

Magnetic Power 2

Sermon #0905

Study given by W. D. Frazee—October 13, 1962

It is a pleasure to hear the leaves of the Bible turning as we open the Word of God. We need to be conscious of the fact that when we come to the sanctuary on God's holy day it is for the double purpose of speaking to God in worship, and letting Him speak to us through His Word. We human beings are very small. He is great. We have come to listen while He speaks to us as well as to talk to Him while He listens to us.

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds; Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high" Hebrews 1:1-3.

From these wonderful statements concerning our Lord Jesus Christ I would like to select one that we may meditate on this morning:

"Upholding all things by the word of His power." Hebrews 1:3.

This is Jesus.

We have studied the magnet and some of the lessons that we might learn from the magnet. A magnet has a mysterious power to attract things. I read:

"There is no power but of God" Romans 12:1.

The actual physical power in a magnet, then, is the power of God exercised.

As a reporter was interviewing one of the greatest scientist at the General Electric company, he picked up a magnet and in answer to certain questions said, "The greatest scientist in the world would have to simply say, 'This magnet acts by the power of God, by the will of God.'"

There is no better explanation. There is no truer explanation. In fact, there is no other explanation that could be true. Jesus says:

"All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth"
Matthew 28:18.

In the words of our text this morning Jesus is upholding all things by the word of His power. That is true in a physical sense. The physical universe is held by His mighty hand. As it is written in the book of Job, "He hangeth the earth upon nothing."

The ancients who were supposed to be so wise had the globe pictured as resting on the back of a great giant named Atlas. Of course, the inquisitive had to seek further to wonder what Atlas was standing on.

The Bible told it true. He hangeth the earth on nothing. The earth doesn't hang upon a thing. It hangs on the power of God, the mighty magnetic influence of the Creator Himself.

Look at the book of Jude and see what all that power is harnessed to, the task that you and I are greatly interested in. The mighty One to whom all power in heaven and earth is given, the Omnipotent One that upholds all things by the word of His power.

"Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy" Jude 24.

Ah, that's it. He is able to keep you from falling. And please notice, He keeps you. You don't keep Him. Moody once said, "Some Christians act as if they had to keep hold of the Lord, but who ever heard of the sheep keeping the shepherd?" It is the shepherd's business to keep the sheep.

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand. My Father, which gave them Me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of My Father's hand" John 10:27-29.

Ah friends, omnipotent power is pledged to keep you from falling, and no man, Jesus says, is able to pluck you out of His Father's hand. Isn't that wonderful?

We do not need to fear men nor devils then. That was what gave the reformers such daring. Luther said that though there were as many devils in the city of Worms as there were tiles on the housetops, he would go there for God. Yes, his confidence was in the keeping power of God.

Is that your confidence this morning? Then you are safely kept. Now it is true you have a choice. You must never forget that. You can resist the pull of the love of God. You can refuse to be held. But unless you choose to separate from the Master, He will hold you fast.

He will hold you. You don't have to hold Him. He will hold you fast unless you deliberately decide to choose another master. I would like to study with you two great agencies He uses in holding us.

The first is, as we have already read in Hebrews 1:3, upholding all things by the word of His power. That Word, whether it is the spoken word falling from the lips of Christ or the written word taken down by His penmen, the prophets, is full of power. It is the Word of power. It is by that Word He holds us; by that Word He lifts us out of the pit of sin; by that Word He keeps us on the Rock. If that is true, wouldn't it be well to expose as many of the brain cells up here as possible to the power of that word? Yes. And the more of the Word we have the more power there is.

Here is a great promise, a great assurance:

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee" Psalms 119:11.

Is there keeping power in the Word? Yes. But note that in order for that Word to have keeping power to keep us, it needs to be where? In our hearts. There must be contact established between the Word and us. And the more that Word penetrates into our souls the more we are held by the irresistible power.

I suggest that includes memorizing the Word of God. Do you know the ten commandments, word for word, letter perfect? God thought them so important that He wrote them with His own finger on the tables of stone after speaking them with His own lips from Mt. Sinai.

