

Righteousness By Faith

Sermon #0820

Study by W.D. Frazee—October 17, 1980

There are classes and lectures, that to attend them you would have to pay one hundred dollars, or more than that. But suppose you had made a reservation for this study tonight, and had paid one hundred dollars to be here. I imagine you would be listening very carefully to get your monies worth, right? Most of you would probably take notes. May I tell you friends, that what you are going to get tonight, is worth far more than one hundred dollars. I know, the Lord has shared it with me this week, and I wouldn't sell it, if it meant to lose it, for many times that money. But what you get out of it, will depend upon how well you listen, and how much you open your mind to the influence of the Holy Spirit. Very simple, what I have to share with you.

The great things are simple. But I have been studying these things for many years, there is something tonight, that I have to share with you, that is clearer and more wonderful than ever before in all of my life. And I am sure that if you and I can get hold of it and apply it, it has wonderful possibilities. Did you ever see somebody doing something, and you stand and watch them, and they are trying so hard, they are not getting anywhere, and you wish so much, that you could help them to find the easy way to do it. Did you ever have that experience? It happens. That's the way our dear Lord is. The prophet heard the angel say, some tried to hard to believe. Faith is so simple they look above it. Some tried too hard to believe, faith is so simple, they look above it.

Jesus came down here to earth, nearly two thousand years ago. Not only to die for us, but to live for us, to show us how to live. He demonstrated as well as taught the wonderful way of success, and He wants you and me to enter in to that success. He wants everyone of us to be successful to be happy in the things of God. Now as Brother Atwood brought to you so beautifully, last Friday night, there are trials in the program, it's a way of life. But the purpose of those trials, is to bring us to the point of success. Every trial that God arranges, every one He permits, has a definite purpose, and He keeps the tuition as low as possible. I can tell you that, but the question is, do we learn our lesson? What lesson is it that He wants us to learn?

You will remember that Jesus, when He had that last meeting with the group up on the mountain at Galilee, said, all power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth, go ye therefore, and I am with you always. The power that is in Christ, and that He has shared with us, is infinite. All power in heaven and in earth. The miracles that Jesus performed when He was here, were all by His word. The miracles that He wants to

work in our lives, is by His creative word. The miracles that He wants you and me to be able to perform, in working with others, all of them must be performed, by the creative power of His word. The Psalmist tells us in Psalm 33, verse 6, and 9:

“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.

How did God make this world? Not by evolution, but by creation. And what is creation? Creation is, you start with nothing, and end up with everything. And it is not done over a great period of millions and millions of years. It is done instantly. What did God do to bring light to this world? He said, Let there be light, and the Bible says, and there was light. God didn't have to set in motion some operation to produce light, His word, He said it, and there the word was. And so with everything else in creation week, God said, and it was. God said, and it was. And when He got through, He beheld everything that He had made, and behold it was, how? Very good, it was alright. It was ok, the divine inspector found no flaw, nothing to change. And as the sign of all of that, He gave us the Sabbath. You know it makes the Sabbath different from the other days of the week, simply this and only this. God said, Let the Sabbath be the rest day, God said, let the Sabbath be the rest day. God said, let the Sabbath be the sanctified day. That's all there is to it. That's all there is to it now. And if you believe God, you find that it is true. If you don't believe God, you don't find it. If you don't believe God, then Saturday is no different from Wednesday or Monday, but if you believe God, you find that there is something in the Sabbath, different from other days. Am I correct? How many of you have found it so? What difference does it make, there is only one thing (I repeat) that makes the difference. The creative word of Jesus Christ, the creative word of Jesus Christ.

The Bible says that God cannot lie. Now you and I should not lie, we ought not to lie, but God cannot lie. That is something different. God cannot lie. Do you know why God cannot lie? I will tell you why, friends. Because truth is not something that God looks at and consults, and is careful to be sure that everything He says is in harmony with that standard. Not at all. Anything God says is true, because He is the truth. So He cannot lie, He cannot lie, He cannot lie. Just meditate on that a little, isn't that a wonderful thing? Just think of it, anything He says is true, just as soon as He says it, if it was never true before. He cannot lie. Turn to the 4th chapter of Romans, I want you to see an interesting example of this. The last three lines of the 17th verse, Romans 4. This is wonderful.

“...God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were” Romans 4:17.

God quickens, that is, He makes alive the dead, and He calls those things that be

not, as though they, what? You know why, He can do that? Let me read you this inspired comment from the book *Education*, page 254.

