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LaT991 Substance of two Sermons preached by our Pastor Mr. J. W. Spaulding-
Tyler
at The Dickes
on Sunday, May 21. 1978.

Morning Lesson. Romans 4.

Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. Hebrews 10. 35,36.

Our beloved friends will have observed the connection between the last part of the Lesson and the beautiful, essential Text. We have in Romans 4 amazing words of grace concerning father Abraham in relation to the promise of God to him. It is in the context of impossibility and a long waiting interim. Two things are often devastating to flesh and blood,- exceedingly so; for all to become according to the understanding of the natural mind/a sheer impossibility; nothing for the natural understanding to attach itself to, to find ground of relief, comfort, consolation. Another thing so devastating to flesh and blood that often obtains, is a long period of waiting before the fulfilment of the Lord's promise until all in human nature is exhausted. The two things together ^{are amazing} in the background of his case. I have but to remind you with extreme propriety and decorum how it was in the case of Abraham and Sarah. The promise related to Christ, to the gift of a/son, and in him all the nations would be blessed. He should be the progenitor of the sacred humanity of our blessed Lord, "and in Isaac shall thy seed be called." Their bodies, united in holy matrimony over many years, had reached a stage of death in relation to procreation. ~~Their~~ Flesh and blood had nothing to ~~attach~~ hope to. You may say this is in relation to father Abraham, but all God's people taste it in their measure, for so much of the journey to the Land of Promise is under the term 'the trial of faith'. Wonderful if it is, because it is real and it will be proved. Here comes Satan to take cruel, mean advantage of all such situations. Some of you know,- all God's people know it at times

"Thou dost conduct Thy people

Through torrents of temptations," terrible temptations. Satan says, "You have entertained promises over the years

and believed things, but there is no evidence that they will be fulfilled. You see the nature of your religion. If this is proved to be an illusion or delusion, what of the remainder?" and your poor soul sinks fathoms. It is against this background that the blessed Spirit has a word for us: "Cast not away therefore your confidence." When you are in the joy of strong faith and not in deep trial there is no tendency in your soul to cast away your confidence, but this poor soul is almost ready to cast it away.

Let me remind you of the other part in the background; the wearing-down period of waiting. I use the term without premeditation; the long period that often obtains is sheer devastation to flesh and blood, I am not a novice: the preacher knows what it is. If you wait twenty-five years or more for the Lord to fulfil a promise you will know the meaning of it. Five years is a long time: you will find the living family of God here. It is amazing how merciful the Lord is, so there should be an alternation. You will walk in an immense variety of spiritual experience. There will be cases where you are afflicted, burdened, in trial, and the word is fulfilled; "Before they call I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear." You have heard me say in relation to one of our daughters, how I came back from London and found her on the point of death. Before I could get on my knees the Lord answered me. He said; "Is thy God able?" and the whole case opened. I knew we should go into the depth and every prop would fail, but the Lord would answer prayer. You will know that before you go to prayer the Lord answers you. You do not glide on the surface: you go into the depths, but the Lord has appeared before you prayed. I mentioned in prayer that ^{there} appears to be a saturation point: the poor soul feels he can bear no more. The dear Lord is so kind there is another trouble and He will answer before you pray, so it is all balanced. I am speaking to those who have spiritual intelligence because you are in the path of life and the Lord has answered before you call at times. There are other cases that are chronic; spread out over a long time, and you may say there must have been the same reaction with Abraham and Sarah. They hoped the Lord would have fulfilled the promise before it became impossible, then it would have been easy. It is as though the dear Lord delays until there is as death. Why? To manifest forth His glory: to show you that what is impossible with man is possible.

with God. Waiting wears you down, but against the whole of this is the Text; an exhortation to the dear people of God. "Cast not away therefore your confidence." It rings like a bell: it is as clear as noonday. It is apposite to the people of God. The Lord gives His dear people confidence and I shall endeavour by His Spirit to dig a little into the Text, and you will see the construction of it in the ~~exhortation~~ ^{exhortation} and the appendix to it. Casting away their confidence is something His people have a disposition to do: the appendix shows that with the confidence in the Text there ^{is} great recompence of reward. It is a wonderful revelation. If all looks favourable where would you find room for the confidence of faith? There is no place for it. Come to sheer impossibility and there is room for it. I stand amazed when I ponder this. Those of us who love and fear God, His unworthy sons and daughters, and with years of experience of divine faithfulness, are so ready to cast aside our joys, comfort and confidence. Our joys we hasten to dismiss, yet we entertain doubts and fears. Obviously this is dishonouring to the Lord.

First, there is the beautiful, most apposite exhortation and ~~xxx~~ revelation in the appendix. The next verse is as a diagnosis of the case I do not know how you came this morning. You may have felt,

"What am I, and where am I?

