Chapter Ten

Faithful

Now as Christian went on his way, he came to a little hill which was placed there on purpose so that pilgrims could see what was before them. Christian went up and, looking forward, saw Faithful traveling ahead of him. Then Christian shouted, “Wait up! Wait, and I will be your companion.” At that, Faithful looked behind him. And Christian cried out again, “Wait, wait! until I catch up to you!”

Faithful. “No, I am running for my life; the Avenger of Blood is behind me!” At this, Christian was somewhat moved. So he exerted all the energy he could and quickly caught up to Faithful, and even passed him, so that the last was first. Then Christian smiled with pride, because he had gotten ahead of his brother. But not watching where he was going, he suddenly stumbled and fell and could not get up until Faithful came to help him.

Then I saw in my dream that the two of them traveled on together with love in their hearts. They talked about all the things that had happened to them on their pilgrimage. Christian began:

Chr. “My honored and beloved brother, Faithful. I am glad that I have caught up with you, and that God has so tempered our spirits that we can walk as companions on this pleasant path.”

Faith. “I thought, dear friend, how good it would have been to have traveled with you from our town, but you started before me. Therefore, I was forced to come this portion of the trip alone.”

Chr. “How long did you stay in the City of Destruction before you set out after me on your pilgrimage?”

Faith. “Until I could stay no longer. There was a lot of talk right after you left, that our city would, in a short time, be burned to the ground with fire from heaven.”

Chr. “What! Did your neighbors talk like this?”

Faith. “Yes. For a while everyone was talking about it.”

Chr. “And are you the only one who came out to escape the danger?”

Faith. “As I said, though there was a lot of talk about our city, I do not think they really believed it would be destroyed. For in the heat of argument, I heard some of them speak of you and your journey with derision - they called this your pilgrimage. But I believed, and still do, that our city will be destroyed with fire and brimstone from above. Therefore, I have escaped.”

Chr. “Did you hear anything about my neighbor Pliable?”
Faith. “Yes, Christian. I heard that he followed you until he came to the Slough of Despond, where, as some said, he fell in. But he did not want it known. I am sure he was covered with dirt from the Slough.”

Chr. “What did his neighbors say to him?”

Faith. “He has been ridiculed by all sorts of people since he returned. Some mock and despise him, and hardly anyone will give him any work. He is now seven times worse than if he had never left the city.”

Chr. “Why should they be against him like this, since they also despise the way that he abandoned?”

Faith. “‘Oh,’ they say, ‘hang him: he is a turncoat; he was not true to his profession!’ I think God has stirred up even his enemies to deride him and make him a proverb, because he forsook the way.”

Chr. “Did you talk with him before you left?”

Faith. “I met him once in the street. But he was on the other side of the road, and he looked away like one who is ashamed of what he has done. So I did not speak to him.”

Chr. “Well, when I first set out, I had hope for that man; but now I fear he will perish when the city is overthrown. It is happening to him according to the true proverb: ‘A dog returns to its own vomit,’ and, ‘a sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire.’

Faith. “I have the same fears for him. But who can prevent the inevitable?”

Chr. “Well, neighbor Faithful, let’s stop talking about him and turn to other things that are on our minds. Tell me about the things you experienced as you traveled. I know you met with some things. If not, it should be written up as a miracle.”

Faith. “I escaped the Slough that I perceive you fell into, and made it to the gate without that danger. However, I met one whose name was Wanton and she almost caused me harm.”

Chr. “It is good that you escaped her net. Joseph was confronted by her, and he escaped as you did. But it almost cost him his life. What did she do to you?”

1. “Stern discipline awaits him who leaves the path; he who hates correction will die” (Prov. 15:10).

2. “Of them the proverbs are true: ‘A dog returns to its vomit,’ and, ‘A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud’” (II Pet. 2:22).

3. “One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. She caught him by his cloak and said, ‘Come to bed with me!’ But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house. When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, she called her household servants. ‘Look,’ she said to them, ‘this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me,
Faith. “You cannot believe what a flattering tongue she has! She tempted me to turn aside with her, promising me all kinds of pleasure.”

Chr. “But she did not promise you the pleasure of a good conscience.”

Faith. “You know what I mean, all carnal and fleshly pleasure.”

Chr. “Thank God you have escaped her! ‘The mouth of an adulteress is a deep pit; he who is under the Lord’s wrath will fall into it’”

Faith. “I do not know whether I completely escaped her or not.”

Chr. “Why? You did not consent to her desires, did you?”

Faith. “No. I did not defile myself. For I remembered an old writing that I had seen, which said, ‘Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave.’ So I shut my eyes, because I did not want to be captivated by her looks. Then she spoke bitterly to me, and I went on my way.”

