



Midweek Meditation



*"Therefore it (righteousness) is of faith that it might be by grace."
Romans 4:16*

Faith is demanded of us, not in order that there might be at least some little work that we are to do, as otherwise there would be no difference between those who go to hell and those who go to heaven. No; righteousness is of faith in order that it may be of grace. Both statements are identical. When I say: A person becomes righteous in the sight of God by faith, I mean to say: He becomes righteous gratuitously, by grace... Nothing is demanded of the person; he is only told: Stretch out your hand, and you have it. Just that is what faith is -- reaching out the hand.

C.F.W. Walther

Faith is a demand in the way that a poor beggar is told by a wealthy person to open his hand to the money he wants to give him. It is pure invitation. What beggar would brag that he opened his hand, and that is why he now has money in it? Rather, the beggar would speak only of the wealthy person who so graciously gave him the money. Just so, when we speak of our faith, we should not see it as something that caused God to be gracious to us, nor as something we did whereby now we are grasping Christ and salvation. Faith is the beggar's empty hand which receives what is placed into it by our gracious God for the sake of Jesus. If it is of faith, then it is not our work, but the gracious work of God on our behalf.

Lord, grant that I always see myself as a poor beggar before You. Nothing in my hands I bring, simply to Thy cross I cling, by Your grace and work alone. Amen.