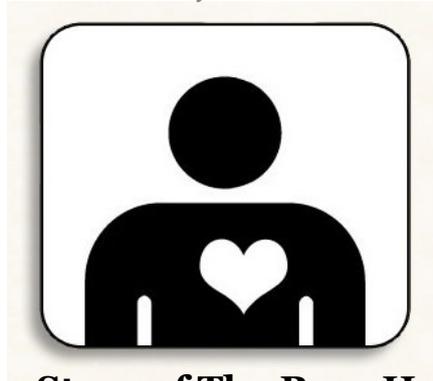


WAY TO SHILOH

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The Story of The Pure Heart

From the corner of a group of islands arose a race of souls. Turning from God they at once became wicked and deceitful and death reigned. Many detestable things were done. They forgot God and His ways. The souls chose idols to worship and serve in place of their God. They worshiped the things He had made, being without understanding, and some even imagined themselves to be the same as the beasts of the islands and acted accordingly.

But at an appointed time a 'Pure Heart' had come from God into the islands. He was with God and He was God. He was the Great One, but the souls didn't accept this. His pure heart was much troubled by the wickedness of the islands. He walked a straight path and allowed the souls to take Him and slay Him, for He walked to this end. However an end could not be made of Him for the Pure Heart broke the bands of death and took many with Him from death to life on His own merits. The ones He took He spared, and they were the poor and needy, and He washed them clean. As He did this great thing the sun hid its face, the separation was torn in two, the land shook and graves were opened. The Pure Heart had saved His people from the plight of the islands and when they were brought to see it they praised God that they should be made objects of His mercy. They became heirs of a kingdom of riches they had never earned but were theirs nevertheless for the sake of their Redeemer.

The others, the proud and unwashed, were gathered up on the Great Day when justice shall be done and received the wages for their sins.

A Life Line

Christ is the 'Pure Heart' and his work is done for His people by grace. A free gift that must be accepted. Faith is like a rope, a man may see and grasp in this present life, that stretches into the unseen heavenly realms. The rope is the life line to salvation and Christ is at the other end pulling us along. However, lest we think our salvation depends on the strength of our grip and thus may fail, take heart my friend, for the Holy Spirit who indwells us from the moment we laid hold of the rope is the one who gives the strength of our grip.

Hebrews 11

1Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

When considering this, think of this lesson from history. England is old and small, and in the 1500s the local folk started to run out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins; one out of every twenty-five coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realised they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the body, lead it through and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (graveyard shift) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be considered a 'dead ringer!', it is also where we get our phrase 'saved by the bell!'.

It is so with us, dear reader, we are as good as dead in our sins. The bell is placed by free grace and it is only Christ who can awaken us. Would it be an unwelcome thing to ring the bell in faith? A man is saved by grace through faith. Grasp that cord of faith and the bell of grace will ring, and add its sound to the angels rejoicing at another sinner saved.