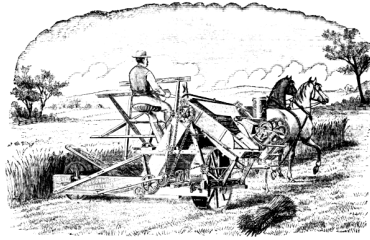


TRINITY 14

THE COLLECT

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, give unto us the increase of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain that which thou dost promise, make us to love that which thou dost command; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



- For what three Christian virtues do we here pray?
 - f (Luke 18:5)
 - h (Romans 15:13)
 - c (Colossians 3:14)
- Why do we pray for these Christian virtues in this particular order?
 - Because St. Paul places them in this order, where he says, and “now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.” (I Corinthians 8:13)
- Why do we beseech God to give us the increase of these graces?
 - Read 2 Peter 3:18: That we may grow in _____, and in the _____ of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- What must we love in order to attain God’s promises?
 - that which God _____ (John 14:21)

INTRODUCTION.

What do we ask God to give us? The increase of faith, hope, and charity, i.e, love. What is meant by “increase”? First, of course, it means give us more and more of these three graces. Second, look at I Corinthians 3:7, “God giveth the increase.” What does this mean? It means the harvest, the fruit of the seed sown. So we may look at faith, hope, and love, as seed sown in our hearts which will produce a harvest—an increase.

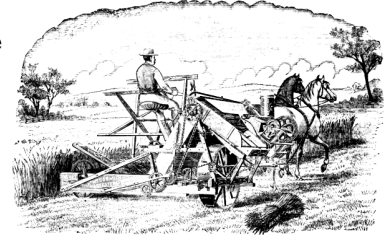
What is the harvest then, of the faith and hope sown in our hearts? It is that we receive God’s promises. And what is the harvest of faith, hope, and love? It is obedience to God’s commands. “Make us to love that which Thou dost command.”



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I. ILLUSTRATIONS FROM THE EPISTLE AND GOSPEL.

1. **Read Galatians 5:22-23.** Notice that love and faith are among the fruit of the Spirit. In Romans 15:13 we see that hope is a fruit of the Spirit. So if we want faith and love to increase, and if we want to “abound in hope,” we must get more and more of God’s Holy Spirit.
2. **In the Gospel the ten lepers had faith and hope.** Christ increased that by making them use it. He sent them to the priests *before* they were cleansed, and in obedience to a command which was a promise they got the fruit of faith and hope, which was that they were healed. *But one of them had love*, and his love brought him back to give thanks; and he, in addition to being healed, got the increase or fruit of his love in Christ’s praise and fuller blessing.



II. FAITH IN CHRIST’S POWER LEADS US TO PRAYER. **READ: John 4:46-54**

1. **The nobleman was in trouble**—his child was ill. He had heard of Christ’s power, His signs and wonders. He believed in them, and that brought him to Christ for help. We often have troubles and needs in life as well. What shall we do? We have heard of Christ. We have heard about others coming to Him and being helped. This makes us feel “He has helped others, perhaps He will help me.” So we ask Him. That is prayer. Faith in Christ’s power leads us to prayer.

II. FAITH IN CHRIST’S PROMISE.

1. **What was the promise?** “Thy son liveth.” How was the nobleman to show that he believed it? Act as if it were true. Jesus told him, “Go thy way.” So he did. He had faith.
2. **Christ has given us many promises.** You can believe them. How can you show that you believe them? Act as if they were true. Have faith in His promises.

III. THE INCREASE OF FAITH.

Later, the nobleman found that his faith was well-placed; his child was well. Now he would trust Christ altogether, always, and for everything. His faith would spread to his family. We too shall find out how good Christ is, how much more He will do, how much better He will be than we could hope; and we shall believe in Him, and our faith will lead others to believe. *If you have a little faith, go and use it, that is the way to make it grow.*

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