“He ‘callesh those things that be not as though they were for’; when He calls them, they are“ *Education*, page 254, paragraph 2.

How is that?

“He callesh those things that be not as though they were for”; when He calls them, they are” Ibid.

Here is another illustration of this fact, that God cannot lie. So when Jesus stood there at the tomb of Lazarus and said, Lazarus come forth, He didn't have to do something to carry out that word, His word made Lazarus alive, a perfectly healthy man. That which had been a putrid mass, became at once, instantly, instantly, a perfectly well healthy man. That which was dead, became alive. How long did it take, just long enough for Him to speak. And I repeat, and don't miss it, it wasn't that He purposed something, He said something, and then set in motion certain operations to bring it about, no, no. His word did it. His word did it. He spake and it was. He spake and it was. My friends, wouldn't it be wonderful if power like that was available to you and me? I wonder if it is? Turn to John the 1st chapter, read the 12th verse. John the 1st chapter, and the 12th verse, I will tell you this, compared with this power, all the energy of the atom bomb is tiny, tiny. This is the infinite power of the infinite God. And God wants you and me to partake of it, to experience its operation in our own lives, and to share it with others. This is the power that frees the tobacco slave and the whiskey slave. This is the power that delivers men from the bondage of evil habits of all kinds. Wicked, adulterous lusts, wicked angry tempers, wicked lazy dispositions. Every sin, its power can be broken, by the creative word of Jesus. This is the way our sins are forgiven, by the creative word of Jesus Christ. Do you have John 1:12? Will you read it with me?

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name” John 1:12.

Who gets power? Those that receive Him, those that believe it. You see Jesus has never, don't miss it, He has never planned to give anybody this power apart from Himself. Turn to 1 Corinthians, the 1st chapter. You see, He is the word, the living word, by Him were all things made. He is God's thought made audible, He is the active agent through which the eternal Father accomplished the work of creation. And so through Him is accomplished this work of redemption. We are looking now at this wonderful chapter, 1 Corinthians 1, verses 23, and 24.

“But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God” 1Corinthians 1:23-24.

If you open your heart to Christ then you have what? The power. That is what we read in John 1:12.

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power...”
John 1:12.

But the power, I repeat, is not something apart from Himself. Christ is the power of God, Christ is the wisdom of God. Too many people think of the different gifts that they want, the different things that they would like to have in their lives. But friends, it is all in Jesus, if it is worth anything. Why try to get it apart from Him. And if you have Him, you have it. That’s what it says, again, the 30th verse. Will you read that one with me?

“But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption” 1 Corinthians 1:30.

Who is our righteousness? Jesus. Past, present, future, He is our what? Our righteousness. What else is He? Wisdom. What else is He? Sanctification and redemption. He is the whole thing, friends, it is all in Him. All I need is in Him, and I need Him, and I don’t want to get any of these things apart from Him, would you? No, no. No, danger, it would be too bad, if it could happen. In our human weakness we are to do the deeds of omnipotence, as we learn to take hold of the creative word of Jesus Christ. This is what faith is, faith. Turn to Romans 10:17. We will find out how it comes, Romans 10:17.

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” Romans 10:17.

Faith comes by hearing the Word of God. This creative word, this all powerful word, this infinite word, if I listen to it and open my heart to receive it, I’ll have what? Faith. Faith. And faith is what enables us to share in this work. Now I want you to notice how Jesus healed people. I am going to take as an example for a few minutes, this matter of blindness. Wouldn’t it be a sad thing to be blind, and wouldn’t it be a wonderful thing, to suddenly be able to see? Well, a number of people had this experience when Jesus was here. Let’s turn to the 10th chapter of Mark. There was a man by the name of Bartimaeus, Mark 10:46. He was begging by the roadside near Jericho. A great multitude of people were passing there, and the blind man said to those that stood by, “what is the commotion, what is all this about”? Why, they said,

“Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.” And he began at once to cry and to shout. He wanted Jesus. He cried so loud they told him to keep still, but he wouldn’t stop. I don’t think I would either, if I had a chance like that, friends. Well Jesus stood still and called him, the 49th verse. So they said, be of good comfort, He is calling you. He ran so fast he threw his outer garment away, to get there quicker, 50th verse. Now the 51st verse, I want you to notice.

“And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee?” Mark 10:51.

Didn’t Jesus know what He wanted? Wasn’t it apparent? Why sure. But do you notice, don’t miss it, Jesus waits for the requests, do you know why? He will not exercise that creative word, that all powerful word in your life, unless you want Him to. He won’t do it. He respects your will. So He says to this blind man,

“...What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight. And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way” Mark 10:51-52.

Isn’t that wonderful? What was it worth, this same word, that spoke this planet into existence. The same word that brought light out of darkness, brought light to that blind man’s eyes. Instantly. Nothing could stop it from happening, the creative word of Christ was apparent. Jesus waited, until the man did what? Asked for it. Is there something you want Jesus to do in your life, my friends? Has sin gripped you in its vice? Do you hope by some process of evolution, finally to arrive from one stage to another, of getting better and getting better and getting better? Oh why not, let the creative word, Jesus Christ, operate in your life. Do you really want it? The problem, dear friends, is that many people think they want it, but they don’t really, they don’t really. I suppose there is no question about the blind man wanting it. But do you really want to be delivered from tobacco? Do you really want to be delivered from whiskey? Do you really want to be delivered from that evil temper? Come now, take a look at that evil temper, doesn’t it come in mighty handy sometimes? Doesn’t it make people get out of your way and let you do what you want to do? All the animals of the forest will get out of the way for the skunk you know? (Laughter from audience) Are you willing to have that evil temper, do you really want to get rid of that evil temper? Or maybe it is a pouty, gloomy, sullen disposition, instead of a Mt. Saint Helens blowing up. Whatever it is, the way you get your way, do you really want to get rid of it? Or would you just like to be able to control it a little better?

My dear friends, I repeat, the creative word of Jesus Christ will never operate in your life, until you desire Him to change you. Isn’t sin a miserable thing, friends? Isn’t it really? Wicked, miserable, abominable things, God help us, to flee to the refuge, like

the blind man running in his blindness, casting out the outer garment that might have impeded his movements. Be of good comfort, they said, rise, he calls you. But even when he gets there, Jesus waits, What would you like me to do for you? What would you like for me to do for you? Dear children and young people, do you have a disobedient rebellious spirit? Wouldn't it be a wonderful thing if that could be taken away? It can, it can, as light shone into that blind man's eyes, and he recognized his Lord, so you can be delivered, my dear young people, from that rebellious attitude toward authority. You can, but you must ask for that, you must ask for that.

But now that is only half of it. Turn over to Matthew the 9th chapter, I want you to see another question Jesus asked of a blindman. This particular story is two blind men. Matthew 9:27. They are crying too, 27th verse.

“...Thou Son of David, have mercy on us. And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord” Matthew 9:27-28.

What does “yea” mean? Yes.

“Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you” Matthew 9:29.

Suppose they hadn't believed? The creative word does not operate, my friends, unless you and I want it to operate in our lives, unless we believe it can and will. Which tell me, that if I am not victorious in a certain matter, it is one of two things. Either I don't really want it down inside, or I don't believe that God can do it. The Devil doesn't care which it is, that keeps me from getting the blessing. Do you believe that Jesus has power to forgive your sins? Do you? Do you believe He has power to deliver you from your sins? Or does He just have power to forgive? Can He deliver? Do you believe it? So whatever the problem in the life, whatever the sin problem, Jesus wants to know two things. First, what is it you want Me to do about this? Imagine, the creator of the universe standing by, while you make up your minds as to what you want! That is what He is doing, and some of us He has been waiting a good many years on some matters, dear friends. Oh that God may deliver us from sin, in all of its hideous and myriad manifestations. Like that beast of Revelation 17 and 13, with so many different heads, but everyone of them is the Devil's manifestation, my friends. Do you really want deliverance? Do you believe He can do it? Ah, but my experience says, “no, I am afraid He can't. I have been trying it for 40 years, I don't see how He could do anything in a minute.” Well that is the point friends, I don't know how long the blind men had wished they could see, it might have been 40 years. Blind men trying to see for 40 years, you will never get anywhere, can he? Jesus does more in one moment, than a blind man can do by himself all his life. Without God it is impossible, with Christ, in Christ, by Christ, that creative word is operating, and it is impossible for anything to

stand in its way my friends.