If He thought them important enough to write them Himself on the stone, would He not be pleased to have them written on the tablets of our minds and hearts?

And if sin is the transgression of the law, would not the writing of the law on our mind and hearts be an effectual barrier against sin? "Thy word have I hid in my heart." What for? "That I might not sin against Thee." He keeps us. One of the agencies He uses is His Word. Oh, let that Word enter into our hearts.

We need not stop with memorizing the ten commandments. The whole Bible, the Old and New Testament is for the purpose of magnifying that law, and revealing its truth to our hearts. So it should be our experience to know the keeping power of that Word as we memorize selection after selection.

Years ago when the Sabbath School lessons were started it was the custom not only to memorize a memory verse, but every verse in the lesson. Did you know that? Do you suppose the people had stronger minds back there? Today we have weak minds and can't handle it. Will, if they did, maybe that was why they did. Just as physical exercise develops muscle, mental exercise develops mental and spiritual power.

You can know dozens, scores, hundreds, and thousands of scripture texts. I am not indulging in imaginations. God has helped others to do it. He can help you to do it. It is your privilege. And oh, the keeping power of that Word. Why not have it in all its mighty force?

A little magnet can hold some things, but a big magnet can hold far more, and hold them tighter. Let the keeping power of the Word grow in your lives as more and more of the Word comes into contact with more of your mind and soul.

Shall we do it friends? Will you here resolve in God's house on God's day that more and more of His Word will fill your mind as you read it and memorize it? There is keeping power in the Word.

Think of the power of that Word as Jesus was here on earth. He spoke to the blind man and there was sight. He spoke to the deaf man and the deaf man heard. He spoke to the angry waves and there was peace. He spoke to the dead and there was life.

Jesus was the Creator. My dear friends, the one who walked those hills of Judea and Galilee was the same One who at the beginning spoke this world into existence.

"By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. For He spake, and it was done; He commanded and it stood fast"
Psalms 33:6,9.

That word had creative power, and what His word created His word is able to keep. The same word that spoke into existence the world and everything in it is speaking to our hearts through the Bible today. That Word in our hearts is mighty to do the will of God.

Notice again the power of the Word, what it is able to do, and notice the importance of receiving it into the mind and heart:

"Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls" James 1:21.

The Word is able to save your soul, if you receive it and respond to it. Let its mighty power into the soul.

The other agency through which this holding keeping power of God is manifested in His Spirit. As we saw the Word acting at creation, so we see the Spirit acting at creation. Turn to the first page of the Bible. Notice how the Word and the Spirit acted together:

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God

moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light" Genesis 1:1-3

The moving Spirit and the speaking Word acting together to bring order out of chaos, light out of darkness, a world out of nothingness. Oh, the power of that Word. Oh, the power of that Spirit. It is that same Spirit which is speaking to our hearts today.

Not alone through the written Word. Through nature the Spirit speaks to us. Through the providence of the daily life. Through the experiences that come to us. We have all had experiences, perhaps when our life was saved by a hair as we say, and we said, Oh, surely someone is looking after me. But ah, in the more common experiences, if we will but look for it, the hand of God is manifested. Hour by hour, if we will but listen, the Holy Spirit is seeking to impress our hearts with His guidance and His will for us. Today, if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts.

It is a wonderful thing to be taught of God, led of God, guided by God. That is our privilege, men and women. For this Christ died. For this He gave His life.

Notice the wonderful promise is given not merely to those first disciples but to all of us right down to the end of time:

"But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you" Acts 1:8.

There is power in the gift of the Spirit. The power of God in His Word and by His spirit. Thus we are kept. Thank God, we are kept from falling into the ways of sin.

The Sabbath is a sign of all this. We were speaking of creation when the Word and the Spirit worked together to create this world. But when God had made this world in six days through His creative Word, what did He do the seventh day? The Bible says He rested the seventh day. But He did more than that. He blessed it, and sanctified it(Genesis 2:1-3) So in the very heart of His law He put the Sabbath commandment.

