

RAPTURING FAITH

WHAT IS IT?

WHAT DOES IT CONSIST OF?

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Knowing that we are in the Rapture Age, and knowing that the Scripture clearly states that we shall receive nothing from the Lord except we believe Him for it (James 1:6-7), then the wise man will do as the Apostle Paul advised and **“Examine himself, whether he be in the faith, he will prove his own self.”** (II Cor. 13:5) Does the Bible leave us in the dark concerning what this Rapturing Faith is? How could we suppose that God would require it of us, then not shine His powerful light of revelation on the subject? This He has faithfully done, and we will discover it in His Word.

The very foundation of this glorious, life-saving faith is the Cross of Calvary, where the God-Man drank the very last drop of God’s wrath from that bitter cup. You are aware that in our courts of law a verdict of “Not Guilty” amounts to an acquittal and the person who was charged is immediately released. This is no different than the teaching of the Gospel. An announcement of “Not Guilty” by the Most High Judge amounts to the prisoner’s total Justification. The requirement for such a sentence being handed down is that the prisoner believes and accepts it! The Cross is our evidence that our sin-debt was paid. We are acquitted!

The Gospel reads on this wise, **“He that believeth on Him is not condemned.”** (John 3:18) The Holy Ghost has stated the terms of Salvation and Rapturing Faith in very plain terms, yet it is true that man’s blinded eyes must be opened by his maker or else he cannot see. We know that God has ordained that by the foolishness of preaching men are to be saved. The purpose of this sermon is to enlighten the mind and prepare it to receive revelation from

the Spirit of God concerning Rapturing Faith. Rapturing Faith can also be correctly called “Perfect Faith”, for a faith that takes one to Eternal Life is, for a fact, perfect!

We will keep our terms simple, so that the unlearned may understand, and the learned will also see. So very many have taught on Faith, and it has seemed to most, a deep mystery. So much so, that the soul trembles at being told it must believe or be damned. **“He that believeth not shall be damned.”** (Mark 16:16)

All the while, faith is so simple that a child lays hold of it while grown-ups search and fear. May the Lord Jesus keep us from adding to the confusion about this thing of faith, for we know that its very simplicity makes it hard to teach.

We have said that the foundation of faith is the Cross of Christ, and what happened there. If we would have Rapturing Faith, we must see our Substitute hanging on the Cross in His Perfect Righteousness, having all His precious life kept the Law without blemish, obeying His Father without a failure. We must see that this was done, not for Himself, but for you and I. We could not keep the Law; He kept it for us. We could not obey perfectly, but His obedience was credited to our account. We are imperfect in our flesh man, but He was a perfect man in flesh like ours. Our faith then has nothing at all to do with anything pertaining to our-

selves. The object of our faith is outside ourselves, it is in the Man, Jesus Christ. We are told to **“Look away (from self) to Jesus!”** (Heb. 12:2)

A great failing with us Christians is that we confuse faith in ourselves with faith in Jesus. Have you ever been disappointed in yourself? Surely! All Born-Again people are often so. The reason being we had confidence in what we could do in the way of keeping the Law so that a failure causes what we thought was faith in God to leak out. But what if we had the revelation that God knew, because of our sex-birth, we could never keep His Holy Law Standard perfectly? I say, what if we understood that His plan included a Law of Sin in our members that rendered us incapable of keeping all the Law?

What if we understood that in order for Him to fulfill His plan to be a Saviour, he had to allow us to be born in such a fashion as to be lost, and lost to the extent that we could never make Heaven by our own works? To understand that this is exactly what our Lord has done will be a giant step toward believing that He continued with a plan that would totally deliver us from our predicament! That plan was that He, Himself, by becoming a Perfect Sacrifice, gave that life as payment for sin in our stead.

