



Michael Faraday 1791-1869

On the wall of his study Albert Einstein kept a portrait of the man he looked to as providing the foundation for his own scientific discoveries – Michael Faraday. Einstein said of Faraday, "When we consider the magnitude and extent of his discoveries and their influence on the progress of science and of industry, there is no honor too great to pay to the memory of Faraday, . . ." Faraday was one of the greatest experimentalists in the history of science. He was recognized as the greatest scientist of his own day.

For over half a century Faraday worked and lived at the Royal Institute in London, where he was a leading chemist as well as the developer of field theory in modern physics. He was the discoverer of benzene as well as the discoverer of electromagnetic induction and the laws of electrochemistry. He was the first to convert mechanical energy into electric energy, the crucial step towards development of the electric motor and generator. In his study of electricity Faraday developed some of the vocabulary still used in physics today, terms such as electrode, cathode, and electrolysis.

Throughout his successful scientific career, Faraday maintained a simple yet deep Christian faith. He belonged to a small group of Christians, who were strong believers in the literal interpretation of Scriptures. His church was patterned as much as possible after the New Testament church. Faraday lived by the Bible and the demanding discipline of the Scriptures throughout his life. His commitment was strengthened by his Christian involvement in this little community of believers. He served as a deacon and elder in the church, as well as visited those in need, helping them physically and spiritually. Everyone recognized Faraday as a man of unusual character; his simplicity, modesty, and humility were deeply rooted in his Christian faith.

Faraday's favorite book in the Bible was Job. Though in his scientific studies Faraday was consciously seeking to understand the beauty, symmetry, and organization of God's creation, he also realized with Job that a man cannot find God by his own reasoning. The Scriptures alone clearly reveal Him. Faraday wrote that a Christian "finds his guide in the Word of God and commits the keeping of his soul into the hands of God. He looks for no assurance beyond what the Word can give him, and if his mind is troubled by the cares and fears which assail him, he can go nowhere but in prayer to the throne of grace and to Scripture."

Faraday's peace and security was not in his worldly fame but in the Lord Jesus Christ. In 1861, Faraday wrote to a scientist friend: "Since peace is alone in the gift of God; and as it is He who gives it, why should we be afraid? His unspeakable gift in His beloved Son is the ground of no doubtful hope."

Michael Faraday – a man of scientific giftedness and Godly humility. He found purpose and peace in this world through his deep faith in God's provisions and promises.