Chr. “Did you meet with any other assault as you traveled?”

Faith. “When I came to the foot of the hill called Difficulty, I ran into a very old man who asked me who I was and where I was going. I told him I was a pilgrim going to the Celestial City. Then the old man said, ‘You look like an honest fellow. Will you consider staying with me for the wages I will pay?’ Then I asked him his name and where he lived. He said his name was the First Adam, and that he lived in the town of Deceit. Then I asked him about his occupation and what wages he was willing to pay. He told me that his work was very enjoyable and that I would be his heir. I further asked him about his home and the servants he had. He told me his house was maintained with all the delicacies in the world. His servants were those that he had sired. Then I asked how many children he had. He said he only had three daughters: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. He even said I could marry them all, if I wanted to. Then I asked him how long he wanted me to live with him. He told me he wanted me to live with him...”

but I screamed. When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house” (Gen. 39:11-15).


5. “Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave” (Prov. 5:5).

“I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl” (Job 31:1).

6. “You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires” (Eph. 4:22).

7. “For everything in the world - the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does - comes not from the Father but from the world” (I Jn. 2:16).
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until he died.”

**Chrz.** “What conclusion did you both come to?”

**Faith.** “At first, I found myself leaning toward a decision to stay with the man, because I thought he spoke well. But as I was talking with him, I saw some words written on his forehead, ‘Put off the old man with his deeds.’”

**Chrz.** “What happened next?”

**Faith.** “It dawned on me that, whatever he said, and however he flattered, he would sell me for a slave when he took me home. So I persuaded him not to talk any further, because I would not come near the door of his house. Then he berated me and told me that he would send someone after me that would make my journey extremely bitter. So I turned to leave him. Just as I turned to go, I felt him grab me. He gave me such a deadly jerk back, that I thought he had pulled me apart. This made me cry out, ‘O wretched man!’8 So I went on my way up the hill.

“Now, when I was about half-way up the hill, I looked behind and saw someone coming after me as fast as the wind. He overtook me just about the place where the bench is located.”

**Chrz.** “Right there I sat down to rest. But I was overcome with sleep, and there I lost this roll.”

**Faith.** “Good brother, listen to me. As soon as the man overtook me, he spoke badly to me and struck me. He knocked me down and left me for dead. When I came to again, I asked him why he treated me this way. He said it was because I was secretly inclined to the First Adam. With that, he struck me with another deadly blow to the chest and beat me back, so that I lay unconscious at his feet. When I came to, I cried out for mercy. But he said, ‘I do not know how to show mercy,’ and with that knocked me down again. He would have, no doubt, finished me off, except someone came by and made him stop.”

**Chrz.** “Who made him stop?”

**Faith.** “I did not know Him at first. But as he went by, I saw the holes in his hands and his side. Then I concluded that he was our Lord. So I went up the hill.”

**Chrz.** “The man who overtook you was Moses. He does not spare anyone; neither does he know how to show mercy to those who transgress his law.”

**Faith.** “I know it very well. It was not the first time that he has met with me. He came to me when I lived in the security of my home and told me he would burn my house down if I stayed there.”

**Chrz.** “Did you see the house that stood on top of that hill, on the side where Moses met you?”

**Faith.** “Yes, and the lions too. I think the lions were asleep, because it was about noon. And

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8. “What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?” (Rom. 7:24).
because I had so much of the day ahead of me, I passed by the porter and came down the hill.”

Chr. “He told me that he saw you go by. But I wish you had stopped at the house. They would have shown you so many rare things that you would have remembered them until the day you died. But please tell me, did you not meet anyone in the Valley of Humiliation?”

Faith. “Yes. I met with one named Discontent, who tried to persuade me to go back with him. His reason was that the valley was altogether without honor. He told me also that if I went that way, I would disobey all my friends: Pride, Arrogance, Self-conceit, Worldly-glory, and others. He said they would be very much offended if I made a fool of myself by continuing on through the valley.”

Chr. “How did you answer him?”

Faith. “I told him that although all of those that he named might claim to be related to me, and rightly so - for indeed they were my relatives according to the flesh - yet, since I became a pilgrim, they have disowned me. I also have rejected them. Therefore, they mean no more to me now than if they had never been in my lineage. I also told him that as for this valley, he had misrepresented the whole thing. For before honor is humility and a haughty spirit before a fall. Therefore, I would rather go through this valley to receive the honor that was received by the wisest people, than to choose those things which come forth from our lusts.”

Chr. “Did you meet with anyone else in that valley?”

