

Jesus Has Faith In His Church, Do You?

#0556

Study given by W.D. Frazee—July 30, 1964

That's what the Bible says. He's able to save them to the uttermost that come—that come unto God by Him. What about the ones that don't come? It's all in vain, isn't it. What a pity. But oh, the cheering thing is what He *can* do, what He *is doing*, for those that come. Well, we've come tonight, haven't we. Let's get all that He bought and paid for. What do you say?

Now, will you repeat with me Revelation 14:12. This is the climax of the great three-fold message. We want to look at it again tonight. Together:

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus”
Revelation 14:12.

The remnant keep what? Commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. And remember, these two things that God has united, Satan wants to what? Separate. But:

“What...God hath joined together, let not man put asunder”
Matthew 19:6.

The commandments of God and the faith of Jesus are united, and there's no way to separate them, and the remnant will do what? They'll keep them—keep the commandments and keep what? The faith of Jesus.

Now, tonight, I want to look again at that expression “the faith of Jesus.” I believe that from our study tonight each one of us can carry home a fresh glimpse, a new glimpse, a clearer view, of the faith that Jesus had and the faith that He has, in the ultimate triumph of God's purpose. And, if we understand Jesus' faith in this matter, then it is our privilege to do what, does this text say? *Keep* it. Now, before we can ever keep it, we must *have* it. We must share the faith that Jesus has.

Now, we may think we have dark days, friends, but none of us have ever had a dark day such as Jesus had. We never will. It would be impossible. But we can know something—a little bit—of the suffering and the test that He endured, and as we go into those dark periods, whether it be now or in the approaching time of Jacob's trouble, we must have the faith of Jesus.

That faith took Him through Gethsemane and the cross, it has taken Him through the long ages of the Great Controversy, and the remnant will understand and share that faith, and that's what will take them through—that's what will take *us* through—the commandments of God and the *faith* of Jesus—keeping it.

Now, to get a glimpse of this wonderful faith and hope in the heart of Jesus, we turn to the 17th chapter of John. This, you remember, is the last prayer of Jesus just before He entered into the awful experience of Gethsemane and Calvary.

We are told that this 17th chapter of John is to be our first study. We're told that every medical missionary, every gospel minister, should make this prayer his first study. We're also told that this chapter includes more and comprehends more than any other chapter in the New Testament. We're also told that we are to help to answer this prayer.

It's interesting. We usually think of prayer as something that we pray and Jesus answers. This is a prayer that He prayed, and He longs for us to share in the answering of it. It will take all of us sharing with Him and working with Him to answer His prayer, and you will see that, as we enter into the study of this prayer.

Now, I shall not read it all tonight, although I wish that each line were fresh in our minds as we study certain phases of it this evening:

“These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was” John 17:1-5.

Now, He brings to the Father the men that God had given Him—His disciples—and He prays for them. Read it, verse after verse, line after line. The ninth verse:

“I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine” John 17:9.

He prays that they may be kept, He prays that they may have His joy fulfilled in them. And then, in the 20th verse, He looks down the stream of time, and He sees you and me. Now, listen. He's praying there in the shadows of Gethsemane, but He's praying about us, for after mentioning His disciples that were there with Him in the garden, He says in the 20th verse:

“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word” John 17:20.

Does that take in us? Every one of us tonight believes because somebody brought us the word, and that somebody got it from somebody else, and that somebody else got it from still somebody else, and on back to Peter or John or James or Andrew or Matthew or Thomas. Right?

And so, Jesus says, as He prays, Father, I'm praying not only for these that are here that I have poured out my life with and for. I am praying for everyone who shall accept the word through their ministry and the others and the others and the others, right down to the end of time.

All right. Now, what is the burden of His prayer:

“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. Father, I will...” John 17:20-24.

That is, my desire is, my purpose, my plea, my choice, my whole mind and heart—I will:

“...that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am...” John 17:24.

