

MIGHTY TO SAVE!

WOULD God that the words "Mighty to Save!" were emblazoned in letters of fire across the skies of the sin-sick countries today. There is only One who is mighty to save, and that is Christ the Redeemer. Armament, air forces, manpower, and the ingenuity of military science cannot, save; Christ alone is mighty to save. That is a consolation to the hearts of Christians who know the hope of eternal life, who have the assurance in their hearts of that saving power of the living God.

Salvation is the one word found in the Scriptures that may be considered the all-inclusive word of the Gospel. It takes in the work of redemption from the very first holy desire one has in his heart to seek God, and is consummated at the glorification of the saints of the Most High. The wonderful work of redemption through Christ is salvation. This world needs it! Humanity needs it! Individuals need it!

Repentance is Necessary

The condition of salvation is that the sinner must repent. Jesus said, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3). He is not only able to save those who repent, but He is able to put a desire into the hearts of sinners to repent. That is what we call conviction.

Repentance comes with a burning desire to forsake sin and to turn to God. The secret of Christian victory comes through having a godly sorrow for sin. Godly sorrow produces a change of heart and life. Too many people think they can fix themselves up without ever going down to the bottom and really repenting of their sins with a godly sorrow.

And not only will one who is truly converted to God have repented of his sins, but he will make restitution for the sins he has committed. If a man has stolen something, lied against his neighbour, or wronged another, he will not stop until he has cleaned up the past life. John the Apostle said, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9).

A Never-Changing Gospel

The more you know of the Gospel the more you find it to be the same truth which was always known. It does not change; it does not vary; it does not alter its position. The Gospel stands eternally the same and has a solution for every problem of modern men's lives as well as it had for the ancients. The Gospel of Christ and His salvation is the need of the hour and it is the only remedy for the world's ills.

"I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save" (Isaiah 63:1).

Mighty! Powerful! Mighty to give men new hearts! Mighty to turn them from their sinful desires and give them a leaning toward holy desires — righteous ambitions! It takes God to do that. The prophet of old said, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked." It takes God to change a heart; it takes God to renew a heart; it takes God to re-create a heart. And God does that very thing, for He is mighty to save.

Faith Comes Through Christ

What puts faith into a human soul? It comes through Christ. His very presence inspired faith. When He came into the midst of the people their faith leaped within them; and when they saw Him they felt that He was mighty to save and strong to deliver. Whether it was a bodily disease or whether it was a spiritual condition, they knew that He was able to meet the need.

Devil-possessed men and women found deliverance at His hand; the blind received their sight; deaf ears were opened; fevered brows were cooled; the dead were raised; lepers were cleansed. When He came into their presence, life came also. There is something about God's eternal truth which inspires hope and faith in a human heart — and the world sorely needs it today.

It will take something instead of fun, and levity, and jazz, and burlesques to bring cheer and hope and faith and courage to human hearts. It will take something deeper and richer and fuller than that to bring a

stabilization into the hearts that are rent and torn with fear and disappointment, with sorrow and anguish. It will take Christ! He alone is mighty to save!

He can change human hearts. He can make men who once hated holiness love it, lean toward it, yearn after it, and cry for it. Do you appreciate the Gospel today as you never have before? Do you thank God for a deep-seated faith in your heart, a groundwork that is laid there that has created a ballast in these stormy waters to carry you through the storms to a haven of rest and safety? It is the "faith of our fathers! living still in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword."

A Miracle-Working God

The life of a real Christian, the life of a true believer, is one series of miracles. That statement cannot be challenged. There are too many witnesses who have proved the living, miracle-working power of an omnipotent God. He is the same yesterday and today and forever. He gives us power, as we believe His Word, to brush aside every obstacle that mounts up before us, and to triumph gloriously! In the last Book of the Bible, we read: "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne" (Revelation 3:21).

A Christian Soldier

A believer is made a soldier in a militant army. He faces a deadly foe; he faces powerful forces that will seek to tear him down, destroy his faith, and plunge him back into a cesspool of sin, iniquity, and spiritual darkness. But there is overcoming power for the Christian along the way. Moses beheld the burning bush. The unusual thing about this burning bush was not the fact that it was burning, but the fact that it burned and was not consumed. That is the miracle of the Christian. He lives, he moves, he has his being in the burning radiance of God's love and of God's glory.

The Christian keeps his place in the world, and the world beholds him and glorifies the Father which is in Heaven. Christ's exhortation to believers is: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Why? How? Because man sees your good works; he sees your holy life; he sees your consistent living; he knows your testimony. Your life does not belie your testimony; he knows that you are God's child.

It was said of the Apostles that they had been with Jesus and learned of Him, because of the radiance of His life in theirs. That is what the world is looking for today. They are looking for a reproduction of the life of Christ in that of the believer and in the disciple who is a follower of Christ.

We are not imitations of Christ; we are reproductions. His righteousness is not imputed to us; it is imparted to us — and we become a living, vital part of the true body of Jesus Christ. If we are Christians we are living realities of the life of Christ here in this present world. He can keep His people holy as well as make them holy, because He is mighty to save.

Strong to Deliver

We read in Jude 24, 25: "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, "To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever."

Our God is not an indulgent weakling who cannot help the one who is tempted. The Christian's God is mighty to save and strong to deliver. He does not save a man and then let him drift on his own resources. Not at all! When Christ saves you He prepares you for a conflict; He gives you something to do. Of course, it is not to lie down and be carried to the skies on flowery beds of ease; but He takes you into His armoury and puts armour upon you. He gives you something to do and enables you to go forth and do it. You will fight the good fight of faith; you will lay hold on eternal life. You will get a grip on the eternal promise of God. It will carry you through, no matter what the conflict.

Temptation may strike you in an unexpected hour — at a moment when you think of it the least — but the power of God's promises which have been laid in your heart will give you strength to surmount every difficulty or temptation.

Proved the Power of God

What is so very marvellous is to see young men and women at their work, in the business world and in the industrial field, proving the power of God to keep. Though they often are surrounded by unbelief, ridicule, and sin, God has proved mighty to save and mighty to keep. God can make you holy! Yes; and God can keep you holy! That is the wonderful part about this salvation. When the Gospel is rooted and grounded in your heart, when you have God's Word written and engraved upon the fleshy tables of your heart, you can go out and face the difficulties of life and go forward with a conqueror's tread, knowing that He will keep that which you have committed unto Him. The Word says: "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6).

What encouragement these promises bring to us! Pray on, believer! You have something to guarantee an answer to your prayers. You have the immutable, incontestable Word of Almighty God's promises. No enemy will ever overthrow that; no enemy will ever succeed in defeating you so long as you are standing upon God's promises. When you get a grip upon the Hand that rules the universe you can see things come to pass.

Prayer Changes Things

The truth, "Prayer changes things," has been realized in the lives of hundreds of people for many years past; and Christians everywhere are praying today. Their prayers are going up to God in behalf of someone; and God is answering those prayers. If you have a problem of your own, only believe and you shall see the glory of God. He is mighty to save.