out of one of those storms, and things are completely changed from what the vision was, “Was my faith too weak? Did I fail the test? Has God given up on that plan?” These are questions I struggle to answer.

I know that God is Love, and Love **never** fails. *“If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.”* (2 Timothy 2:13) Sometimes, God does not show us the course He has for us. He simply shows us one thing that we must do. Often, it is a difficult task, perhaps not physically, but emotionally or spiritually. It may be the hardest thing we will ever have to do. Faith is knowing, that no matter how hard or seemingly pointless the road God puts before us, God will not fail or misguide us. Do we as youth have that kind of faith?

We will realize that we did not do anything special. We merely obeyed the commandments of God

Are we willing to step into the dark, trusting that God will hold us up? Can we lay aside the security we may have today and believe that God has something better for tomorrow? My last thought is that, regardless of whether you have faith enough to trust God and step out into the path He sets before you, that does not alter the fact that He would have supported you. Our lack of faith does not negate the fact that God has promised to lead and guide us. *“For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make*

the faithfulness of God of no effect? God forbid!” Romans 3:3–4a

I think it is wise for us youth to take a time for introspection and self-examination. Are we hesitating from taking the path that God has called us too? Why? Can we not trust Him? Do we think it is too hard?

“Lord, Increase Our Faith!”

So, what is faith? How great is your faith? How can we increase our faith?

Faith is simply living by our beliefs. Our faith is only as great as our willingness to do that. How do we increase our faith? *“Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”* If you feel your faith is lacking, I encourage you to increase your reading of the Bible. It may also be helpful to read a biography on great men and women of Faith. Especially focus on the times when they had to step out in faith. (There is a listing of books on the opposite page.)

I will close with Luke 17:5–10: *And the disciples said to the Lord, “Increase our faith.” So the Lord said, “If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you. And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, ‘Come at once and sit down to eat’? But will he not rather say to him, ‘Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink’? Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not. So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, ‘We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.’”*

That is where faith will lead us. We will get to the end of our walk with God, and we will realize that we did not do anything special. We merely obeyed the commandments of God.

“Little faith will bring our souls to heaven, but great faith will bring heaven to us.”

**“I had fainted, unless I had believed
to see the goodness of Jehovah in
the land of the living.”**

Psalms 27:13



In the Shadows

**God is Master artificer
He is working out His plan
He will finally bring perfection
Out of an imperfect man.**

**And in every situation
He is working for our good
But the things we wish would happen
Are not always as He would.**

**When the shadows fall upon you
And you cannot see His face
Do not think He has forgotten
Trust His mercy and His grace.**

**Each cloud has a silver lining
Bad will turn to good at last
And the sun will but shine brighter
When at last the storm is past.**

**Keep looking up!
For, “Behind the dim unknown,
Standeth God within the shadows,
Keeping watch upon His own.”**

–Lisa Weaver, 2002

Recommended Books

Perhaps no single exercise is more suggested by heroes of the Christendom as much as reading. We have found this to be true. Here is a listing of the books that were referenced for this issue. We encouraged all of our readers to read some, if not all of them.

George Muller by Basil Miller \$5
Bethany House Publishers
ATTN: Retail Sales
11400 Hampshire Ave. South
Minneapolis, MN 55438
1-800-328-6109

Answers to Prayer by George Mueller \$6
Moody Press
820 N. LaSalle Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60610
(800) 678-6928
pressinfo@moody.edu

The Autobiography of George Muller \$6
Whitaker House Publishers
30 Hunt Valley Circle
New Kensington, PA 15068
(800) 444-4484
sales@whitakerhouse.com

Abide in Christ by Andrew Murray \$6
Whitaker House

God's Smuggler by Brother Andrew \$9
Chosen Books, Baker Book House Company
Open Doors USA
P.O. Box 27001
Santa Ana, CA 92799
(949) 752-6600

Gladys Aylward—The Little Woman
by Gladys Aylward & Christine Hunter \$6
Moody Press