It was God, Himself, nailed to the tree, pouring out His life for sinners such as you and I. Hear now the

powerful revelation that there is not three Persons in the Godhead, but one Person, one God! And this one God did not send an angel to pay our price, but He came Himself! Do not be misled by the Scripture that says the Son came, for Father and Son is the same Person. Neither do you need to try and reason this out that Father, Son and Holy Ghost are One, simply believe the Scripture.

I Cor. 8:4, "...There is none other God but one." Eph. 4:5-6, "One Lord, one Faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." Gal. 3:20, "Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one." Mark 12:29, "...The first of all commandments is, hear O Israel; the Lord our God is one Lord." John 10:30, "I and My Father are one." James 2:19, Thou believest that there is One God; thou doest well, the devils also believe and tremble." Col. 2:9, "For in Him (Christ) dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily."

Do you need more witnesses? There are more, but let these 7 witnesses settle it in your mind forever that God, Himself, died in our place! God and Christ are one!

Now if you have come this far, let us go further. If in fact it was the Great Judge, Himself, who knew all things from the beginning to the end, did He not also know exactly how much suffering it would take to pay for my sins and yours? Did He not know to the very second how long He must hang there to make full payment? Was the Life of God in the hands of Satan, or did He say, "**No man (or devil) taketh My Life, but I lay it down.**" At the right moment, when in His own infinite mind He was satisfied that full payment had been made, He cried, "**It is finished!**"

Do we realize the meaning of these three words? Man's sin-debt

was paid, the suffering was over, and He had kept His own pledge. He had come down to do the will of the Father, and He knew what the will of the Father was, because He was the Father! With those three words, He proclaimed that He had obtained ETERNAL REMDEMPTION for us. (Heb. 9:12) Not just redemption for a certain period of time, but ETERNAL REDEMPTION! Eternal redemption reaches back to wipe out all past sins, it erases present sin, and extends to all future sins. By HIS OWN BLOOD, He entered in once into the Holy Place. It is truly finished, we are acquitted! The Judge of the universe has said so!

There will never be a need for any further payment. The Blood of God, Himself, being offered one time was enough. That is the power contained in the Blood of God. Justice dealt with Christ as though He had been the sinner. He was not a sinner, but our sins were laid on Him, so much so, that they were no longer on us, but altogether on Him. Dear Friends, the sins could not be in two places at once, and the powerful type of Christ carrying our sins away is seen in the *scapegoat*. (Lev. 16:20-22) The goat bore on him all the sins of the Israelites after Aaron had laid his hands on him and confessed their sins; the goat was taken into the wilderness and loosed. The implication being that the sins died there.

The Gate of Mercy has been opened wide, and over its door it is written, "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Who is it of us that does not need to be washed? Our failures are no reason why we should not be washed, but the more reason why we should! Some may argue that their continued failures have removed their chance of the bath, but notice our above Scripture, Jesus came

down to save us sinners! In our little town, the government offers commodities to the poor, but what if a man should say, "I am too poor to receive help!" Does he not know that the help is for those exactly like himself? Do we not know that Grace is offered to those exactly like ourselves, who have need of it? Our blackness only qualifies us for the washing.

As soon as a man believes on Jesus Christ, his sins are gone from him, and they are gone forever. They are blotted out now. Notice the Scripture, "**He that believeth on Him is not condemned.**" (John 3:18) He IS NOT NOW condemned. It does not say he will not be condemned at the Judgment, but that he is NOW out from under condemnation. Although the Devil still brings the feeling of condemnation, it is false, it is a lie, and we simply refuse it. "**Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's Elect?**" It does not say there is no sin in our members, but rather who shall try and charge it against one whose debt has been so fully paid. The Blood has so completely washed out our sins that not one spot can be found. They are dropped into the big washtub of Clorox Bleach that our Prophet spoke of, and destroyed moment by moment, as we have need.