Now, this is the climax of His prayer, and in this He pours out His longing. If you will look in the commentary under the Ellen G. White comments on John 17, you will find a wonderful statement to this effect—that this prayer of Jesus in the garden—this prayer of John 17—was given to the church that they might understand the intercession which Christ would carry on for His church in the heavenly sanctuary.

This is a sample, a type, an illustration, an example, of the prayers that have been issuing from the lips of Jesus every day these 2,000 years in the heavenly sanctuary, my friends. This is the great longing of His heart—that His church may be one and that they may *with* Him where He is.

He longs that the revelation of His Father's glory shall be complete and full in His church on earth, and that as the result, His church shall be with Him forevermore in heaven. I repeat, this was the great longing of His heart, and still is.

You remember that just a few hours before He prayed this prayer, He had been with the twelve in the upper room. You remember how His heart was grieved as he saw the lack of unity, as He saw the bickering and the maneuvering for position. The scripture calls it a strife among them as to which should be the greatest.

We wouldn't have done that, would we, if we'd been there that night. Well, they did, and Jesus finally took the basin, the towel, the water, washed their feet, and accomplished a great work.

Then, you remember, He gave them the bread and the wine, and you remember that as He passed the cup to them, He said, Now all of you drink of this, and I will not drink it henceforth until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

Now, He had just told them that it was the New Testament in His blood which is shed for many for the remission of sins, and I want you to think, my dear friends, of our subject tonight—the faith of Jesus. There He sat at the table, and as He poured that wine and passed it to them, He was reminding them that He was going to His death, but His faith leaped the gulf, it spanned the ages of the future.

And He says, Tonight I drink this cup with you. Next time we drink it, we'll be together in the kingdom of God. Oh, the faith of Jesus, my friends. Do you have that faith tonight? Do you have that faith for yourself and for your fellow disciples?

Jesus expressed that faith in behalf of men that were weak and fallible, full of faults. At that very supper table, He unveiled the future sufficiently to warn them of their danger and tell them of their peril. But, ah, my friends, although He saw them tempted, tried and even failing, He said, Oh, I'm going to drink this cup again with *you* in my Father's kingdom. Right? That's the faith of Jesus, my friends. Oh, let's get it and keep it, my friends.

“...here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” Revelation 14:12.

Does the thought ever come to your heart, Oh, I don't see how God is ever going to get 144,000 or even two out of this generation? Does it? As you look about to your brethren and sisters, as you look into your own poor heart, does a discouraging thought ever come? It may, but remember where it comes from. It is Satan's work to discourage the soul, and some he works especially in trying to discourage them about their *own* experience. They may think, Oh, yes, Brother Jones can be saved, Brother Smith can go through, but not me.

With others, the Devil takes the other way. He may even seek to build them up in self-righteousness, but he suggests that the church is so weak, the church is so worldly, the church is so something, that there's no hope for it. But the faith of Jesus spans that gulf. It's like the rainbow that's round about the throne. It's the sign, the symbol, the pledge, of the everlasting covenant between God and His people in this world, and my dear friends, Jesus' faith will be rewarded.

All right. Now, I want to follow through on this prayer. Here, we see Him praying it Thursday evening. He goes from this into the deeper shadows of Gethsemane and wrestles with God, drinking that cup. The mob sees Him at midnight, and He's hurried from one tribunal to another and finally, in the early hours of Friday, He's led out to be crucified.

And there He hangs three hours in the piercing sun, three hours in the dreadful darkness. But, oh, my friends, although hope leaves Him, by faith and faith alone, the faith of Jesus, He goes through that awful struggle, and in the closing

moment, as He bows His head upon His breast, He says, Father, into Thy hands, I commit my life.

We're told that bright hope did not picture to Him in that time His coming forth from the tomb. We're told that He has by faith and faith alone to go through with the plan, and He did it—faith and love. But, my dear friends, He never, never, never, lost sight of this wonderful thing that He was longing for and living for and dying for, that you and I might be up there in heaven with the Father.

And if it meant that for Him, He must die and be forever excluded, He was willing because of His great love for you and me and His faith that that purpose of God would be carried out. Oh, what love and what faith.

Well, He goes to sleep, and the weeping disciples carry Him to the tomb. He rests through the hours of the Sabbath. And early in the morning of the first day of the week, that mighty angel comes down from the sky, rolls the stone away, and summons the sleeping Son of God from the grave, Son of God, come forth. Thy Father calls Thee.

There's something significant in that—Thy Father calls Thee. He was summoned to appear before God. You will remember that as Mary, the first one to see Him there that early morning, finally recognized Him and fell at His feet, He said, Touch me not, Mary. Why not? I am not yet ascended to My Father. But go and tell my brethren I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God, and, having left that word of comfort, He was on His way, summoned to appear before God.

Remember, friends, He'd been absent from heaven all His earth life. From that mysterious moment when He left the Father's presence to become incarnate, there had been a vacancy there in heaven. Oh, how the Father's heart must have missed that dear Son, with whom He had had fellowship through eternal ages of the past.

And now, the moment of reunion has come. How glad the angels are to welcome Him back, but ah, my friends, there is something that happens as He approaches the gate of that city. As the portals are thrown wide and the angels unite in praise and worship, and they want to worship Him there, but He waves them back. He won't receive their worship.

He goes in before the Father, and the Father welcomes Him to the throne, ready to embrace Him, but ah, my friends, He's not ready to accept that. He's not ready to take His place on the throne again. There's something on His heart. What is it? Oh, let me read it to you in inspired language, friends:

“Jesus refused to receive the homage of His people until He knew that His sacrifice had been accepted by the Father, and until He had received the assurance from God Himself that His atonement for the sins of His people had been full and ample, that through His blood they might gain eternal life. Jesus immediately ascended to heaven and presented

Himself before the throne of God, showing the marks of shame and cruelty upon His brow, His hands and feet. But he refused to receive the coronet of glory, and the royal robe, and He also refused the adoration of the angels as He had refused the homage of Mary, until the Father signified that His offering was accepted.

“He also had a request to prefer concerning His chosen ones upon earth. He wished to have the relation clearly defined that His redeemed should hereafter sustain to heaven, and to His Father. His church must be justified and accepted before He could accept heavenly honor” *The Spirit of Prophecy, Volume 3, page 202.*

Oh, think of that, friends.

“His church must be justified and accepted before He could accept heavenly honor. He declared it to be His will that where He was, there His church should be; if He was to have glory, His people must share it with Him. They who suffer with Him on earth must finally reign with Him in His kingdom. In the most explicit manner Christ pleaded for His church, identifying His interest with theirs, and advocating, with love and constancy stronger than death, their rights and titles gained through Him” *The Spirit of Prophecy, Volume 3, page 202.*

Oh, friends, do you catch the vision of it? Do you see the picture? Think of it. For these years, the Father and the Son have been separated, and oh, how the Father’s heart must have gone out to welcome that dear Son, and oh, how the heart of the Son must have gone out to enter into that reunion with His Father, but there’s something that’s on His heart that’s more important to Him than that, and it’s in the Father’s heart as well as the Son’s. What is it? That His church may be there with Him, that you and I may share that throne, that glory, that eternal fellowship.

And so, that prayer that was prayed in John 17 in the garden of Gethsemane, is repeated on the resurrection morning as He stands there before the Father and says, Father, oh, the desire of my heart is that these whom Thou hast given Me be with Me where I am. If I’m to have glory, my church may share it. Do you see the great longing of Jesus’ heart, my friends?

Do you think that prayer will be answered? Oh, yes. Yes, I’m sure it will.

“God’s answer to this appeal goes forth in the proclamation: ‘Let all the angels of God worship him.’ Every angelic commander obeys the royal mandate, and Worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain; and that lives again...echoes and re-echoes through all heaven...The request of Christ is granted; the church is justified through Him, its representative and head” *The Spirit of Prophecy, Volume 3, page 203.*

May I tell you, friends. There is one being in this universe that has refused to recognize this. Do you know what his name is? His name is Lucifer, Satan, the adversary, and the 12th chapter of Revelation pictures him as the accuser of our brethren who accuses them before our God day and night.