Strange myself and paths appear." (722)

The clause is as a diagnosis of the case. "Ye have need of patience." and you see your case. Wonderful it is to have a spiritual diagnosis and very vital. So it is in the ministry of the Spirit to diagnose the cases of the people. It would not be any good you coming to the House of God if the ministry did not diagnose your case. This is of tremendous importance. Take the beautiful language slowly and try to assimilate it "For ye have need of patience." Your soul will revive: it means the Lord intends to bestow the blessing on you. He would not say if there was to be a dead end, "For ye have need of patience." And this is a beautiful exposition of the case; "that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise." "after ye have done the will of God There is tremendous depth in it. We are here, if we are the Lord's, to do His will, to seek to know it, "After ye have done," then what? "ye might receive the promise." What does it mean? The fulfilling of the

promise, the fruition of it; to receive it; to see it fulfilled. I will just revert to father Abraham in the end of the Lesson. You see there the marvel of living faith: you see there faith in its glory, shining forth against all the dark background. You see the exquisite beauty, how invincible faith is, and you see its efficacy. For we read there concerning hope, "Who against hope believed in hope." notwithstanding all that came against his hope. If you have real things there will be many things that will come against them: there will be overmuch within and without. "Who against hope believed in hope." Why? Because he knew where his anchor was. An anchor moors a ship, and it is a figure that illustrates safety and security in the storms of life. Your anchor is not in this troubled world; it is in Heaven; beyond it all, in the sure anchorage of the atonement, of God's character, perfections, divine attributes, promises. "Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations." And it is said; "He considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform." This is a beautiful treatise; a marvellous demonstration of the subject. "He considered his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb." The eye of faith is fixed on God in Jesus Christ; on His nature, character, essence, perfections, glorious promises, covenant, oath. His precious blood sealed the covenant, and it seals all the promises and blessings. So see the glory of faith. I am speaking spontaneously, as I must. Often in the twinkling of an eye I see the dimensions of a subject.

I will endeavour to look at two things. We have here one of the characteristics of living faith; that is, confidence. Living faith, the gift of God, produces in the soul a holy confidence. I will go back to remind you of the nature of living faith in the economy of salvation. The great, glorious, original cause of salvation is the everlasting love of God: it is because God loves you. And the meritorious cause of salvation is the suffering Suretyship of the blessed Saviour. We are saved because God loves us, and sent His Son to die for sin at Calvary;

to open the fountain, pay the debt and clothe you with His obedience. What a foundation for you to build your heavenly hopes upon! Get on your knees and look at the foundation. The efficacious cause of salvation is the work of the Holy Ghost in perfect correspondence ~~witth~~ all through, and all the operations of the Comforter, and the light, teaching and graces of the Spirit. You are indwelt by the Spirit: you drink the water of life and the Spirit is in you 'a well of water springing up into everlasting life.' It is the indwelling of the Holy Ghost. This is the efficacious cause of salvation. You are quickened, wrought on, brought under conviction, blessed with revelations of the Holy Ghost who is the Spirit of grace and supplications, and He fits you for Heaven. This is where faith comes in: the instrumental cause of salvation is faith. Every poor sinner who believes in Christ is saved. Down through history every poor sinner on this planet blessed with saving faith in the Lord Jesus is saved. It is profoundly simple: how do you feel about it? I mentioned at Haywards Heath, when it comes to the question of saving faith it synchronises with a revelation of the Lord Jesus. Light activates sight: this is a remarkable thing. When the Lord Jesus is revealed there is the gift of holy faith in your soul and it gives you to believe to the saving of the soul, and there is confidence in it. I remember having a dialogue with Mr J.K.Popham on faith years ago, and he said immediately the Lord quickens a soul into life He gives faith to believe there is a God, and He is holy, just and true, and He gives faith to believe you are a sinner. Does one need it? Oh yes. Multitudes would acknowledge it, but He gives you to see your state. There is a better faith the Lord gives: it is saving faith. When the blessed Spirit discovers to you the Person of Christ and exercises and operates the holy grace of faith in the soul, and living faith receives, embraces, and lays hold on Christ and your anchor is cast within the veil, in this faith there is a confidence. I am to say with saving faith there is the characteristic of confidence. Before you get the full assurance of faith in the forgiveness of sin there is a confidence in faith. Some have not been brought to full assurance of their interest.- You know the confidence of faith: you know exactly the ground of your hope. If any spoke against it or questioned you, or blasphemed the precious Name you will know where your faith is and what

your confidence is. You realise the ground of your hope for Heaven: it is the everlasting love of God; His precious blood, the sacrifice and obedience of the Lord Jesus, and not all hell or the forces of AntiChrist will ever move your soul. It is impossible, because He has taken you out of the horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set your feet upon a rock and established your goings. Blessed be God. Amen.