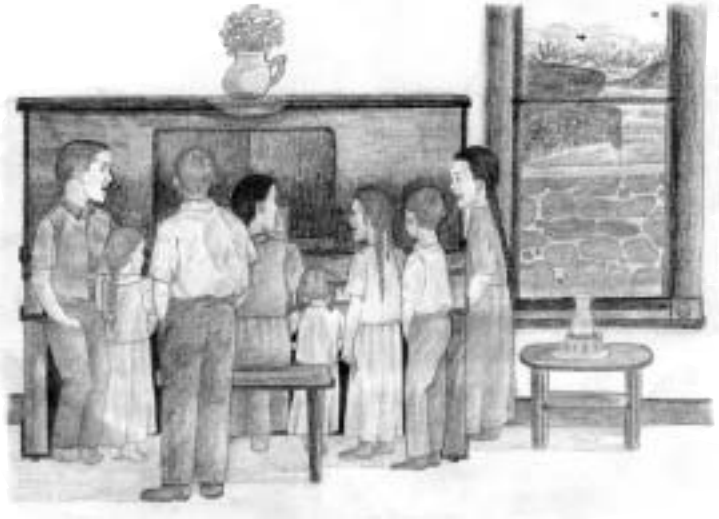
All of these are available from the publishers and most can be purchased through your local Christian bookstore.

Additionally, I have found Barnes & Noble (*www.bn.com*) to be an reliable provider of books All of these are available through them.

Gladys Aylward—A Walk of Faith

—Tyler Griffin

London, England, 1917—The late morning sun shines on the cobblestone streets. The streets are bare; the air is hushed. The usual clatter of horse hooves and wagons is rare this morning. There is yet to be seen a single peddler selling goods. The few conversations between neighbors and friends are quiet and brief. On the lawn of a cozy brick home some children are playing. However, their voices are hushed, their playing reserved. Even the birds seem to feel the apprehension. Few dare to sing, and those who do lack their usual boldness.



As Gladys grew older, she became impatient with anything religious. Something else captured her dreams—the theatre.

Suddenly, a low buzzing drone breaks the stillness. Eyes follow the sound upward, and apprehension turns to dread. German warplanes dot the distance. A sense of foreboding covers the city, but today the planes have not reached their destination. They pass over and continue into the distance, letting the city return to stillness. Abruptly the quietness is broken again, and this time more rudely. The horizon explodes with crashing booms and flames of fire.

Simultaneous with the first distant boom, the frightened children jump to their feet. They quickly follow a black-haired girl into the brick house. A moment later, above the din of bombs, there is a noise that sounds like singing. It is coming from inside that brick home. There in the parlor sits the black-haired girl, hammering out hymns on a piano, and singing at the top of

her lungs. Surprisingly, the children surrounding her are not fearful. Rather, they join excitedly in the unrestrained fun. There they spend their afternoon, drowning out their fear of distant bombs by joining their brave leader in song.

Who was this courageous girl? Her name was Gladys Aylward. During the time I described, many people in Europe lived in constant dread of air raids. It was not that Gladys didn't fear them also. However, even as a child she forgot herself in her concern for others. Little did she dream these childhood experiences were just a taste of what would come in the future.

Gladys Aylward was born on the northern edge of London in 1902. She was the first of three children born to Thomas and Rosalind Aylward. Although she experienced the turmoil of the war, Gladys had many good childhood memories.

Gladys' schooling as a child was very limited. Her childhood and youth predicted anything but a life in missions. Her parents were Christians and took her to Sunday school and church as a child. However, as Gladys grew older, she became impatient with anything religious.

Something else captured her dreams—the theatre.

Gladys was a good actress and loved to speak. Although she was from the poor working class of people, she determined to reach her goal. In those days, most girls from the working class went into “service” because there were few other opportunities for them. She became a maid, and in the evenings she went to dramatics classes. She saved as much money as possible and resolved by any means to reach the stage.

One evening, Gladys was surprised to find herself in a church service. She later related she did not know why she went. That evening, she realized for the first time that God had a claim on her life. Until then, she had regarded her life as her own. During that meeting, she laid her life down and received Jesus Christ as her Savior. It seems she immediately gave up all thoughts of the theatre. She made no more mention of it.

Soon after her conversion, Gladys read in a youth magazine about the millions in China who had never heard the Gospel. She grew burdened and felt at once she should do something. However, as often happens, she turned her gaze on others who she thought should go. Gladys shared her burden with other Christian friends, but they seemed unconcerned. She then set out to persuade her brother. Surely if she offered to help him, he would gladly go off to China! His refusal shocked her. He said: “That’s an old maids’ job! You should go yourself!” His words struck her like a thunderbolt. Why *should* she try pushing *others* off to China—why *couldn't* she go herself?

Man has his way of making an ideal missionary, and God has His. Many times these two ways are very different

When the reality of it hit her, Gladys realized God was calling her to China. Gladys was never one to waste time. Friends told her she must ap-

ply to a mission society. So, she applied at once to China Inland Mission. They accepted her, and she left immediately for their Women’s Training Center.

Gladys studied there diligently for three months. Her walk with God flourished in the Godly atmosphere of the School. There her prayer life reached a depth she had not known. She learned to “really pray” as she would later say. This laid the foundation for beginning a walk of faith. All seemed well when suddenly her world came crashing in.

The chairman summoned Gladys to the committee room. She sat in shock while the chairman explained the committee’s conclusion: She was too slightly qualified and her education too insufficient for them to train her. Besides, she would be too old to learn the Chinese language once they sent her. Gladys left the room in stunned silence.

The compassionate chairman followed her out and kindly asked what she was going to do. Gladys replied that she did not know, but she was sure God wanted her to do *something* for Him, and not just return to service. He asked if she would be willing to housekeep for an elderly couple living in Bristol who had just returned from serving most of their lives as missionaries to China. Gladys said that she would. Although it seemed like going backwards in light of her call to China, Gladys left for Bristol.

“God’s ways are not man’s ways.” The truth in this statement rings out through Gladys’ life. Man has his way of making an ideal missionary, and God has His. Many times these two ways are very different. Such was the case with Gladys. I wish to give an account of her years of preparation in England, as an example of God’s higher ways.

The couple with whom Gladys went to stay, Dr. and Mrs. Fisher, lived in the presence of God. Never had Gladys seen anyone who trusted God so utterly, so implicitly, and so obediently. Through observing their Christ-like lives, her concept of God changed forever. He was not just a faraway Being, but a Friend you could walk with everyday. Their simple faith in God was a

revelation to her. They told her many stories about their life overseas and how God never let them down. “He will send you, guide you, and provide for you,” they said. They taught her by example what a real life of faith was. Gladys asked them how she could know for sure if God wanted her in China. They told her to watch and pray, and God would show her in His time. Thus began *God’s Mission School* for Gladys, and there was much to come.

Gladys’ months with the Godly doctor and his wife strengthened and encouraged her, but her growing desire to reach souls was not satisfied. When she had arrived in Bristol, Gladys felt she was wasting time by staying in England. The elderly Fishers showed her different. Although they returned to England to “retire” from the work in China, they had not retired from God’s work. They broadened Gladys’ vision from the needy souls in China to the many needy souls at home as well. The Fisher’s had immersed themselves in local evangelism, and their burden for souls was contagious. Gladys soon caught it. Her youthful zeal carried her away from quiet Bristol, and the Fishers sent her with their blessing.

Gladys left peaceful Bristol for the busy port of Swansea. This busy port was not only bustling with commerce; it also was bustling with sin. One of the greatest evils in Swansea was the prostitution of young girls. Girls who ran away from home often arrived in this main port. The



girls would end up loitering on the dark streets by the docks or in one of the many taverns. The rough sailors would get many of them drunk and abuse them. Gladys worked for a mission whose goal was to rescue these girls.

Gladys suddenly realized: She did not know the Word well enough to teach its truths!

Gladys would go down to the docks and plead with the girls to come to the Mission with her for the night. She would even enter the many taverns and shepherd the drunken girls back to the Mission, where they sobered up the girls and put them to bed. Then they would share the gospel with them, and pay their fare to return home. Gladys gladly faced this dangerous work, and her heart overflowed with Christ-like love for sinners. She learned to hate the sin but love the sinner. This was just one of the many lessons Gladys learned during her work in Swansea. These lessons proved invaluable in making Gladys a real missionary—*God’s* missionary.

Although Gladys enjoyed her work in Swansea, she could not forget the call she felt to China. Eventually she decided to see if she could go to China with a family as a children’s nurse. She returned to London to seek advice but found everyone against the idea. They told her to forget about China and continue her grand mission work. She returned to Swansea depressed and dejected. On her way home in the train, she pulled out her Bible. Gladys suddenly realized: She did not know the Word well enough to teach its truths! She arrived back in Swansea determined to study the Bible like never before.

Gladys began reading in Genesis. She was inspired and challenged with stories of Abraham and Moses. Gladys felt God asking her to step out in faith as they had done. She took the first step and returned to London. She got a job as a maid and started earning money for her fare to China.

Gladys continued to read and study her Bible. When she reached the book of Nehemiah, his story gripped her. Here was someone a lot like her. Nehemiah had a burden to rebuild Jerusalem. But what could *he* do? He was just a butler! She continued to read and was amazed to find out he went anyway! He went not because he was a great wall builder or overseer, but because God had called him.

Suddenly, Gladys heard a voice. “Is Nehemiah’s God your God?” “Yes, of course!” she answered. “Then do what Nehemiah did, and go to China.” “But I am not Nehemiah!” replied Gladys. The voice spoke again: “No, but assuredly, I am his God!”

This finalized Gladys’ call to China. No longer did she wonder, question, and wait. Now she acted. She worked hard at her job, sold most of her possessions, and took extra work. She did it all with one goal in mind—reaching China. Nothing and no one distracted her. Other maids where she worked tried to get her to a play or to read a new novel. She resisted their attempts and pressed on. Within one year, Gladys had saved the remarkable sum her fare would cost.

“Is Nehemiah’s God, your God?” “Yes, of course,” she replied! “Then do what Nehemiah did, and go to China.”

Now that Gladys had enough money, where in China could she go? Then Gladys heard about a missionary lady who needed help. Miss Lawson was 73 years old. She was praying earnestly for God to lay it on a young person’s heart to come and carry on her work in China. Gladys wrote her and offered to come. Miss Lawson wrote back and said to come; she would meet Gladys in Tientsin. That settled it! Gladys’ ticket was to take her right to Tientsin. God rewarded Gladys’ steps of faith.



This brief sketch just begins the life and work of Gladys Aylward. I have shared enough to show that when we trust God and walk in faith, our life *will* be exciting! The lessons Gladys learned during her years in England

made her an example of faith as a missionary in China. They could never have been learned in a mission school. I do not mean to say we should not attend a mission school. However, we need to be open for God to change our plans. He knows what is best for us. It is easy to see this as we look back over Gladys’ life. However, it is not as easy to see during the current events in our lives.

Many times when things do not go the way we planned, we get upset. I would like to encourage us all to submit to God and the circumstances He allows, and look for the lessons He has for us in them. Even when it seems there is *nothing* good about our problem (like when they removed Gladys from mission school), we must stay surrendered. God desires to bring us all into a deeper walk. I hope that Gladys’ s life will encourage you to seek *A Walk of Faith!*

It was a good answer that was once given by a poor woman to a minister who asked her, “What is faith?” She replied: “I am ignorant, and I cannot answer well, but I think it is taking God at His word.”

–Unknown

Faith Is the Victory

Encamped along the hills of light,
Ye Christian soldiers rise,
And press the battle ere the night
Shall veil the glowing skies.
Against the foe in vales below,
Let all our strength be hurled;
Faith is the victory, we know,
That overcomes the world.

His banner over us is love,
Our sword the Word of God;
We tread the road the saints above
With shouts of triumph trod.
By faith they, like a whirlwind's breath,
Swept on o'er every field;
The faith by which they conquered death
Is still our shining shield.

On every hand the foe we find
Drawn up in dread array;
Let tents of ease be left behind,
And onward to the fray;
Salvation's helmet on each head,
With truth all girt about,
The earth shall tremble 'neath our tread
And echo with our shout.

To him that overcomes the foe
White raiment shall be given;
Before the angels he shall know
His name confessed in heaven.
Then onward from the hills of light,
Our hearts with love aflame,
We'll vanquish all the hosts of night
In Jesus' conquering name.

—John H. Yates, chorus omitted



Danger or Opportunity?

It is a source of inspiration and strength to us to remember how the youthful David trusted God. Through his faith in the Lord, he defeated a lion and a bear and later overthrew the mighty Goliath. When the lion came to destroy his flock, it came as a wonderful *opportunity* for David. If he had faltered and failed, he would have missed God's opportunity for him and probably would never have been the Lord's chosen king of Israel.

"And there came a lion." Normally, we think of a lion not as a special blessing from the Lord but only as a reason for alarm. Yet the lion was *God's opportunity in disguise*. Every difficulty and every temptation that comes our way, if we receive it correctly, is God's opportunity.

When a "lion" comes to your life, recognize it as an opportunity from the Lord, no matter how fierce it may outwardly seem. Even the tabernacle of God was covered with badger skins and goat hair. No one would think there would be any glory there, yet the Shechinah glory of God was very evident underneath the covering. May the Lord open our eyes to see Him, even in temptations, trials, dangers, and misfortunes.

—Charles Henry Packhurst

George Müller of Bristol-Basil Miller

-Review by Caleb Rocke

The extraordinary faith of George Mueller is clearly portrayed in this book by Basil Miller. Growing up in the nineteenth century, Mueller was a vile, wretched sinner and an unlikely candidate for a pillar of faith. As he himself stated "I now found myself, at the age of sixteen, an inmate of the same dwelling as thieves and murderers and treated accordingly." So how did George Mueller become one of the most well known men of faith?

The book takes us through Mueller's first steps of faith, and his daily trusting that Christ would provide for the orphan ministry God started through him.

Although Mueller started out in a very sinful lifestyle, Mueller says, "At a time when I was as careless about Him as ever, He sent His Spirit to my heart." Mueller began his walk of faith, and it was soon to be strengthened at a prayer meeting.

"Kayser (leader of the meeting)... called upon the Lord for His blessing to fall upon the meeting." That kneeling in prayer made a lasting impression on Mueller. He further stated, "If I had been asked why I was happy (after the meeting and prayer), I couldn't clearly explain it." Mueller notes long after that he had learned the joy of true prayer. Learning this deeper prayer life strengthened Mueller's faith.

George Mueller found his faith increasing as he learned to tell his needs to no man, but only God. However, he did not see this as extraordinary faith at all. "Think not that I have faith, Dear Reader...if I were only for one moment left by myself, my faith would utterly fail. It is the same faith which is found in every believer." He made no pretense to a special type

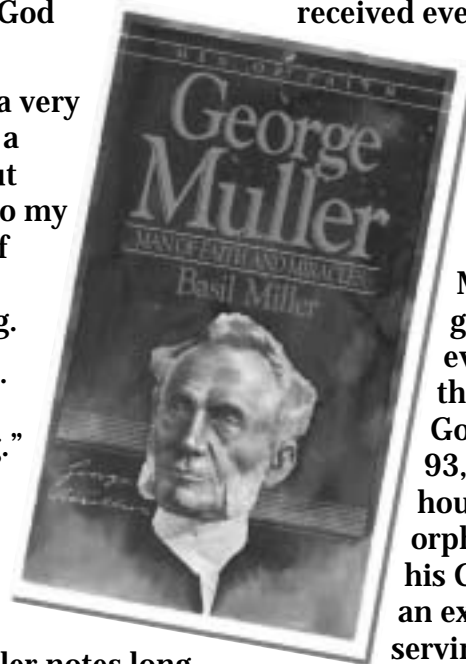
of faith, but merely felt it was the faith that every believer can or does possess.

Mueller is most well known for his great faith in regards to the orphanages he started. The orphan ministry was launched after a time in prayer. "I was led this morning to form a plan for the establishing, upon Scriptural principles, of an institution for the spread of the Gospel at home and abroad. I trust this matter is from the Lord..." Mueller began in faith to pray for the needs of the orphanage. These needs included money, clothing, and a building. In time, he had received everything for the orphanage except

the orphans. He went back in his life to try and figure out why. It was then he realized that he had been praying for all the details of the orphanage but the orphans!

Mueller's work with the orphans grew tremendously as he learned even greater faith in and through the miraculous interventions of God. By the time of his death, at age 93, there were several orphan houses in operation, and countless orphans had been helped. Faith in his God had lead George Mueller to an exciting and fruitful life's journey serving the King.

I consider Mueller a personal challenge. His faith inspires me to press on for a deeper walk with God. Isn't it a deeper walk that calls for more faith? I believe it is. I would encourage you to obtain this book if you don't already have it. And if you have it, read through it once more. May God help us as we continue in the Walk of Faith!/
Details on how this book may be obtained are listed on page 11, 'Recommended Books.'



Standing on the Promises—Russell Kelso Carter

Hymn History by Andrew Rocke

Russell Kelso Carter was born in Baltimore, Maryland on November 18, 1849. He was a star athlete of the Pennsylvania Military Academy, and graduated in 1867. Later he became a professor there, teaching various subjects including chemistry and mathematics.

In 1873, he moved to California and tried sheep ranching. In 1887, he was ordained a Methodist minister, and he finished his career as a doctor in Baltimore. He published textbooks, wrote novels, and helped A.B. Simpson compile *Hymns of the Christian Church* for the Christian Missionary Alliance in 1891. He contributed many of his own tunes and texts to this hymnal.

