

I Do Believe

#0541

Study by W.D. Frazee—February 7, 1969

Our text this evening, is found in Romans, the 1st chapter, verses 16, and 17. I love this epistle to the Romans, don't you? And I love the dear man that God used to write it. I am looking forward to meeting him soon. It will be a wonderful day when we join with the saints of all ages, and have the privilege of becoming personally acquainted with each one of them. Won't it be a wonderful thing to hear Paul preach? Don't you think, Paul will preach some Sabbath when we come up? I'd like to hear him preach, and I wouldn't be surprised, if someday he preaches, and he will use this text I am using tonight. Romans 1, verses 16 and 17:

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith” Romans 1:16-17.

Now let us notice some of these words. First, “the Gospel,” Paul says, “I am not ashamed of the Gospel.” What does the word Gospel mean? Good news. Is there good news? Oh, yes, Paul says, “I am not ashamed.” You know, I have thought about it friends. If I were a salesman for an automobile, and I should be out demonstrating this automobile, and it should fail to perform, I would be what? I would be ashamed. It's the product that gets results, that makes a good impression. Paul says, “I am not ashamed of the Gospel.” For it is what? The power of God unto riches? Unto faith? Unto high position? Unto what? Salvation! The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation. The Gospel then, has power to do what? To save men, all right.

Now, the next expression limits this. “It is the power of God unto salvation” to whom? “Everyone that believeth.” Suppose it just said to everyone, and then there would be no conditions. Are there conditions? Yes, you notice those same conditions are set forth in the Gospel as given in one verse in John 3:16. Let's say that together”

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16.

God loved the world, He gave His son, but the salvation is for whom?
Everyone that believeth, whosoever believeth in Him.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” Romans 1:16.

Now I want to ask you something. Do you believe? Do you believe? Well, if you do, to you the Gospel is what? The power of God unto salvation. Should there be an experience that we are having that demonstrates the power of God unto salvation? Now if I were to ask here, there are men and women here tonight, that have received in their lives the evidence of the power of God, giving them victory over alcohol, or tobacco, or some other habit of that kind. It is an easy thing to know whether one has received that help or not isn't it? Here is a man that smoked for 30 years, he quite, he doesn't smoke anymore, it is evident, that some power has worked in his life. God intends that every other sin should yield to the same power. And He wants every one of us to be strong in Him, and He has made full provision, that it can be so.

Now tonight, I want to study with you one of the important parts of this Gospel and it is the part He is speaking about here, believing. Notice in the 17th verse:

“For therein...”

In the Gospel

“...is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith” Romans 1:17.

What word is used three times in that text? Faith. And faith is belief in God. So the faith spoken of in the 17th verse is the same thing as the “believeth” in the 16th verse. Now, friends, my observation leads me to believe that this is one of the weak points in the Christian experience of most people. That is why I want to study it with you tonight.

Let's turn over to Acts the 20th chapter and I want you to see the word faith again used here, and what it is connected with. Acts the 20th chapter the 21st verse. Here in Romans, Paul says, I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

All right, now Acts 20:21.

“Testifying both to the Jews and also to the Greeks
repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus
Christ” Acts 20:21.

What is the first thing in the message here? Repentance. What is the second thing? Faith. Now, in a sense, we have to have some faith before we can have repentance, but there is an exercise of faith which comes after repentance and this is what he is talking about here. Repentance, and then what? Faith. What does repentance mean? It means to be sorry for sin and sorry enough to do what? Give it up, surrender all, give everything we have to Jesus, that's repentance. And the next step is what? Faith.

I'd like to have you think of it tonight as using your two feet with your two legs. Now we all came in here tonight walking in and none of us used more than two feet.

We are not centipedes; we are not even quadrupeds are we? We just use two feet, is that enough? Did you all find it enough to get in here? Yes. Now can you get any farther than this with the two feet? Oh, yes, you can go all over this campus. This house yonder, that one there. Could you, if you needed to, some of you active ones, you could walk clear to Loveland. How many feet would that take, the same two? But you use them, whether you walk into the chapel or to a house, or miles away, you use them what? Over and over, over and over, the same two feet. But the only way to make any progress is to use first one and then the other, is that right? Would it be difficult even from the back of this chapel to the front using only one foot? And it would certainly be a great difficulty to walk home with just one foot, wouldn't it? It would probably be impossible to walk to Loveland.

