

Foundations of Our Faith 4 of 4

#0096

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—September 19, 1973

This afternoon, I'd like to study about the preparation of the materials, and the mixing of them in order to build a foundation. The foundations that most people are acquainted with today are of concrete. We speak of pouring footings and those footings are made up of a mixture of sand and gravel and cement. Water is used to mix them all together.

These materials that we've been studying are the Word of God in the Scriptures, His works in nature, and the experiences of life. We've studied about the tools that we're to use in working with these. What was one of these tools? The seeing eye. What's another? The understanding heart. And another? The willing hand. So eye and heart and hand are to work together in viewing, thinking through, and in doing that which we find.

You could take tons of sand and tons of gravel, tons of cement and put them together, but still you wouldn't have any foundation. Am I correct? Yes. They have to be mixed and water is the thing that makes this possible.

Let's turn to Hebrews 4:2. Paul is speaking here of Israel in the desert, how they failed to enter into God's rest even though He invited them to. He tells us what the reason was that they failed. And His purpose in telling us the reason is so that we will avoid doing the same thing they did. Will you read it with me?

“For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it” Hebrews 4:2.

Was the Word preached to them? Was the word preached to Israel? Does this say so? Yes. In fact, he calls it the what? The Gospel. You mean, they heard the gospel way back there? Yes. Did it do them any good? Not the ones he's talking about. Is it possible then to hear the Word of God and not get benefit from it? Does the apostle tell us what the problem was? What was the matter? It wasn't mixed. Mixed with what? With faith in them that heard it. They had an eye that saw. They had an ear that heard, but they didn't get what they saw and heard mixed up with what? With faith.

And this teaches us a wonderful lesson, friends. That isn't enough to study, even though we study the Bible. That isn't enough. What we find in this Book, and this is equally true of what we find in the book of nature and in the book of experience, all these wonderful truths must be put into the mixer.

You ladies have a mixer in your kitchen. Men have a mixer out on the job mixing concrete. I have noticed along the highways these great big trucks going along. And there they go. They're going off to some construction job. And what's going along inside of that? Mixing while they go along. And when they get there, they are ready to open up the chute and pour it out. It sets up and you have a foundation.

Oh friends, I hope that everybody here has a good mixer. The Word that we read, the lessons we see in nature, in the Bible, and in the book of experience must be what? Mixed. And mixed with what? With faith in those that hear.

I wonder what faith is, anyway. Faith is believing what God says. Abraham, it says, believed God. That's set forth to illustrate his faith:

“...Abraham believed God...” Romans 4:3.

Now, notice it doesn't say he believed in God. The devils do that. They know there is a God. Abraham didn't simply believe in God or believe about God. He believed God.

Do you believe God? Do you? Well, if you do, that's faith.

“...without faith it is impossible to please him...”
Hebrews 11:6.

Now, do you know how to tell whether you believe God or not? When you read something in the Bible or the Spirit of Prophecy and you say, “Yes, I see that. It makes sense.” It doesn't take any faith to do that. But when you come to something in your study and you say, “Wait a minute. I don't see how that can be. In fact, I know better than that because it doesn't work that way.” Then what do I need? I need faith, faith.

I went to a woman's house once that had put in her name for literature in one of our evangelistic meetings in San Francisco. I took the literature to her home, and while there, I was seeking to discover if she had any questions and we were studying a little bit in the Bible. In the course of the conversation, I found out that she was a spiritualist. Before we finished, I said to her, “Do you believe the Bible?”

“Oh, yes.”

I said, “Would you believe a verse in the Bible if you read it.”

“Oh, yes.”

So I had her turn to Ecclesiastes 9:5. And this is exactly what happened. I had her read it for me. She read:

“For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing...” Ecclesiastes 9:5.

“Oh,” she said, “That isn’t so.”

Then she began to tell me why she knew it wasn’t so. Her brother had appeared to her. And so she took her experience instead of the Word of God. What did she need? She needed faith.

Now that particular point wouldn’t be a problem to you, would it? What is your problem? Somewhere, my dear friend, you come to something that you find in the Bible or the Spirit of Prophecy and it goes contrary to your former thinking, your present thinking. It may go contrary to your experience. And when you can take that statement then and mix faith with it and down on your knees, you say, “Lord, this is something new. I didn’t know this, but if You say it, it is so whether I ever heard it before or not. And whether I ever thought of it before, You’ve been thinking it for a long time. Instead of asking You to change Your thinking, I’m going to change mine, right now.”

That’s mixing it with what? Faith. This is the way to prepare the mix to pour the footing. This is the way to build the foundation.

When you read something in the inspired writings, say, “Lord, I believe”; not, “I see that this is so. My reason says it is so.”

“Well,” you say, “Brother Frazee, I thought you told us in the first lesson that we were to reason together.”

Sure. That’s the first lesson, but it isn’t the last lesson. Reason may lead us to the Bible, but the Bible leads us far beyond what can be reasoned out. God has many things to tell us that our reason couldn’t comprehend. God has many things to tell us that He doesn’t take the time to prove. He just says so. It’s all right to use our reason in coming to the conclusion that this is the Word of the living God. But once we have come to that point then is the time, friends, for us to mix faith with everything we read here. Say, “Lord, I believe it. Lord, I believe it.” This is the way to grow in grace rapidly. This is the way to learn the lessons of God’s truth quickly.

If God has to stop and reason out with us everything He says, some points will take a long time, and some we will never get to. So Israel failed because they did not do what? Mix, what? Faith with the Word of God. We’re to succeed where they failed.

Now, look at Romans 12:3, and I want you to see a wonderful fact here, a wonderful statement. We can take it as a promise. Romans 12:3, the last two lines:

“...according as God hath dealt to every man...”

What?

“...the measure of faith” Romans 12:3.

What’s a measure? Well, you women in the kitchen have perhaps a quart or a pint measure; maybe you have a little teaspoon measure, tablespoon measure. Now God has been dealing out a measure of what? Faith. Who to? Do you mean everybody gets some? Well, isn’t that good news? How many of you then have a measure of faith? May I see your hands? That’s good.

Somebody says, “I’m afraid mine is pretty small.”

I have good news for you. Jesus says, if you have faith as the grain of a mustard seed (Matthew 17:20), it’ll do the work. It isn’t how much faith we have; it’s what we do with what we have. That’s what counts.

Jesus said that the kingdom of Heaven was like a woman that took some yeast and put it in three measures of meal, and eventually what happened to the whole mass? It was all leavened. Do you suppose she put in a ton of yeast? Why, no. Probably she didn’t even put in a pound. It’s wonderful what a little bit of yeast will do, isn’t it? That’s the way faith is. And God has given everybody what? A measure of faith.

Some people say, “Oh, I wish I had faith.”

Well, bless your heart, you have it. I just read it here. And you all raised your hands and said you believed it. You have faith. The question is, what will you do with it? When some people say they want faith, what they mean is, they’d like to be in an experience where they don’t need any faith. They’d like to have such strong, vigorous, happy feelings, that they’re just riding along in high gear or overdrive. Faith can go in low gear too, sometimes. God has given to every many a measure of faith.

Now, I want to read that to you here in the book *Education*:

“Faith that enables us to receive God’s gifts is itself a gift, of which some measure is imparted to every human being” *Education*, page 253.

So never let anybody tell you they don’t have faith. Everybody has some. But now, do you know what the next four words are?

“It grows as exercised...” *Ibid*.

What can faith do? Grow. How does it grow? By exercise, just like your muscle grows. I grow by exercise. The more you use it, the bigger it grows.

But now it must have something to feed on. We’re here in Romans. