

**WORDS OF TRUTH  
AND LOVE, SIX  
SERMONS**

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Words of Truth and Love, Six Sermons by J. E. Riddle

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**J. E. RIDDLE**

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SERMONS**



WORDS OF TRUTH AND LOVE.

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Six Sermons

SELECTED FROM THE MSS. OF THE LATE

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TO THE  
INHABITANTS  
OF  
Cheltenham and Eockhampton,  
THESE

"WORDS OF TRUTH AND LOVE"

ARE DEDICATED, IN GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE OF THE AFFEC-  
TIONATE RESPECT THEY HAVE PAID TO THE MEMORY OF

HIM WHO IS GONE,

AND ALSO,  
OF THE GENTLE LOVE AND THOUGHTFUL SYMPATHY  
THEY HAVE BESTOWED UPON THOSE  
WHO REMAIN.

December, 1858.

### A PILGRIM'S PRAYER.

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Grant me Thy grace, Almighty God,  
To tread the paths Thy saints have trod,  
Their labours and their love be mine,  
Their heaven-born hope, their strength divine.

Helpless and faint if e'er I lie,  
My Guardian and my Rock be nigh;  
Careless if from Thy paths I stray  
O Lord! recal me to the way.

Through scenes that smile or paths of gloom,  
Still lead me to Thy sacred home;  
There at the last from toil to rest  
With Thee and Thine for ever blest,

With all Thy people, O my God,  
Who the same maze of life have trod,  
And with that lov'd one who, through Thee,  
Walks in Thine heaven-ward path with me!

J. E. R.



## SERMON I.

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JOHN XI. 44.—“JESUS SAITH UNTO THEM, LOOSE HIM, AND LET HIM GO.”

It has pleased God to embody many of His most precious promises in striking and memorable facts. Belief, in general, as we may be well aware, has relation either to promise, or to fact;—we believe a promise, as likely to be fulfilled, or we believe a fact, as having actually taken place; and we believe a person, either as making a promise, or as narrating a fact. For the most part our belief has reference only to one class of these objects;—either to a promise, the fulfilment of which is future, or to a fact, the occurrence of which is past. But our belief in the Gospel, that

operative and practical reception of divine truth which we denominate faith, has reference at once to promise and to fact. The Gospel, indeed, is promise founded upon fact,—one great comprehensive promise of God's favour and all needful blessings, built upon that wonderful and well-established fact,—the life, sufferings, resurrection, and ascension of the incarnate Son of God: "in him," that is in Christ, the promises of God "are yea, and in him Amen, to the glory of God by us."\* The promises of God concerning our welfare and salvation meet, and centre, and have their confirmation in that blessed Saviour, whose history and work,—whose labours and sufferings, and triumph, are recorded in the Gospel. And our Christian faith has reference to the Gospel in this entireness and completeness of its structure. We believe the facts which it records as having actually occurred; and we rely upon the promises it contains as those which will certainly be fulfilled. Nor do we separate these things from each other. We receive the promises as founded on the facts. The fact sheds light and certainty upon the

\* 2 Cor. i. 20.

promise, and the promise gives dignity and meaning to the fact. What God has said is rendered credible and certain by what God has done; and what God has done is rendered illustrious and important by what God has said. And, for the soul of man to recognize and contemplate the works which God has wrought in the dispensation of the Gospel, and to believe and rely upon the promises which He has conveyed in the message of the Gospel,—this is to fulfil the duty, —this is to enter upon the rest, and privilege, and blessedness,—of Christian faith.

And this general character of faith attaches to it, more or less, in its various particulars. There are few facts recorded in the Gospel which have not a bearing upon some particular promise; and there are few special promises which are not confirmed, and, as it were, illuminated by some corresponding and appropriate facts. We believe, for example, the resurrection of the dead. And here our faith manifestly rests upon a promise founded on a fact;—the promise of God, connected with and built upon the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. That great event we believe upon