So you see what I am getting at? We need two feet, but that is all we need, provided we use each foot alternately with the other one again, and again, and again. Now the first quote here, the first step is what? Repentance and the other one is faith. What does a person say when he repents? Well, he may work it in different ways, he may say I surrender, I give up all, I am sorry for my sins, and I confess them. Any or all of those expressions may be used. What does a person say in exercising faith? I believe, I trust. Now if we express our surrender by saying, "I give all," what do we say when we express faith? "I take all," that's right. That is exactly what it is. Do you see the two are counterparts, one of the other? Each one compliments the other and supplements the other, just as our two feet, each one helps the other as we go along.

All right, now turn over please to 2 Corinthians the fifth chapter and the seventh verse. 2 Corinthians 5:7. What is the second word in this verse? And the third one? "We walk." Do we? "We walk." Now what are the next two words? "By faith." "We walk by faith." And how did Paul say we *don't* walk? "Not by sight." We walk by faith, not by sight. Will you say that with me?

"We walk by faith, not by sight" 2 Corinthians 5:7.

But oh, I want to walk by sight! Well, then, I can't take this walk Paul is talking about. Are there some walks we take by sight? There is some walks we ought to take by sight. We hear someone when he is warning another, "Watch where you are going, Lookout where you are going." That is good advice, isn't it? Yes. But this walk we are studying about tonight is not a walk by sight, it is a walk by what? By faith. We put that foot of repentance ahead, and then we bring this foot of faith, believing, up along with the other one, and then we can go ahead and surrender and believe again, again, and again. You see, as we have had brought to us in various studies here, God is leading His children individually to see more and more of what He wants them to do.

Dear friends, as has been pointed out, so impressively, when God brings me to a certain point, unless I give up on that point and surrender on that point, I cannot make any more progress, is that right? But equally true, this is what I want to emphasize tonight. Equally true when God has brought me to a point and I give up on that point, then I must take the other step, the step of faith, and believe He has accepted me and take His pardon and His recognition, and His adoption of me, and

believe that I am His, that He loves me, that He is answering my prayers, and that I am His dear son, as truly as Jesus is His Son.

This must be the experience of each one. Not after we get where we are going, but right now. For the way to get where we are going is to do what? Yes, and what is this last text we read say. Walk. And we walk how? We walk by faith. And to emphasize it, He tells us how we can't walk on this road. What is it? Not by sight. In the book *Education* there is a wonderful chapter on faith and prayer. In the opening page, on 253, I read:

"How to exercise faith should be made very plain" *Education*, page 253.

How to do what? Exercise faith. Now in the human body, what do you exercise particularly? The muscles, that's right. And faith is a muscle? Our opening text said the Gospel, is the what?

"Power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth, therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith. As it is written, the just shall live by faith" Romans 1:17

Faith is the great muscle of the Christian. In fact it is a whole series of muscles, a whole system of muscles. Faith is the muscular system of the Christian. But now what does every muscle need? Exercise. Let me ask you something. Would you exercise if you didn't have any muscles? Why, no, that would be impossible. But everyone is born with what? With muscles. Now they are not very big and they are not very strong, but the baby begins at once to do what? Exercise. That first cry is evident that exercise has begun, is that right? Yes. And faith is to be what? Exercised.

"How to exercise faith should be made very plain" *Education*, page 253.

How to exercise faith! Do you know there are people that pay out big money just to learn how to exercise certain muscles? Now sometimes it is just a lot of advertising and money making, but there are things that can be learned about exercise that are very important, friends. Do you know that? Take this matter of breathing, there are thousands of people that don't know how to breathe. They breathe somehow, they get by, but oh, there are wonderful physical blessings waiting for many people if they will just learn how to breathe. And that means, learn how to exercise. How to exercise the diaphragm, how to exercise the abdominal muscles. And so it is in the spiritual side...

"How to exercise faith should be made very plain" *ibid*.