Standing On the Promises was written and composed in 1886 and was published that same year in *Songs of Perfect Love* which he helped compile. Carter died in Catonsville, Maryland on August 23, 1928.

Reflections on Faith

Standing on the promises is taking God literally and believing Him to do for us as He says He will (Luke 1: 45). He wants us to all be like George Mueller, Hudson Taylor, Gladys Alward, and countless others who have shown steadfast faith and unshakable resolve. Men and woman who took God at His word. God is willing to give each of us that faith, but why don't we have it? God promises us many things, why don't we have them? Is God incapable? Has He forgotten? No. There is no principality or power that can stop Him.

**How He longs for us to
pound on the door of the
wicket gate with the
Rod of Faith!**

Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
Through eternal ages let His praises ring;
Glory in the highest I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God.

Refrain:

Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of God my Savior;
Standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises I now can see
Perfect, present cleansing in the blood for me;
Standing in the liberty where Christ makes free,
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
Bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord,
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
List'ning ev'ry moment to the Spirit's call
Resting in my Savior as my all in all,
Standing on the promises of God.

God is incapable to give us all He has promised only because He has given us our own will, and we would rather trust ourselves and stick to what we are comfortable with. That is where God is stopped from fulfilling His promises. How He longs for us to pound on the door of the wicket gate with the Rod of Faith!¹

We won't read our Bible for more than we think

we have to. We only pray as long as we think necessary so that we can be called Christians. Then we wonder why God has not given us the victorious Christian life He has promised. God will never break down the roadblocks we make. We must remove them. “You have longed for sweet peace, and for faith to increase, and have earnestly, fervently prayed. But you cannot have rest, or be perfectly blest, until all on the altar is laid. Is your all on the altar of sacrifice laid? Your heart, does the Spirit control? You can only be blest and have peace and sweet rest, as you yield Him your body and soul.”²

Only when we are good and dead to our own will and desires can we take God at His word.

Only when we are good and dead to our own will and desires can we take God at His word knowing we have nothing to lose since we are already dead. Then, we can stand on the promises and let Him do all the worrying.

We may be tried and tested, battered and buffeted, but he who has faith walks on with his eyes on the light at the end of the tunnel, knowing that God will not fail him, and praying that he will not fail God.

When Brother Andrew came back from his first trip behind the Iron Curtain, he felt the Lord was calling him to strengthen the churches in those closed countries. Yet he doubted that he, all alone, could do such a seemingly impossibly large task, full of danger. He told his Christian friends, the Whetstras, “But how would I go about strengthening anything? What kind of strength do I have?”

“It was Mrs. Whetstra who understood. ‘No strength at all!’ she answered me joyously. ‘And don’t you know that it is just when we are weakest that God can use us most? Suppose now that it wasn’t you but the Holy Spirit Who had plans behind the Iron Curtain? You talk about strength....’”³

2 Corinthians 9:12—When we are dead, then He is alive! When we are dead to ourselves, then He can demonstrate His power.

How I struggle with dying! How I wish that I were totally dead, so that Christ could live fully in me! Dying is not easy, but I can only perfectly trust Him when I am dead to my own will and desires. When I am at the end of myself, then I am at the beginning of His love and strength that lasts an eternity.

In all of this, I have not given a good definition of what I think faith is. So, I will try to sum it up this way: Faith is that which hears the word of God, seizes it and will not let go until he receives the blessing. (Genesis 32:24–30) The blessing of eternal life, peace of soul, and victory over sin—a life totally dedicated to God for His glory. Dying to self must come in order to receive the blessing.

Let us lift each other up in prayer before God that we may all be living sacrifices full of good works—works of faith in God. (Romans 12:1–2, James 2: 14–26) Then all His promises of victory and peace and blessing can be fulfilled in us and through us as we bless others.

*Where does such blessing and victory lie?
Only in coming to Jesus to die./*

¹ The Audio Pilgrim’s Progress: Christiana’s Story
by Jim Pappas

² “Is Your All On the Altar”—Elisha Hoffman

³ *God’s Smuggler*
by Brother Andrew, John & Elizabeth Sherrill
Chosen Books, Baker Book House Company
P.O. Box 6287, Grand Rapids, MI 49516-6287

In the Next Issue...

Surrender

&

Commitment

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

1 John 5:4 & 5

The just shall live by faith.

Romans 1:17b

In This Issue...

The Walk of Faith

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