Faith. “Yes. I met with Shame. But, of all the men I met with on my pilgrimage, he, I think, bears the wrong name. The others would have said ‘No’ after a little argumentation. But this bold-faced Shame would never have done that.”

Chr. “What did he say to you?”

Faith. “Why he objected to religion itself! He said it was a pitiful, old, sneaking business for a man to pay any attention to religion. He said a tender conscience was an unmanly thing, and that for a man to be careful about his choice of words and his actions, so as to give up his liberty that other people enjoy, would cause him to be ridiculed. He objected also, that only a few of the mighty, rich, or wise ever held to my opinion. 9 Actually, none of them accepted my opinion before they were persuaded to become fools, 10 and to voluntarily venture the loss of all things

9. “Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth” (I Cor. 1:26).

10. “Do not deceive yourselves. If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a ‘fool’ so that he may become wise” (I Cor. 3:18).

“But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ - the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith” (Phil. 3:7-9).
(no unbeliever can understand this). He also objected to the humility of those who were the chief pilgrims in the times in which they lived as well as to their ignorance and lack of understanding about natural science. He also told me many other things that I cannot relate here, such as: it was a shame to sit whining and mourning under a sermon, and a shame to come home sighing and groaning; that it was a shame to ask my neighbor for forgiveness for small offenses, or to make restitution where I had taken anything from anyone else. He also said that religion made a man seem strange to great men, because he gave up a few vices (which he called by finer names). Religion made him respect those who were humble, because he was a part of the same religious fraternity. And he said, ‘Is this not a shame?’"

**Chr.** “And what did you say to him?”

**Faith.** “I could not tell what to say at first. He pressed me so much that I became red in the face from embarrassment. This Shame tried to make me feel shame and attempted to beat me up with it. But, at last, I began to consider, that ‘that which is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God,’ And I thought again about the fact that this Shame tells me what men are but tells me nothing about God or His Word. I also thought that on the last day, we will not be doomed to death or life according to the wicked spirits in the world, but according to the wisdom and law of the Highest. Therefore, I thought, what God says is best even though all the men in the world are against it. Seeing, then, that God prefers His religion; seeing God prefers a tender conscience; seeing those who make themselves fools for the kingdom of heaven are the wisest; and that the poor man who loves Christ is richer than the greatest man in the world that hates him. Shame, depart! You are an enemy to my salvation! Shall I entertain you against the wishes of my sovereign Lord? How, then, can I look Him in the face when He comes again? If I am now ashamed of His ways and His servants, how can I expect His blessing? Indeed, this Shame was a bold villain - I could hardly get rid of him! He haunted me and continually whispered in my ear about the failings of religion. But at last I told him it was useless to attempt anything further, for the things that he despised, I saw in them that

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_The trials that those men do meet withal_
_That are obedient to the Heavenly call,_
_Are manifold and suited to the flesh,_
_And come, and come, and come again afresh;_
_That now, or sometime else, we by them may_
_Be taken, overcome, and cast away._
_O let the Pilgrims, let the Pilgrims then,_
_Be vigilant, and quit (conduct) themselves like Men._

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**Chr.** “I am glad, my brother, that you withstood this villain so bravely. As you so accurately

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11. “Has any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in him?” (Jn. 7:48).

12. “He said to them, ‘You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is detestable in God's sight’” (Lk. 16:15).

13. “If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels” (Mk. 8:38).
said, I think he has the wrong name. For he is so bold as to follow us into the streets and to attempt to put us to shame before all men. He wants to make us ashamed of that which is good. If he was not so brazen, he would never attempt to do as he does. But, let us still resist him. Notwithstanding all his boasting, he promotes the fool and no one else. Solomon said, ‘The wise inherit honor, but fools he holds up to shame.’”\textsuperscript{14}

\textbf{Faith.} “I think we must cry out to him for help against Shame. He wants us to be valiant for the truth on the earth.”

\textbf{Chr.} “I agree. Now, did you meet anybody else in the valley?”

\textbf{Faith.} “No. I had sunshine the rest of the way and also through the Valley of the Shadow of Death.”

\textbf{Chr.} “I am glad for you. It was different for me. From the time I entered the valley, I had a dreadful combat with that foul fiend, Apollyon. I thought he would have killed me, especially when he had me down and began to crush me. As he threw me, my sword flew out of my hand. He told me he was sure he had me. But I cried out to God, and he heard me and delivered me out of all my troubles. Then I entered the Valley of the Shadow of Death and had no light for almost half the way through it. Over and over, I thought I should have been killed there. At last, however, day broke, the sun rose, and I went through those things which remained with far more ease and quietness.”

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\textsuperscript{14} Prov. 3:35.