

## **HOLDING FAST by Sarah Ann Freeman Mix (known as Mrs. Edward Mix)**

LET us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering, for He is faithful that promised. Heb. 10:23.

THE apostle Paul had been telling the Hebrew brethren how inferior were the rites, ordinances and sacrifices of the law to the sacrifice of Christ, that the law had only "a shadow of good things to come," and that Christ was a perfect sacrifice; then, after telling them about the "new and living way" provided once for all, he exhorts them in the language of the text to "hold fast" the profession of their faith. But he says still more, exhort one another.

Then let those of us who believe in "the faith once delivered to the saints", who believe in the diversity of the gifts of the Spirit, and have experienced the wondrous workings of God's power, or have been eyewitnesses of this truth, let us exhort One another to "hold fast the profession of our faith.

When we read the I Corinthians 12 and see the different gifts to the Church, can any honest thinker close his eyes and ears and say they are not for us? Is there any place between the covers of the Bible where we are told that these gifts are taken away from the Church? In the ninth verse of this same chapter we read of the gift of faith and the gift

of healing, and Paul, in speaking to the Corinthians, says: "Now, concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant." I think if Paul were to visit the churches of today he would find them very ignorant concerning these spiritual gifts, and why? It is not because knowledge and wisdom are not on the advance, but because they close their eyes to the truth of the Gospel and call it fanaticism.

We read in James 5 "The prayer of faith shall save the sick. "To whom shall we pray? To God, and He says He will raise up the sick "and if they have committed sins they shall be forgiven them." (James 5:14-15). Who is it that forgives sin? You very readily say that God alone can forgive sin. Who is it that raises up the sick in answer to prayer? You answer, God, and yet when your friends and neighbors around you are sick for weeks and months and years, and the "arm of flesh" has proved too short to help them, you do not think of applying to the "Great Physician" with faith in His power and willingness to heal.

And when the Lord impresses upon the mind of one of His suffering children that "the prayer of faith shall save the sick" and He leads him to send for one of God's faithful followers, who is "holding fast the profession of his faith" to follow out the

command in James 5, to anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord and to offer believing prayer, and when God answers that prayer and raises up the sick one to His glory and praise, you are ready to call it all a humbug and close your eyes to the facts.

Oh, let us who believe in God's precious truths "hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering". Let us not doubt His word, let us put away all fear, and be "sound in the faith," knowing that "He is faithful that promised." May the dear reader lay aside all preconceived opinions, all traditions of early training that have warped his mind, and believe the whole Gospel. Believe God to be true though it prove every man to be a liar.

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