May I tell you, friends, that I meet many people from time to time who have been trying to be Christians for many years and they don't know how to breathe. They don't know how to breathe. It is so easy to suppose that if we sing along with the congregation and pray along with the congregation, do missionary work along with the congregation, and study our Bibles, go through the forms, that somewhere

along the line we ought to get into the experience, that we think, at least, somebody else is having. This is not necessarily so at all. So tonight I want to study with you how to exercise faith. And if you have been doing it, you will recognize in what I read and study tonight, a description of experience the Lord has been giving. If there is anybody that seems new and strange to you, remember it belongs in the alphabet of Christian experience. I am not studying the higher things, or the deeper things tonight, I am studying some very simple things. And I tell you that so you will understand that this is for you no matter how weak and inexperienced you might feel that you are. This is for you, is the beginning of the Christian life. Now it is true, as I have already said, we have to take these things same steps, over and over again.

“How to exercise faith should be made very plain” *Ibid.*

Let me ask you something, suppose you were out visiting someone who didn't know God. And you give this person literature, some day you are studying the Bible with him, and he wants to know how to be saved. Perhaps he asks you, “How could he get power to quite cigarettes or to quite whiskey, or quite using his temper.” Would you show him how to exercise faith? Could you take him to the Bible and point out to him, the very verses which have help you to exercise faith? Is your experience, if you are a born again Christian, this is your privilege; this is your opportunity to learn. All right, now let's go over to Mark 11:24 and we will read a text where Jesus makes this very plain. Now he is talking about just what we are studying tonight, for he says in the 22nd verse, “have faith in God.” This is what Jesus said and He gave the parable saying “Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea.” And then in the 24th verse, He gives the promise, and He tells us what the conditions are. Mark 11:24, will you read it with me?

“Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them” Mark 11:24.

What a wonderful promise! Whatever you desire, do what? Pray, and then do what? Believe, and when do you believe? Does it tell you when to believe? A week later, when? Right then, when you pray. Have you done that, have you done that? My mind goes back to an experience of over 30 years ago. We were holding evangelistic meetings in a mid-western city. I went out to examine for baptism a young woman and her mother; they had both come from the Roman Catholic Church. And as I was going over the points of faith, I asked this young woman, as my habit, along with other questions. Do you believe that God has forgiven all your sins? She said, Oh, I wish I knew. Well I said, have you ever confessed them? Oh, yes she said, hundreds of times. Now which step had she taken? The first step. Which step had she not taken? And could she ever be happy in a full Christian experience and until she had taken that second step? No, so we went to 1 John 1:9, you know what that says, say it with me.

“If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” 1 John 1:9.

Now, I said, Have you confessed your sins? Oh yes. Has God forgiven them? I wish I knew. Can you see, I had to help her on that point. And for the first

time in her life, she exercised faith. And she came to the point of faith that morning. And we knelt down, and for the first time in her life, she thanked God for forgiving her sins. I wonder if there is somebody here tonight that wishes you knew whether your sins were forgiven. Well, you can know, Jesus says:

“What things soever ye desire...”

Do you desire that?

“When ye pray...” Mark 11:24.

Now let me put some words in there that aren't in there. When you pray and get a happy feeling then believe. Is that what it says? That is what some people think. When you pray and the burden seems to be lifted, then believe. Is that what it says, isn't it? Isn't that what a lot of people are waiting for? Well, why didn't Jesus put that in? Because that isn't the way it works.

“What things soever ye desire, when ye pray...”

Do what?

“...believe” Mark 11:24.

Believe what? Now let me put some more words in there or another word that isn't in there. Watch carefully, what it said and listen to what I say, and note differences. “Therefore I say unto you, what things so ever ye desire, when ye pray, that you will receive them.” Is that what it says? Some of you wish you had your Bible with you right now, don't you. So do I, wish you did. I want you to see exactly what it says. Friends, faith comes by hearing the Word of God. Faith doesn't come any other way, it comes by hearing the Word of God.

All right, now do you know what I put in there that isn't there? I put in the future tense. Jesus doesn't say, “When you pray see that you *will* receive what you are praying for.” He says, “Believe you receive,” present tense. Oh, but how can I? Well, we do it by what? By faith, not by sight. That's the difference.