Oh, I pray that God will take out of our hearts everything like that. What do you say, friends? Let us have that spirit of love for the church and that spirit of faith in the ultimate triumph of the church that filled and still fills the heart of the Son of God.

Well, that was the resurrection day. You remember that He came back to this world that same day and met with the disciples that evening. For 40 days, He was with them, as Luke says, speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God, and then, finally, the day came that He led them out to Olivet, and as He was blessing them, He was slowly taken from among them.

Now, that that I read you just now is from the old *Spirit of Prophecy, Volume 3*, pages 202 and 203, and pictures this wonderful scene of the resurrection morning when Jesus immediately from the grave went to heaven and got this question settled.

But now, if you want to turn to *Desire of Ages*, page 833 and 834, you will find a similar presentation of a similar scene when Jesus ascended to heaven at the close of the 40 days. There, see that wonderful picture as it is presented here on 833 and 834 and 835 of *Desire of Ages*. It closes this marvelous volume on the life of Christ.

Get the picture, as the angels are presented there, singing their songs of welcome, but again, He waves them back. Again, He goes in before the Father, and again—listen—I'm reading about a different day, a different occasion, but exactly the same longing prayer—listen as I read it here on page 834:

“But He waves them back. Not yet; He cannot now receive the coronet of glory and the royal robe. He enters into the presence of His Father. He points to His wounded head, the pierced side, the marred feet; He lifts His hands, bearing the print of nails. He points to the tokens of His triumph...”
Desire of Ages, page 834.

Those that were raised with Him, you remember, and went to heaven with Him.

“He approaches the Father, with whom there is joy over one sinner that repents... Before the foundations of the earth were laid, the Father and the Son had united in a covenant to redeem man if he should be overcome by Satan. They had clasped Their hands in a solemn pledge that Christ should become the surety for the human race. This pledge Christ has fulfilled. When upon the cross He cried out, ‘It is

finished,' He addressed the Father. The compact had been fully carried out. Now He declares..." *Desire of Ages*, page 834.

Listen. The prayer at the ascension.

"Now He declares: Father, it is finished. I have done Thy will, O My God. I have completed the work of redemption. If Thy justice is satisfied, 'I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am.'" *Desire of Ages*, page 834.

Three times already we've heard this prayer—there in the garden, on the resurrection morning and now at the ascension. Three times that great longing wells up and overflows.

"The voice of God is heard proclaiming that justice is satisfied. Satan is vanquished. Christ's toiling, struggling ones on earth are 'accepted in the Beloved'... The Father's arms encircle His Son, and the word is given, 'Let all the angels of God worship Him'" *Desire of Ages*, page 834.

Oh, friends, what faith, what hope, and what cheer. Well, the ages have rolled along, and as we look over the record of the great controversy since that wonderful day, ah, it's been a checkered record, hasn't it, friends. Down through the early church, the apostasy, the long night of the Dark Ages, the rise of the Reformation, the decline and apostasy again, the rise of this movement, and now, for 120 years, friends, here we've been in the judgment hour. Ahead of us lies the last great crisis, the loud cry, the close of probation, Jacob's trouble.

Now, friends, I want to take you for a moment into that time, and I turn for this to *Great Controversy*, page 636. This is the midnight hour when the death decree is to be executed. This is the time when this world has set to liquidate the remnant.

But you remember what God is going to do. At the crisis hour, everything in nature is turned upside down. The sun appears at midnight and the bands of wicked men that are ready to rush upon the people of God and kill them all in one night—they're suddenly arrested.

Well, now I want you to notice what the people of God see and hear right at that time.

