

# COME UNTO ME

by

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## CHAPTER THREE

### THE GREAT QUESTION

**“Dost thou believe on the Son of God?”** (John 9:35)

John 9 relates the extraordinary cure of the man born blind. By this miracle, Jesus declared Himself to be the Son of God with power. The religious authorities of that day, refusing to recognize the claims of this mighty visitor from heaven were envious, their envy resulting in bitter malice.

The parents of the man, pressed by these misguided leaders were fearful, evasive, guilty of duplicity. But the healed man was honest, open, brave, grateful, confessing. For this confession, he was expelled from the synagogue. Jesus, sympathizing with the man, went to search for him. Upon finding him, the Saviour proposed this question, **“Dost thou believe on the Son of God?”** The man avowed his faith, and went away, not only healed in his body, but saved in his soul.

Jesus is still in the healing and the saving business. By nature we are all blinded and diseased by sin. We need the radical remedy that only the Son of God can apply. We need the spiritual operation that only the Great Physician can undertake. Our need will not be supplied; we shall die in our sins, unless we turn the case over to the Master. We shall not do so until we are believing in Him, acknowledging Him as the Son of God. Hence, this question is just as timely, just as vital today as it ever was.

Consider with me then the question and its only acceptable answer from these views: *The Object of Faith*, *the Nature of Faith* and *The Effects of Faith*. Herein is the substance of all Christianity, of all doctrine, of all theology. By our answer to this question, we stand or fall; we are saved or damned; we rejoice in heaven or are ruined in hell.

*The Object of Faith* is the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ.

That is where so very many of us fail. We look to the church, to the Christians, to our own weaknesses, even to our understandings and interpretations of the Bible. Jesus only is the anchor for our faith and for our souls. He is different from any other being in all the world. He is a glorious and complex personage. He possesses two distinct natures, human and divine. He is both God and man.

*The Bible says so.* Hear its exalted strains. **“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.”** And again, **“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God . . . No man hath seen God at any time: the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.”**

To Him the Bible attributes perfections that can only belong to God.

- There is *eternal preexistence*, **“Before Abraham was, I am.”**
- There is *unchangeableness*, **“Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, to day, and for ever.”**
- There is *almighty power*. He is called **“Christ, the power of God.”**
- There is *infinite wisdom*. He is called the **“Light of the world.”**
- There is *infinite love*, **“Ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.”**

*His glorious life says so.* He was perfect man as well as very God. Who, of all the children of men could or can throw out the tremendous challenge, **“Which one of you convicteth me of sin?”**

- He assumed our nature in all respects.
- He became flesh of our flesh, and bone of our bone.
- He knew pain and weariness of body.
- He needed bread, and meat, and water to sustain his physical self.
- He slept the sleep of utter fatigue.

But there was more to him than that. His human body was animated by this divine nature. He was a Godlike man. His mind was endowed with faculties far above ours. That is what makes him so very dear. As a man he sorrowed, feared, hated, loved. In our nature, he undertook our cause. He suffered and endured punishment because of our sins. In our nature he was raised from the dead, and is exalted to God’s right hand.

*His miraculous works proclaim him the Son of God.* These could never have been done by a person inferior to God. He set aside or superseded the laws of nature. He knew the innermost thoughts of all about him without their having uttered a word. He healed the sick. He raised the dead. He provided food. Finally, he proved his power to forgive our sins. Such is the wondrous object of our faith.

But what about *the Nature of Faith*.

What is faith? Hear me! Here is where so very many stumble, fall, and come too dreadfully short.

- Faith is not merely giving credence to the Scriptures.
- It is not merely confessing the doctrines of some particular creed.
- It is not a mere profession, a hazy, mental assent to a set of stated facts.

An innocent child can go that far on the statement of parents or teachers.

*Faith is confidence, trust, reliance upon the sacrificial death of Christ for salvation and everlasting life.* It is the act of the heart—of the heart, I say, by which we welcome him into our souls. There are various terms for it in the Bible. It is called beholding him, or looking to him. It is coming to Christ, laying hold of him, receiving him, resting on him. He is called the bread of life and the water of life. Faith is participation, and is termed as eating and drinking.

*Faith is ever preceded by a deep sense and conviction of sinfulness.* Quit looking at yourself, minimizing your faults, maximizing your virtues. Quit comparing yourself with the hulks of tainted clay about you. Look to Jesus! Look on Jesus! The beauty of his holiness, the utter perfections of his nature will very soon convince you of your absolute unworthiness. You are a transgressor of God's law! You are under condemnation! You must cry like the Philippian jailer, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

*Faith implies a knowledge of Christ as the Saviour.* Paul was right when he pled, "**How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?**"

There can be no gospel faith without gospel knowledge. That is the purpose of radio broadcasts of the gospel. That is the purpose of revivals. That is the reason for all of our striving, and pleading, and agonizing, and advertising, and beseeching, that you come and hear about this Jesus who alone can save you.