Because it is impossible for God to lie. If you and I are ever saved, it will be because we accept Jesus instead of ourselves. Believe you that I am able to do this, believe you that I am able to do this? Notice how Christ stresses this point. Turn to Mark the 9th chapter, 23rd verse. The preceding verses tell the story of the transfiguration, Jesus with Peter, James, and John went up on the mountain. They had that wonderful experience, and then they came down the next morning. There was a multitude of people, and the nine disciples that had been left at the foot of the mountain, were trying to cast a devil out of some poor afflicted boy, that the father had brought to be healed. But the disciples didn't seem to be able to handle the matter. And the scribes were making the most of it, making fun of them, ridiculing them. They said here was something that even Christ couldn't handle. 20th verse.

“And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightaway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming. And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child”
Mark 9:20-21.

This thing had been going on for years.

“And ofttimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us.” Mark 9:22.

Did the man want help? Sure he wanted help, everything in him cried out for help. He wanted to see that boy delivered. But what little word did he have in there, that he shouldn't have had? If. Now Jesus uses “if” in response to the man's if. It is as if he was saying, “the if is with you my friend, not with Me. No problem about My power, it is omnipotent. The problem is whether you believe or not.”

“Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth” Mark 9:23.

Was that exaggeration? No. Jesus was telling the simple truth.

I wonder if you men back there at the controls, will turn the lights out, please? I wonder what we can do about it? If we would all push hard enough all together, could we make it light? No. If we would think about it long enough, would that help? Not a bit. There is only one thing that can bring the light in this room tonight, and that is to make contact with the power house. Do it, gentlemen. Thank you. It is either all or nothing, friends. If you can do anything, help us, the poor man said. Oh heal my boy. If you can? Jesus said, If you can believe all things are possible, to him that believeth.

That doesn't mean a man can do anything he wants to do. No, no. It means that God is willing to do all God is able and willing to do, for those who really want Him to and believe He can and will act accordingly.

And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief" Mark 9:24.

I like that friends, because sometimes, that is what I have to do. My point is, he put his will on the side of faith instead of doubt. Lord I believe, help thou mine unbelief. Did Jesus heal the boy? Oh yes. Well friends, there are many other examples in these four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. They all tell the same wonderful story of the mighty power of the mighty Savior. And how did He do it? By His word, He spoke and it was. Because He cannot lie, He calls those things that be not, as though they were, for when He calls them, they are.

So tonight I can bring my sins to Jesus and I can say. "Lord you have promised to forgive my sins, will you do it? I really believe you can and I know that is what I need, please do it." Will He do it? Yes. Let's repeat 1 John 1:9 together.

"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.

Thank God. And so with every other promise that He has made, the power is now, behold now is the accepted time. Behold now is the day of salvation. Let's let Him do it for us right now, what do you say? Anybody here tonight that Jesus has spoken to, you believe God brought you to this meeting to get some help. You are going to, with all your heart right now, tell Jesus, what it is you want Him to do, and believe that He has the power to do it. May I see your hands? Shall we go to the Lord in prayer?

Our Father in heaven. We thank Thee with all our hearts for the simplicity of the Gospel. Tonight Lord, we rejoice that we are dealing with One whose infinite love, harnesses infinite power and infinite wisdom, to accomplish our salvation. We thank Thee Thou hast laid help on One that is mighty. Who lives to make intercession for us and therefore is able to save them to the uttermost, that come unto God by Him. And so we have come dear Lord. We are opening the door of our hearts. We are telling Thee that we want Thee to forgive us, to deliver us, to cleanse us, to change us. We are bringing to Thee our need which is great, to Thy power which is greater. And Lord, we believe that you can do it. We have no question about Thy ability. This very Sabbath day that we are keeping with Thee, is an evidence of Thy creative word and its power. Thou has said that this day is sanctified, holy, blessed. We believe it, we have accepted it, it is Thy word that makes it so. And so Thou has told us that Thou wilt cleanse us, that Thou wilt save us, that Thou wilt sanctify us. And we accept Thy word,

just now, we are opening our hearts to Thy power. As many as received him to them gave ye power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. And so Lord we thank Thee Thou hast heard us. In Jesus wonderful name. Amen.

Let us stand. Is this good enough to share with somebody else? Can you think of somebody, you will see either tonight, or in the next twenty four hours, that wasn't here that you wish had been here? May I see your hands? Who is going to carry it to them? Will you, will you? I'll tell you this little secret, you'll have more when you get through than when you start. The bread multiplies as you impart it. God help you to do it.

[Elder Frazee sings and audience joins him, "Jesus Paid It All."]

Go and share it. God bless you, you are dismissed.

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