

Concerning Cain

By George Fox

And the Lord God said unto Cain, 'If you do well, shall you not be accepted? if you do not well, sin lies at your door, and unto you shall be his desire,' ...

So here you may see, it is not only saying or talking well, but acting, and doing well, if they are accepted with the Lord God; for if you talk and say never so well, and if you do not do well, but evil, sin lies at the door of your hearts, and gets into your hearts, (if you do evil), and then makes you persecutors and murderers, like Cain; and so not doing well, you do not rule over sin, but sin gets into you, and rules over you, and the Lord God has no respect to such, nor their offerings, nor sacrifices, nor fair speeches, nor good words, that do not well. But if you do well, then the Lord will accept you, as you may see in Gen 4. And Christ said, 'Blessed is that faithful servant, whom the Lord, when he comes, shall find so doing;' namely, doing the will of God. Christ said to his disciples, 'When you shall have done all these things, which are commanded you, say, we are unprofitable servants, we have done that which was but our duty to do.' Luke 17:7-10. So here you may see, that which would boast of his doings is to be kept down, and kept out, for it is every servant of God's duty to do his will.

And the Jews said unto Pilate, 'Crucify him, crucify him,' (namely, Christ), and Pilate said three times over, 'What evil has he done?' Luke 23:20-22. But the Jews that did evil, could not accuse him of any evil that he had done; for Christ came to bruise the serpent's head, and destroy the devil and his works, and to finish transgression, and to make an end of sin, and to bring in everlasting righteousness into the hearts of his people. And Peter said, '**Of a truth, I perceive that God is no respecter of persons, but in every nation, he who fears God, and works righteousness, is accepted with him.**' So here you may see, it is not he that talks of righteousness out of the fear of God, failing to work righteousness, who is accepted with the righteous God, as in Acts 10:35. For Christ said, 'Every one that does evil hates the light, neither comes to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.'

Now, here you may see, who are those who hate the light of Christ, who is the life in him, who enlightens every man that comes into the world; every one that does evil hates the saving heavenly light of Christ, which they should believe in, and become children of the light; and those who do evil, and hate the light, neither come to the light, lest their deeds should be reprov'd. All these doers of evil, and haters of the light of Christ, and that will not come to it, lest their evil

deeds should be reproved; all such, God nor Christ does not accept their offerings nor sacrifices. And such that hate the light of Christ, hate Christ; though they may preach him, and profess him in words, yet they persecute, and hate the believers in the light of Christ, which are the children of the light, and walk in the light, and are the children of the day of Christ.

And again, Christ said, 'He that does truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest that they are worked in God.' So it is not he that only talks of truth, but, (mark), he that does truth, comes to the heavenly and spiritual light of Christ, that with his spiritual light he may see his deeds, that they are worked in God. This is a blessed work, and a blessed sight to see, and a happy comfort, and a satisfaction to every one, and such God does accept, and respect their offering. And all the children of the Lord are to be tender one to another; for Christ said, 'If I then, your Lord and master, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet; for I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done unto you,' as in John 13:14. And this is a practice of humility, in condescending, in the tender light of Christ, one to another.

And John in his General Epistle, said, 'Little children, let no man deceive you, he that does righteousness, is righteous, even as he is righteous; whosoever does not righteousness, is not of God.' So here you may see, it is not the puffed up boasters and talkers of righteousness, but those who do righteousness, that are of God. And was it not the reason that Cain slew his brother, because his works were evil, and Abel's were righteous? And is it not the cause now of imprisoning and persecuting, both with tongue and hand, because their works are evil, and of those who did and do persecute the righteous now? But let them not be weary in well doing; for in due season they shall reap, if they faint not; 'for those who do evil, sow to the flesh, and shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that is in the spirit of God, sows to the spirit, and shall of the spirit reap life eternal.' And whatsoever good thing any man does, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he is bond or free; for there is no respect of persons with God, for he does accept all that are the servants of Christ, and does the will of God from their hearts. But he that does wrong, receives for the wrong which he has done; for God is no respecter of persons, for he renders to every man according to his deeds; to them who by patience continue in well-doing, seek for glory, and honor, and immortality, eternal life; but unto those who are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation, wrath, tribulation, and anguish upon every soul of man that does evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; but glory, honor, and peace to every man that works good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile; for there is no partiality with God. And as Christ said, 'Every good tree brings forth good fruit, and a corrupt tree brings forth evil fruit.' So by their fruits trees are known; 'for it is not every one that said, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven.'

