

[T]here are thousands of wistful, lovable people in our Churches who have never realized that [the essential thing in Christianity is a transforming friendship with Jesus], and if one may say so, they have a 'try' religion instead of a 'power' religion. They are familiar with creeds and phrases; they have heard sermons and lectures; they have read books and pamphlets; they have been to Keswick¹⁴ and Swanwick; and their faces... (150-51).

[cont'd] ...as they walk up the aisle to the Communion table remind me of one of the saddest lines in English poetry, that line of Hardy's in *The Oxen*: ["Hoping it might be so."] (151)

"Man goes forth searching for a friend while that very friend lives within his own heart" (3:1.4; 45).

[cont'd from above] They have listened and studied and worried. Others who seem to be full of a radiant happiness have talked to them about their experience.... For years they have fought God to get it, hammered on a door that is open, and sought with burning eyes and weary feet for a treasure that all the time has been within their reach (151).

[S]o many people's religion fails and shows itself to be a difficult thing, because of course it is difficult, as Dr. Maltby would say, if we insist on 'carrying the thing that ought to be carrying us,' for, as Samuel Rutherford said, 'Religion ought to be the kind of burden that sails are to a ship, that wings are to a bird,'... (152).

[cont'd] ...an added power rather than an added burden (152).

Some people will say to me, 'But does not St. Paul say that the Christian life is a battle? Is not his word "fight the good fight"?' No! His exhortation is 'Fight the good fight of *faith*' (153).

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses (1 Tim. 6:12).

8 The world is filled with hungry souls

who famish in the very presence of the bread of life;

men die searching for the very God who lives within them.

Men seek for the treasures of the kingdom with yearning hearts and weary feet when they are all within the immediate grasp of living faith.

Faith is to religion what sails are to a ship;

it is an addition of power, not an added burden of life.

There is but one struggle for those who enter the kingdom,

and that is to fight the good fight of faith.