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, no thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it" Exodus 20:8-11.

The Sabbath becomes the eternal memorial of the mighty power of a God who can speak a world into existence. Thus, as we celebrate the holy day, we remember the mighty power which made the world and which keeps it from falling.

What a rest comes as we think that same power is harnessed to the task of keeping us.

We see new force in the following text. It shows that the Sabbath is not merely a memorial of a creative fact of six thousands ago. Its lesson is for today:

"Moreover also I gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them" Ezekiel 20:12.

I tell you, it takes mighty power to take sinful men and make holy men out of them. Doesn't it? It takes mighty power to hold a man from sinking back into the ways of sin.

Here is a man who has been cleaned up from whiskey. Is there power in Jesus to clean a man up from whiskey? Oh, yes. But it takes the same power that pulled him out of the whiskey habit to keep him from it. Thank God, creative power does that.

Here is a man that has been pulled out of the tobacco habit. His nose and mouth and throat and lungs and blood and brain are no longer polluted with the poisons of nicotine and the other compounds that are in tobacco. He has been saved from that.

Through what? Through that mighty magnetic power of God. Through His Word and by His Spirit. But tell me, how is he going to be kept from falling? How is he going to be kept from going back to that thing? By the Word and by the Spirit. By the same creative power that was manifest at creation.

So the Sabbath becomes a sign not merely of the creation that took place six thousand years ago, but of the ever recurring miracle of conversion, and the ever constant miracle of sanctification keeping us.

Through God's Word and His Spirit He is seeking to communicate to us and tell us what He is.

The Apostle John who entered most fully into the thoughts and plans of the Master summed it all up in three little words that mean so much: "God is love." And I tell you friends, the holding, keeping power in the Word and through the Spirit is the power of love. There is no other power to keep a man. Force won't keep him, but love will.

Our hope this morning is to be held by the power of love. Has God revealed that love to you? Is that love real and vibrant in your life? Concerning Israel He said, "I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love." Like the power of the magnet it is invisible. You can't see it, but it is there. Love is invisible, but its effects are seen. The cords of love are drawing you and me this morning. Drawing us to the Savior.

It was at the cross that love was most fully revealed. The whole Bible is pointing us to that cross. All the Old Testament is pointing forward to it. All the New Testament is pointing back to it. The cross is the great magnet of God drawing the whole universe together. It is the focal point of eternity. The eternity of the past focuses there. All the eternity of the future leads from there. The cross is the meeting place of God and man, heaven and earth, and of the whole universe. So if we want to be drawn we must come to the cross.

The ordinances of the church are all for that purpose. You think of the ordinances of the Old Testament. When Able offered a lamb he was looking forward to the cross. He was being drawn by that love and held by that keeping power of the love of Christ. All those sanctuary services that were commanded of God through Moses pointed forward to the cross and the holding, keeping power of that love.

When Christ instituted the New Testament church and gave it those simple but meaningful ordinances of baptism and the Lord's supper, He was trying to have them keep in mind the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord. As we see souls baptized we remember that Christ died for us. As from time to time we take the bread and the wine we remember what He said. My body given for you. My blood poured out for you.

Why? Because there is holding power in love. He is able to keep you from falling.

Oh, let us not neglect the means of grace which He has established through which to communicate that holding power. Let us know that love through His Word and by His Spirit.

Precious Lord, we thank Thee this morning for the mighty power that holds the universe and is harnessed to the task of holding us, lifting us from the pit of sin and holding us close to Thy heart. Oh Jesus, here at Thy cross where Thou hast come all the way from heaven to earth for us, we come to Thee. Led by Thy Word, drawn by Thy Spirit, we come to Calvary. And here we see One giving all for us, and our hearts are constrained to give all for Him.

As He emptied Himself that we might be redeemed, we choose to be emptied that we may be filled with His glorious fullness. Bless each one in Jesus' name. Amen.

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