- You must know Jesus Christ as the prophet sent of God to reveal Him to you.
- You must know Jesus Christ as the priest, as the mediator sent to offer a sacrifice for you on the altar of God's justice.
- You must know Jesus Christ as the very atonement, the very victim, thus offered.
- You must know Him as the King of kings, the Lord of lords, the Master of your life.

*Faith leads to the assent of the mind to Jesus Christ in all of His saving power.* It leads to dependence upon him. It is venturing your soul upon His person and promises.

- It is an appropriation of the offers of His great mercies.
- It is an act of the will by which you turn all of your life over to him who loved you and gave Himself for you.
- It is the relinquishing of any and every other hope for this one sure ark of safety.

Now hear the last word: *The Effects of Faith, the Results of Faith*, "**Dost thou believe on the Son of God?**"

If you really do, if you have New Testament faith, the effects will be mental comfort, soul peace, heart satisfaction, holy fruits. There will be such a change in you that the world will know without being told, that something drastic has happened in your life. These outward effects, however, are based on, and are the results of inward mercies.

First, if you really believe on the Son of God, *there will be complete justification*. There will be a free, full acquittal from all the charges, the condemnations, the curses of the law.

**“Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: and by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses”** (Acts 13:38, 39).

**“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”** (Romans 5:1).

**“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit”** (Romans 8:1).

That is the guarantee issued to every child of God. Christ is the Prince of Peace, the Author of Peace. His gift to all believers is the enjoyment of peace. What a troubled world this is, what turmoil, what unrest! In Jesus Christ there is no anxiety, no dread, no restlessness, nor torment. The mind, the heart, the soul, are comfortable, joyous, serene, and calm.

There will then be *the adoption into the family of God*.

**“But as many as receive him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name”** (John 1:12).

**“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”**

To be a child of God; to know the care and keeping of the everlasting arms, the source of the everlasting mercies; to have Jesus Christ as our elder brother; to feel that God has made himself responsible absolutely for all of our needs—surely these are blessings for which we may pray devoutly.

There will also be *the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit*. He will continually witness with our spirits that we are the blood-bought heirs of God, joint heirs with Christ. He will be our Comforter, our Helper, our Sanctifier, our Strength. He will make Jesus real to us and in us.

Oh, the mighty power of submitting the reins of our tempest tossed lives to the unerring, waiting, willing hands of God’s vicegerent here on earth.

There is, last of all, *the hope, nay, the assurance of heaven, of a mansion in glory, a home in bliss, where we shall reign and rejoice with the Lord forever*.

That is the capstone of faith! The riches—beyond riches—of God’s infinite grace.

I could tell you much more concerning the wonderful results of faith in the new birth, the new creation, the transformation of life, of the conscientious regard for the authority of Christ that fills us. His laws are admired.

- There is a desire to please him.
- There is a passion to promote his glory in the world.
- There is a great love for his cause.

Finally, what shall I say to you about your *assured victory over the world*?

The text is personal. “**Dost thou believe in the Son of God?**” It is not related to others, but to each of us. Ultimately we are responsible for number one. Again it does not ask about our wisdom, or our opinion, but our faith. It does not ask about our past, or our future, but our present, this moment. Now, do we believe in the Son of God? Do you believe on the Son of God? Now!

If you believe, thank God for the means which brought you into that happy state.

Faith is not natural to you. You were not born in it or with it. By nature you were an unbeliever, far from God, a stranger to His Son. A great change has taken place. The eyes of your understanding have been enlightened. You now behold the glory of Christ. You are interested in Him.

He is your Saviour. He will take pleasure throughout time and eternity to make you happy.

Rejoice in all this, but, oh, I beseech you, do not stop here. If Satan cannot ruin your soul, he will wreck your life. You now have Christ. Christ Jesus has you. Go on with Him.

- Go on with Him in constant faith.
- Go on with Him in ceaseless prayer.
- Go on with Him in feeding on His Word.
- Go on with Him in His blessed ordinances.
- Go on with Him in obedience.
- Go on with Him in witness bearing.
- Go on with Him conquering and to conquer.

In this way, you will have abiding assurance, overflowing joy. In this way, your life will tell for the most to the most. In this way you will be well pleasing to Him. In this you will be treasuring up rewards for eternity. Oh, may God lead you all out into the depths of faith.

~ end of chapter 3 ~

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