#### FAITH TRIUMPHANT (Continued from Page 13.)

our own civic conduct to see whether any of its ugliness comes from us; and I am afraid that we shall all become conscious if we examine closely that we have not at all times done all that we might have done to improve the appearance of our government.

Faith in the government under which we live does not mean that we shall not see its defects. Faith in our government does not mean that we shall not admit its faults. Faith in our government will lead us to do with our government as the parent does with the child.

The parent is not blind to the faults of a child; but the parent sees the possibilities of that child, and in affection corrects the child when the child goes wrong, and tries to help the child to realize its possibilities. So it is in this country. We must have faith in our form of government, and, having faith in it, try to perfect it. If there is a weak point in its method, strengthen it. If there is a defect in its structure. eradicate the defect; and, as we make the government better, we shall enjoy it more; and thus our interest in it will be quickened to scan it still further for still further improvement.

I have said that a man must have faith in himself, and to have faith in himself he must build a foundation for that faith; I have said that a man must have faith in his fellow men, that he must attach himself to them, that he must work with them, and that he must try with them to lift up the level upon which they all stand. And I have said that he must have faith in his form of government, and, having faith, must try to make it better wherever it can be improved.

But back of all these different kinds of faith there must be faith in God. For, if a man has not faith in God, he can not plan a life. He can not see things in their correct relation to one another. Ay, if he has not faith in God, how does he know that back of every righteous cause is an arm strong enough to bring victory to his side? and without that what can man co?

There never was a time in this country's history when men needed faith in God more than they need it today. This faith in God a man must have if he would measure up to life's responsibilities today. There is work to be accomplished, and it can not be undertaken except by those who have faith.

An old colored preacher gave the best illustration of faith that I have ever heard. He said that faith was willingness to do what God told us to do, without asking questions; and then to illustrate it he said, "If God tells me to butt my head against a stone wall, I butt; that is my part; going through the wall is the Lord's part." I know of no better illustration, and the people that have accomplished great things are the people that have faith to butt their heads against what seemed a stone wall and trusted to God to open the way.

How would this world make progress without men of faith? While the timid conform themselves to en-

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vironment, it is the brave who break the environment and make a new environment. Where would this world have been but for those who were ready to die to prove their faith? Where would the Christian church have been today, had it not been for the men who had the faith to believe that, if they died for their religion, their death would accomplish more than their lives could accomplish? And who can tell whether life or death is the thing that the world needs? Look back, and see what death has accomplished, and then ask yourself whether living could always do what death has often done.

In that book entitled "Quo Vadis," you will remember, there is a story of a man whose conduct makes you more angry as you read on, and you remember that at last he betrayed the Christians; and then, when there men whom he betrayed were being used by a cruel emperor as human torches set fire to light the gardens. this man who was responsible for their detection rode with the emperor that he might witness their agonies in the flames; and he came in front of one whom he had most deeply wronged; and there that Christian hanging in the fire, instead of being angry, smiled and forgave him.

And then he became a new man; and, leaving his triumphant friends, he knelt in front of the burning figure, and with a radiant face he sat down among them, and had the strength to bear the suffering with those he had made suffer. That is the faith that moves the world, and in the command of this land today we need men of faith.

Do you find it hard to believe that Sodom and Gomorrah would have been saved if they could have found a few religious men? Why, a few religious men can save any community in this land today. We need men who will stand up for the right without stopping to count to see how many are with them. How can a man tell what his example will do until he sets an example that is calculated to do something?

There is not a community where a man who has faith can not work miracles today. Tell me that miracles are impossible; there is no miracle recorded in human literature that is more wonderful and marvellous than the change that takes place in a human heart when a man begins to hate the things he loves and love the things he hates; and that miracle is reached when some man's faith has revealed to a dying world that there is a God.

We say that the man who is on the battle-field, and is willing to face the enemy and die from the enemy's hand, is brave. He is. He has given the best physical test that man can give of his devotion. But moral courage is as high an attribute as physical courage, ay, higher than physical courage. We share physical courage with the brutes about us, but God alone can give us an illustration of the moral courage that a man exhibits when he dies rather than surrender what he believes is right.

We need faith—faith in one's self, supported by a preparation that backs it, faith in our fellow men that links us to the struggling mass of the world, faith in our government to make it what the fathers wanted it to be when they baptized it in the beginning with blood; and faith in God so that we know that, whether or not we live to share the victory, every blow struck for right-eousness will have it influence, and that no word spoken for truth is in vain. Faith is the controlling influence in a life.

I conclude as I began. Without it it is impossible to please God; without it it is impossible to do anything worth while.

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