So here you may see that it is not the talkers of God and Christ, that enter into the kingdom of God, but every one that hears the sayings of Christ, and does them, is likened unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock, that neither the rain, floods, nor wind, shall beat it down, because it is founded upon a rock! But every one that hears the sayings of Christ, and does them not, is likened to a foolish man which built his house upon the sand; and the rain, and the floods, and the winds, beat upon his house, and it falls, and great is the fall of it. These are those who do not the will of God; these are the sayers, and not the doers; these are those who walk not in the light, nor grace, nor truth, nor spirit, nor gospel of Christ; these are the hearers of the word, but not doers of the word, which deceive their own selves, and are likened to a man that beholds his natural face in the glass [mirror], and straightway forgets what manner of man he was: but that man which is the doer of the work, and the word of God, is blessed in his deed; to him that knows to do good, and does it not, to him it is sin.

*[Looking in the mirror, seeing a natural man (a sinner), and then walking away and forgetting – is classic denial: denial of being a sinful man, denial that the commands of Jesus apply to yourself, denial that you are without salvation, denial that you will suffer the wrath of God for being disobedient, denial that you need to be obedient, denial that you need to seek the changing grace of God to become acceptable to him, denial that without holiness you will not see God, denial all impure people have no inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ, denial that you need to be perfect, denial the scriptures really apply to you.]

And Christ said, the Jews, Scribes, and Pharisees, they say and do not; that is, they said Moses' and the prophet's words, but they did not Moses' and the prophet's words. And now the Christians, they have Christ's and the apostles' words, and say them often over; but the same woe will be to them that do them not, that was against the Pharisees. And Christ said, But all their works they do for to be seen of men. But such works and doers are not accepted with God and Christ; for he cries woe against such workers. And Christ commended those who improved their talents, and said unto them, 'Well done, good and faithful servants, that had been faithful in a few things, he would make them ruler over many things;' and said 'Enter into the joy of the Lord.' So the wicked go into everlasting punishment, and the righteous into life eternal. And therefore the saints are to take unto them the whole armor of God, that they may be able to stand in the evil day, and having done all to stand in his armor; for every sin that a man does, is without his body, and every one shall receive according to the things done in his body.

So here you may see, he must have truth's judgment and sentence upon the sins done out of the body, and upon the sins done in the body, by thoughts and imaginations, before they are acted outwardly. So every one shall receive a reward and judgment according to his works, whether they are good or evil; and therefore all the saints have need of patience, to exercise that gift that after they have done the will of God, they might inherit the promise of eternal life; for so is the will of God, that with well doing you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men. So it is not only well-talking, but well-doing; for it is said that God hears not sinners; for those who go into sin and do evil, go out of God's spirit of grace and favor; but if any man is a worshipper of God in his spirit and truth, and does his will, he hears him in his spirit. And therefore are all God's children exhorted to walk in the faith, and by the faith, which Christ is the author of; to walk in the light of Christ, in which they have fellowship one with another; and to walk in the spirit of God, by which they are circumcised and baptized, in which they have fellowship; and to put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and to walk in him. So it is not only talkers of the light, and spirit, and faith, and of the will of God and Christ, and his will and his doctrine, but those who walk in his will, and do his will, ... that are accepted, and enter into his kingdom, that he has prepared for them.

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