a community called ...

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TRY IT NOW.

BY

REV. R. H. HOWARD.

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1889.
SCRIPTURE nowhere authorizes us to wait to fully comprehend the truth before heartily embracing it; but rather at once to make room for it in our hearts, adjourning until the leisure of some later day an exhaustive theoretical, scientific, or philosophical examination or analysis of the same.

This, plainly, is wise. Life is short. Eternity is long. Neither time nor habit waits for any one. There are certain questions which will not wait for lengthened solution. They must be settled on the instant, or not at
all. It will soon be too late. Under this head are to be included all questions relating especially to the formation of character. Habits grow upon us apace—both habits of mind and of action. Like the vicissitudes of the seasons, like the laws of physical health, these formative processes of the soul have very little respect for mere opinion. They never call a halt out of deference for one's "views," or adjourn business until some future day, to allow one the necessary amount of time for deliberation. Questions relating to matters of human duty, and involving the formation of human character, must be settled practically, and at once.

Pre-eminently is this true in regard to the soul's relation to God, and its salvation through Christ. To hesitate here for purposes either of speculation or debate is, in the very nature of the case, to put in everlasting jeopardy most priceless interests. Is
it the part of wisdom for a sick man, especially if sick unto death, to insist on discussing theories of medical practice before taking the remedy prescribed? No. Having called the physician in whose skill you have the most confidence, at once you bare the pulse, show the tongue, take the medicine, and then, when the days of convalescence shall have come, if you still have interest enough in the matter to do so, you discuss to your heart’s content the relative merits of the different medical "pathies." The probability is, however, that the simple fact that the very treatment to which, in an eminently critical moment, you unhesitatingly resorted resulted in saving your life will quite suffice to resolve all doubts and to answer all perplexing questions touching this subject.

Thus, relative to the soul’s interests, the thing here manifestly to be done is at once and confidently to venture, with all our dreary
sin-sickness, on the Great Physician, leaving all the speculative aspects of the case to be taken up, if need be, and discussed at some future day, when one has nothing of greater importance to attend to. The fact is, however, once this practical and decisive step is taken, speculation will be found to be at a discount. The best thing to silence doubts relative to salvation is to get saved. Once the heart and conscience are satisfied relative to this matter, the intellect soon will be. There is nothing like the fervors of love to clarify the brain, or to quicken spiritual insight. Indeed, the questions under consideration are of such a nature that their solution really lies quite beyond the domain of logic and science. The truth here clearly must be spiritually discerned, if at all. It must be apprehended by faith. In fact, the satisfactory solution of all strictly spiritual problems can be reached only by actual experiment, so to speak; that
is, by a personal experience or knowledge of the Gospel's work or power, in one's own heart and life; in that conscious elevation of one's aims and ambitions, in that purification of his affections and joys, as well as in that sanctification and fertilization of his whole spiritual being which results from actually reducing to practice the precepts of God's holy word.

A truly spiritually minded person believes in Christ, not because, having looked down into his empty sepulcher, he knows, as an historical fact, that he has risen from the dead, but because he feels the spiritual energy of Christ already present in the soul. In spiritual things, as in temporal, sometimes tasting is not only the surest and most satisfactory, but the readiest, method of testing. Taste, therefore, reader, and see for yourself that the Lord is good.

When the papal messenger was sent to
convert Galileo from his astronomical heresy, we are told that instead of arguing with him the astronomer simply asked the prelate to look through his telescope and judge for himself. Thus here, a single earnest, believing look at the cross will avail more, for purposes of religious conviction, than volumes of cunning argument. No fact has ever been more abundantly confirmed than the truth of the teaching of Jesus to the effect that he that is willing, heartily, unconditionally, to submit to the truth—unreservedly to embrace and to obey it—shall personally, conclusively, know of the doctrine, whether it be of God. Try this gospel, therefore, dear reader; and try it now. To-morrow, confirmed habit, utter religious insensibility, or unwelcome death may have sealed your eternal doom. Remember those solemn words: "And the door was shut."