We do not stand before God only partly innocent, but as perfectly so. Our sins are not just covered over, they are blotted out. We are not half-washed, but we are whiter than snow. Our sins are not just put out of sight; they are cast into the depth of the sea. They are not merely gone as far as the East is From the West, but they are gone forever. As Br. Branham said, "There are no black white birds; there are no drunken sober men!" In the Old Testament, the Israelites needed a new lamb for the next day's sin, but this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice, sat down at

the right Hand of God, having said, **"It is finished** (forever)."

God struck our sins their death blow, and the blow fell upon Himself. Do you suppose that after dying one second at a time for six hours, He does not realize that the debt is paid? Do we not understand that every work of God is perfect? How much more then did He see to it that His work in the payment of our sins was perfect! The work was so greatly important that He could not trust it to another. He would come Himself and be certain that the debt was paid in full. He would leave no ground for the accuser of the Brethren to argue from, and once the Bride catches the revelation we are striving to show, the enemy will have lost all his ground in them also! Our acquittal is an eternal work of God; it can never be undone!

The Scripture only says our sins are gone because it is a fact that they are gone. The Bible only says we need a Redeemer because we need one, and it only says He came and redeemed us because He did it. The Bible says we are accepted in the Beloved because we are accepted. We do not doubt that we have sinned; now why should we doubt that He saw them and came to deliver us from them? Is that not the whole theme of the precious Gospel that the Creator wanted to also be a Saviour, and planned to be one? The Saviour's Blood has set us free from our every sin; we have a right now to claim our full pardon. There is no fiery sword to fall on us, it fell on the Redeemer. Justice cannot fall on the innocent. That is how we know that our sins were laid on Christ. He was MADE TO BE SIN, who knew no sin. Because He was MADE TO BE SIN, we were MADE TO BE AS RIGHTEOUS AS GOD. (II Cor. 5:21) Whether or not we *feel it*, God declares it!

All the *blessings* that we could have had if we had kept the Law perfectly are now ours, because Jesus kept it for us. All the *love* that a perfect obedience would have earned us now belongs to us. It is so because Jesus was perfectly obedient on our behalf. He credited all His works to our account. His payment for our sins was not partial; therefore, our forgiveness is not partial. Think on this, our forgiveness is equal to the things He suffered. Now sit down at the foot of the Cross and feel the gore from His wounds drop on you. Hear His groans as He pushes His weight up by His nail-torn feet in order to relieve chest cramps, so as to catch another breath! Look at His lips, cracked open by death-dealing thirst caused by loss of blood. Look at the Scripture that says **"My tongue cleaveth to My jaws."** (Because of the deadly thirst) (Ps. 22:15) Read where He declares that **"All My bones are out of joint."** (Ps. 22:14)

Have you ever had a bone out of its joint? People faint from the pain of just one joint dislocated, and He testified that all His bones were out of joint. Read where He declared that there was none to help. For six hours the pain was killing Him and there was none to help. Hear Him as He cries, **"My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?"** The MAN part of Him cried out for relief, but the Spirit of God in Him denied that it could come. He was born to die for that six hours and death would be His only relief. There He hangs, behold the wonder of it; God dying in a man's body, the just for the unjust to bring us to God.

In the midst of such physical suffering, add this, that all who saw Him laughed Him to scorn, and shot out their lip, saying, let God deliver Him since He delighted in Him. (Ps. 22:7-9) The people He was dying to save actually laughed at His horrible

suffering. What a terrible, cold-hearted, heartless thing to do! But wait, Dear Friend, is it not almost as heartless to disbelieve what He did to save us? Do we not make His death to be of no avail when we refuse to claim our pardon and continue to walk under condemnation? When we do not, by faith, lay claim to our healing, do we not make His beating in the Judgment Hall to have been for nothing? Do we not understand that not only do we have perfect right to believe every promise, but we have been **COMMANDED** to do so? In **Luke 14:16-24** is the story of this command. Verse 17 says God's servant was to **BID THEM COME** to the great Supper. You may say that to be "Bidden" to come is only an invitation, but not so! If you follow the story through, you will see that it amounted to a command, because Verse 24 says of those who were bidden and did not come, that they were guilty of disobedience, for it was said, "They shall not taste My Supper!" They would not obey, and must pay the price of unbelief. How many today are still paying the price for their unbelief?

