HOLDING FAST by Sarah Ann Freeman Mix (known as Mrs. Edward Mix)

LET us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering, for He is faithful that promised. 
Heb. 10:23.

THE apostle Paul had been telling the Hebrew brethren how inferior were the rites, ordinances 
and sacrifices of the law to the sacrifice of Christ, that the law had only "a shadow of 
good things to 
come," and that Christ was a perfect sacrifice; then, after telling them about the "new and 
living way" 
provided once for all, he exhorts them in the language of the text to "hold fast" the profession 
of their faith. But he says still more, exhort one 
another.

Then let those of us who believe in "the faith 
once delivered to the saints", who believe in the 
diversity of the gifts of the Spirit, and have 
experienced the wondrous workings of God's power, 
or have been eyewitnesses of this truth, let us 
exhort One another to "hold fast the profession of 
our faith.

When we read the I Corinthians 12 and see 
the different gifts to the Church, can any honest 
thinker close his eyes and ears and say they are not 
for us? Is there any place between the covers of the 
Bible where we are told that these gifts are taken 
away from the Church? In the ninth verse of this 
same chapter we read of the gift of faith and the gift 
of healing, and Paul, in speaking to the 
Corinthians, says: "Now, concerning spiritual gifts, 
brethren, I would not have you ignorant." I think if 
Paul were to visit the churches of today he would 
find them very ignorant concerning these spiritual 
gifts, and why? It is not because knowledge and 
wisdom are not on the advance, but because they 
close their eyes to the truth of the Gospel and call it 
fanaticism.

We read in James 5 "The prayer of faith shall 
save the sick. "To whom shall we pray? To God, and 
He says He will raise up the sick "and if they have 
committed sins they shall be forgiven them." 
(James 5:14-15). Who is it that forgives sin? You 
very readily say that God alone can forgive sin. Who 
is it that raises up the sick in answer to prayer? 
You answer, God, and yet when your friends and 
neighbors around you are sick for weeks and 
months and years, and the "arm of flesh" has 
proved too short to help them, you do not think of 
applying to the "Great Physician" with faith in His 
power and willingness to heal.

And when the Lord impresses upon the mind 
of one of His suffering children that "the prayer of 
faith shall save the sick" and He leads him to send 
for one of God's faithful followers, who is "holding 
fast the profession of his faith" to follow out the
command in James 5, to anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord and to offer believing prayer, and when God answers that prayer and raises up the sick one to His glory and praise, you are ready to call it all a humbug and close your eyes to the facts.

Oh, let us who believe in God’s precious truths "hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering". Let us not doubt His word, let us put away all fear, and be "sound in the faith," knowing that "He is faithful that promised." May the dear reader lay aside all preconceived opinions, all traditions of early training that have warped his mind, and believe the whole Gospel. Believe God to be true though it prove every man to be a liar.