

SEXAGESIMA

THE COLLECT

O LORD God, who seest that we put not our trust in any thing that we do; Mercifully grant that by thy power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



1. What attribute of the Almighty is here acknowledged with the word “*seest*”?
A. His O _____; that is, his power of knowing all thing. (Hebrews 4:13)
2. What does God see we do not trust in?
A. In any _____ that we _____. (Isaiah 64:6)
3. By what do we pray to be defended?
A. By the _____ of _____. (2 Samuel 4:9)
4. Against what do we pray to be defended by God’s power?
A. Against all _____ (Psalm 79:11)

INTRODUCTION.

What does the Collect say? We put not our trust in anything that we do. But where must we put our trust? In God. What do we call putting our trust in God? *Faith*. Let us talk about that today.

I. EXPLANATION.

What is faith? Someone said, “It is taking God at His word;” and someone else, “it is doing God’s will, and asking no questions.” But this is only what faith *does*. We want to know what it *is*.

1. (a) What is eyesight? It is a power of the body by which we see. What is reason? It is a power of the mind by which we think. So faith is a power of the soul by which we believe. (b) Eyesight tells us there are children in this room because we can see them. Reason tells us that this room won’t fall, because we can prove it. Faith tells us that God and the angels are here, though we can not see them; and that God’s word is true, or that Christ will come again.



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2. **Without faith, the human mind is limited by the barriers of the natural universe.** Man, left to himself without faith, is essentially a prisoner; a prisoner of his own nature. Without faith, he can only know that which his five senses tell him. The sight of a wild bird beating out its life against the windows of a desolate house into which it has wandered awakens pity in us. This creature was made for long, swift, free flights. Yet this picture cannot compare with that of the misery of a man beating out his life against the prison walls of his five senses, for man was made to commune with the Divine, and it takes more than five senses to reach the Divine.



3. **Faith frees man's intellect.** Those prison walls of nature limit man's freedom and can be penetrated by only one force. Only the *Supernatural* can tear them down.

4. **Faith is strong, but mysterious.** Faith is like a giant cannon which hurls man out beyond the boundaries of nature into the world of the infinite. It aims at Supreme Truth and so at the supreme perfection of the man's intellect. Because faith is so wrapped up in divinity, it brings to the human mind mystery piled on mystery.

II. FAITH'S AIM (GOAL)

1. **Faith gets our journey started.** Let us look at it this way: Man has a journey to make; to take one step on this journey he must know his destination. To know the true destination is the work of faith. It is the starting gun in the race of life.
2. **Faith helps us continue on our journey.** By faith man is set free to rush to the goal of faith, which is also the goal of life: the essence of God Himself. We can see immediately that faith sets a man free to rush beyond the uttermost limits of the universe.

III. MORE ABOUT FAITH.

1. **Faith is not natural**, that is to say, it is not material (of nature) but immaterial (of the soul). It races not after the temporary pleasures of the natural world, but after the eternal pleasures of the soul.
2. **Faith is not a kind of super-confidence, or dependent on emotion.** Those who have described it as such did not know faith is or its purpose.

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