What is the Great Supper? It is to feast on the **WORD OF GOD**. **"Where the carcass is there will the eagles be gathered together."** (Matt. 24:28) we are invited to "Come and dine, the Master calleth." I would change one word in that great old song. I would say the Master **COMMANDETH!** How can we be wrong by obeying His command to come to the **WORD** and **BELIEVE** it? We cannot be! But we can be very wrong by trying to excuse ourselves from coming to the Feast. **"Man SHALL NOT LIVE by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the Mouth of God."** (Matt. 4:4)

Again we ask the question, what is Rapturing Faith? Is it an emotional

high, where we hear the thunder of His Voice audibly? Is it to see His great Light flashing as the lightning? Is it to have goose bumps rise on our skin, or feel the hair on our neck rise up? Is it to feel His presence so real that we are moved to tears? Is it to speak in tongues, or work some spiritual gift? Is it to feel the floor shake when we pray? These things may be well and good, but we may experience them all and not have Rapturing Faith!

What then is this Faith of which we speak? Again, we say that the simplicity of it causes many to overlook its reality. The light has come but many remain blind. May the Lord help me to make the simplest statements possible, ones that will match the simplicity of the subject at hand! Rapturing Faith is nothing more or less than the spiritual knowledge that our fellowship with our Creator has been altogether restored. It is to understand that we have been redeemed by His own sacrifice. It is to see that our fall into sin was not our choice; we had no say in the matter of our sexual birth, which birth produced our fallen nature. Therefore, since we fell by the first Adam's actions, we can be saved by the second Adam's actions, and legally so!

Rapturing Faith is to simply believe in the Plan God made to be-

come a Saviour, and to know that He completed His plan. But we must state what it is to truly believe in Him. It is not just to *say* He is Lord and Saviour, but it is to trust Him completely and make Him the Lord of our daily lives. If we believe on Him and what He did, we cannot go to Hell. It cannot be that we accept His Sacrifice and yet that soul dies for whom the sacrifice was made. The Lord cannot read our pardon, written in His own Blood then let us miss the Rapture. God abides by His own Law of Substitution, the Innocent One dying for the guilty ones.

Rapturing Faith is to believe that God has justified us ungodly ones. Rapturing Faith has not one hope of Heaven by any way except by the way of the Cross. Rapturing Faith clings to God's "**Gift of Righteousness**" while still having the Law of Sin in our members. (Rom. 5:17)

We are guilty but innocent! The boldest faith on Earth is that faith which will believe he is sinless while still living in a sinful body. We are told to "Come boldly to the Throne of Grace." To come *boldly* is not to come *arrogantly*, but *confidently*. The confidence being in the work done by another, and credited to our account!

Surely, we can believe what is true, and the truest thing in Heaven,

or on Earth, is the finished work of Christ on the Cross. We are to believe the witness of God just as we would a trusted and faithful family member. Rapturing Faith is simply believing that Jesus Christ did what He said He has done and expecting Him to take us out in a Rapture when He comes because of it. This is Saving Faith, and he that has this revealed knowledge has Eternal Life.

What ever may be our failures as we strive to obey, however hard our trials may be, and however dark the nights of our depression, He that believeth on Christ Jesus is not condemned, and shall never come into condemnation! We simply trust in Him and be at peace. Eat His Word, Bride of Christ, and the strength of it will give you this simple but powerful faith. A hungry man eats and receives strength, though he may not understand anything about nutrition. Another man may understand the body's use of food, but if he does not eat, he will die. Our spiritual nutrition lies in the stories of the gospel, so eat daily. HE THAT BELIEVETH ON HIM HATH ETERNAL LIFE. Remember, it's almost over! Amen.

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