Suppose somebody here tonight was broke and didn't have any money, and you needed ten dollars. And I would say, “Come up here and I'll give it to you,” and I hand you an envelope, a sealed envelope. What would you say? Would you say thank you? Do you know what some people would do? They would open it before they said thank you. Now that might be a safe thing to do in dealing with me. But not with Jesus my friends. He is rich, I am poor. He cannot lie, and He cannot be mistaken. Even if I intended to put it in there, I might by an oversight—forget, mightn't I? God can't, and He says:

“Whatsoever things ye desire, when ye pray...”

Do what?

“...believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them” Mark 11:24.

You are going to have them, provided you do those two things. First do what? Pray—ask for it. And second, believe. Believe what? Believe you receive it, that’s the thing. Now notice how it’s put in this same wonderful chapter on faith and prayer, here in the book *Education*. This is on page 257 and 258. Listen carefully:

“Prayer and faith are closely allied” *Education* 257

What does allied mean? They are joined together, they help each other.

“and they need to be studied together. In the prayer of faith, there is a divine science. It is a science that everyone who would make his lifework a success must understand. Christ says, ‘What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them.’ Mark 11:24” *ibid.*, page 257-258.

Have any of you heard that verse before? When? Just now, you read it, all right. Now notice the comma:

“He makes it plain that our asking must be according to God’s will. We must ask for the things He has promised, and whatever we receive must be used in doing His will. The conditions met the promise is unequivocal” *ibid.*, page 258.

Now watch.

“For the pardon of sin...” *ibid.*

There is one thing you can ask for, that is what that woman was asking for hundreds of times. Finally, this morning that I am telling you about she got the answer. Why? She was led to take the second step—the step of faith.

“For the pardon of sin, for the Holy Spirit, for a Christlike temper...” *ibid.*

I wonder if there is anybody here tonight that has been praying for a Christlike temper for years.

“For the pardon of sin, for the Holy Spirit, for a Christlike temper, for wisdom and strength to do His work, for any gift He has promised we may ask. Then we are to believe that we receive and return thanks to God that we have received.” *ibid.*

Let me ask you something, friends. Does this mean then, that when I kneel down to pray before I get up from my knees I should reach the point where I thank God at the close for what I asked Him for at the beginning? Is that right, do you do

that? Well if you haven't done that, tonight is your opportunity to learn this part of the science. This is just as important as making a surrender to God. Just as important as giving up your sins. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth, not to those who just ask.

"But what things soever ye desire, when ye pray..."

Do what?

"...believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them"
Mark 11:24.

All right,

"We need look for no outward evidence of the blessing.
The gift is in the promise, and we may go about our work"
Education, page 258.

Oh, I am so glad of that, friends, and there is many a time that I have to kneel down and pray and ask God for something and claim it, and then do what this says, go on about my work. And I don't have any more evidence when I get through than I did when I started as far as sight or feeling is concerned but I have what? I have the promise. And I took hold of it by what? By faith, and faith is the what? Is the power of God. Oh, yes.

"The gift is in the promise and we may go about our work
assured that what God has promised He is able to perform
and that the gift which we already possess will be realized
when we need it most" *Ibid*.

Oh, I think this is wonderful friends, don't you? I think this is wonderful.

You know I carry some traveler's checks because in my trips around the country to hold meetings in different places, there are times when I need some money, and I don't want to carry very much cash, and so I have these traveler's checks. Most of you have seen these traveler's checks, and you know you have to sign your name up in the corner when you get them. But that doesn't give you any money. In order to get some money, in order to use it to buy anything, at the time that you actually need it, you have to do what? Sign your name again down in the lower left hand corner. Well, that is a lot of red tape to go through isn't it? Well it is worth it if you get ten dollars or twenty dollars when you need it, and nobody knows you, isn't it? Yes, when you need some gasoline or some food. My friends the promises of God are like this. They are made out in your name and you and I are to write our names up in the upper left hand corner when we present them in prayer, and then we are to put those in our pockets and go on about our way.

And hour by hour and day by day as we come to emergencies and the need arises, we can cash them in just like that. Let me read it again here.

“We need look for no outward evidence. The gift is in the promise and we may go about our work assured that what God has promised He is able to perform and that the gift which we already possess will be realized when we need it most.” *Ibid.*

Isn't that wonderful friends, isn't that wonderful! Now, I read you this sentence a few moments ago:

“How to exercise faith should be made very plain” *Ibid.*, page 253.