"By the people of God a voice, clear and melodious, is heard, saying, 'Look up,' and, lifting their eyes to the heavens, they behold the bow of promise. The black, angry clouds that covered the firmament are parted, and like Stephen they look up steadfastly into Heaven, and see the glory of God, and the Son of man seated upon his throne. In his divine form they discern the marks of his humiliation; and from his lips they hear the request, presented before his Father and the holy angels, 'I will that they also, whom thou

hast given me, be with me where I am" *Great Controversy*,
page 636.

Ah, my friends, every time we get a glimpse of Jesus in that upper world, He's pouring out His heart in that intercessory prayer. That longing has lost nothing in these 2,000 years. It's growing, if possible, stronger and stronger with the passing ages. He wants you, He wants me, He wants His church.

Will that prayer be answered, friends? Will that faith be rewarded? Oh, yes, thank God.

"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" Revelation 14:12.

Oh, friends, I think it's wonderful that Jesus has such faith, shall I say, in us. God help us to have faith in one another. Ah, you say, but He doesn't have faith in us. He has faith in what God can do for us. Well, let's do the same about one another. What do you say, friends? Let's have faith that God is going to carry out His eternal purpose and have a church that fully reflects His divine image, fully displays His unity—the unity between Him and the Father to a warring world—and that, as the result, is destined to be with Him forever in the courts above.

Let me read now just a few lines from *Testimonies to Ministers*, page 50:

"God has a church on earth who are lifting up the downtrodden law, and presenting to the world the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world. The church is the depository of the wealth of the riches of the grace of Christ, and through the church eventually will be made manifest the final and full display of the love of God to the world that is to be lightened with its glory. The prayer of Christ that His church may be one as He was one with His Father will finally be answered" *Testimonies to Ministers*, page 50.

That's the great demonstration of the loud cry, my friends. That's what's ahead of this people. Oh, friends, do you say, Well, I don't see it as I look around me. Tell me, if you'd been in the upper room that night and had seen John and Peter and Matthew and Thomas bickering and jockeying for position, striving as to who would be the greatest, would you have had much faith that less than two months from that time they would see thousands of people converted unto their ministry?

And if you'd seen them just a few hours later in Gethsemane, first fighting and then fleeing, if you had heard Peter denying his Lord with cursing and swearing, in your wildest dreams, in your fondest hopes, could you have pictured that man as the man to preach the Pentecostal sermon and see 3,000 souls come forward to unite with that church and be baptized? But, my friends, it happened, and it was the faith of Jesus that accomplished it.

That very night, He said:

“...Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren” Luke 22:32.

Peter didn't appreciate that so much when Jesus said it, but some hours later, it was the one ray of hope, it was the one expression of faith, that held him from the fate of Judas.

Oh, my friends, let us get the faith of Jesus concerning our own salvation and the salvation of our brothers and sisters and let's share it with one another. What do you say? There's many a poor discouraged heart that, like Peter, needs the look of love and forgiveness.

May we bow our heads. Blessed Jesus, we thank Thee tonight for another glimpse of Thy great love and Thy great faith, and we choose to get and keep that faith of Jesus.

Oh, Master, Thou must give it to us. Teach us to cultivate it, to exercise it, to develop it, that it may become strong and mighty in these hearts and lives of ours, to lift us from sin, and to use us to lift others.

Bless Thy church, oh, my Father. Accomplish Thy purpose in Thy people and even yet in this present evil world demonstrate that the faith of Jesus can present a people that keep the commandments of God, that are one with Thee and with one another, that present to the world an unbroken front.

Oh, my Master, Thou wilt accomplish it for the glory of Thy name, and we thank Thee in Jesus' name, amen.

Now, dear friends, I know enough about my Lord to know that He would greatly appreciate hearing from some of us tonight. I know that it would cheer His heart to know that we are sharing with Him His longing for the carrying out of this eternal purpose and that we're heart to heart with Him in this.

Oh, let several be standing at a time, and one after the other, let us express what the Holy Spirit has impressed upon our hearts. You say it, just in your way, what He puts in your heart to say. And remember, He's listening with the deepest interest. What would you like to say?

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