

Philippus Theophrastus Bombast
Faith is divine self-confidence



True faith is inner knowledge and power

From Dr. Franz Hartmann (*Comp., Tr. & Annot.*). *The Life of Philippus Theophrastus Bombast, of Hohenheim, Known by the Name of Paracelsus, and the Substance of His Teachings, concerning Cosmology, Anthropology, Pneumatology, Magic and Sorcery, Medicine, Alchemy and Astrology, Philosophy and Theosophy*. Extracted and translated from his rare and extensive works, and from some unpublished manuscripts. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co Ltd., Broadway House, 68-74 Carter Lane, E.C. (2nd ed., 1932) Page numbers in this study correspond to the Philaletheians edition of "Paracelsus by Franz Hartmann," in our Buddhas and Initiates Series.

"The power of the true faith extends as far as the power of God in the universe. Man can accomplish nothing by his own power, but everything can be accomplished through man by the power of faith. If we did not have faith in our ability to walk, we would not be able to walk. If we accomplish anything whatever, faith accomplishes it in and through us."

"Faith does not come from man, and no man can create faith or make himself faithful without faith; but faith is a power coming from God. Its germ is laid within man, and may be cultivated or neglected by him; it can be used by him for good or for evil, but it only acts effectively when it is strong and pure — not weakened by doubt, and not dispersed by secondary considerations. He who wants to employ it must have only *one* object in view. Diseases are caused and cured by faith, and if men knew the power of faith they would have more faith and less superstition. We have no right to call any disease incurable; we have only the right to say that we cannot cure it. A physician who trusts only in his own science will accomplish little, but he who has faith in the power of God acting through him, and who employs that power intelligently, will accomplish much."

"If anyone thinks that he can cure a disease, or accomplish anything else, without the power derived from God, he believes in a superstition; but if he believes that he can perform such a thing because he is conscious of having obtained the power to do so, he will then be able to accomplish it by the power of the true faith. Such a faith is knowledge and power. True faith is spiritual consciousness, but a belief based upon mere opinions and creeds is the product of ignorance, and a superstition."^{1, 2}

¹ This is the curse of all dabblers in the divine mysteries, that when they begin to believe that there is something superior to the merely animal man, this belief opens the door for superstition and idolatry; for, having no knowledge of the power of the divine will within their own self, they are devoid of the true faith, which is divine self-confidence. They therefore put their trust, not in the one true God, but in the gods which they have created within their own imagination. They seek in outward things for that which they cannot find within their own empty shells. They neglect their duties as men and revel in dreams wherein there is nothing real. Some put their faith in doctors and priests, others in herbs and roots, still others in magic spells and incantations; but the wise know that the first step on the road to spiritual unfoldment is the fulfilment of one's duties as a man; for no god can grow out of a man unless the man has become truly that which he ought to be. In this fulfilment of one's duty and becoming true to one's nature as man rests the germ of true happiness, and from this germ is evolved the regenerated man in whom heaven exists and who lives through eternity.

Protreptics for Pilgrim Souls³

- Rise above the Fog of Separateness.
- Seek Darkness with the Lamp of Faith.
- Confirm Faith by Reason and Experience.
- Validate Imagination by Faith and Will.
- Lose yourself in the Sea of Devotion.



² Ch. 9, "Philosophy and Theosophy," p. 177

³ From *Compassion: the Spirit of Truth* (2009). Ch. 8, "Tips for Pilgrim Souls." Full text in our Major Works Series.