This right now is the point I want somebody to get that needs help. You see how it ought to be done but you say, “I don't know how I can do it.” How to exercise faith. I'll tell you friends, you exercise your faith just like you exercise a muscle. You decide with your will. See here is my hand here, here is this book, and I say, “I want that book.” Now I could stand here all night and say, “I want the book,” and it would just lie there on the table. But when I say to my muscle, “I will that you should pick it up” it does it just like that. My muscle has been trained to do what my will says, is that right?

Now, friends, “How to exercise faith, should be made very plain.” You exercise faith by saying, “I will believe.” Will you say those three words, “I will believe” together. “I will believe.” Again. “I will believe.” Of course, we ought to be careful what we believe and who we believe. Faith is not believing anything and everything. Faith is to believe in God, what God said, that is what we are talking about. Now we are given those precise words in the book *Messages to Young People*, page 153:

“Say, ‘I will believe, I do believe, that God is my helper’”
Messages to Young People, page 153.

“I will believe, I do believe, that God is my helper” *ibid.*

Now do you know where I am quite certain the servant of the Lord got those particular expressions that are used here? Will you turn in your church hymnal now to number 670 and I want you to see a hymn by Charles Wesley. You know, when Sister White was a little girl, she was a Methodist. And some years before she lived, a great leader of the Methodist revival was Wesley, John Wesley and his brother Charles Wesley. John Wesley was the great preacher and Charles Wesley was the great hymn writer. But if you read in *Great Controversy* the chapter on Early English Reformers, you will see the wonderful experience in learning to believe God and just trust all of His promises that the Lord led Charles and John Wesley through. And this hymn is one of the many hymns of Wesley that breathes this wonderful prayer. Now, have you all found it? Do you see the last stanza? Sometimes it is used as a chorus or refrain. What are those first six words? “I do believe, I now believe,” isn't that nice, that is just what I read here, wasn't it? That's right, “I will believe, I do believe, that God is my helper.”

All right, now how many of you know this little song, may I see your hands? Oh, I see we have a pleasure ahead of us to learn this. This is one of the old hymns, I guess it is so old that many don't know it. But I want you to learn it friends, because I want this to be a very practical experience for you. Very practical experience. Now will you folks play it on the piano and organ for us please, 670. Notice these words, while they are getting ready to play.

“Father, I stretch my hands to Thee no other help I know.
If Thou withdraw Thyself from me Ah, wither shall I go?

Now when we sing it presently, I want us to sing the last stanza as a chorus after each verse we sing. Will you read this last stanza with me, number six, altogether:

“I do believe, I now believe that Jesus died for me.
And that He shed His precious blood from sin to set me free.”

Now tonight we are only going to take the first three stanzas, just the first three stanzas. And after each one, this chorus using the sixth stanza. Alright, play it clear through for us.

“Father, I stretch my hands to Thee; No other help I know;
If Thou withdraw Thyself from me, Ah, wither shall I go?

I do believe, I now believe That Jesus died for me,
And that He shed His precious blood from sin to set me free.

On Thy dear Son I now believe, O, let me feel Thy power;
and all my varied wants relieve, In this accepted hour.

I do believe, I now believe That Jesus died for me,
And that He shed His precious blood from sin to set me free.

Author of faith! to Thee I lift My weary, longing eyes;
O, let me now receive that gift; My soul without it dies.

I do believe, I now believe That Jesus died for me,
And that He shed His precious blood From sin to set me free.”

Be seated and turn please to Romans the 10th chapter. You know when a carpenter nails two boards together and he wants them to be sure and whole, he drives the nail clear through the two boards and then he does what? Turns it over and does what? Clenches it, all right, now here is the clincher: Romans the 10th chapter, we will begin with the eighth verse:

“But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth,
and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;
That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and
shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the
dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth

unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed" Romans 10:8-11.

How do we express our surrender? With the mouth, we say, "I will surrender, I will give myself to Jesus." How do we express faith? With the mouth, "I will believe, I do believe, I now believe."

Our Father in Heaven, we thank Thee with all our hearts for meeting with us tonight. We thank Thee that the way of faith is simple and clear, not by feeling but by believing Thy promises. And as we have given ourselves to Thee we believe Thou hast heard us and accept us and granted our prayer through faith in Jesus. Amen.

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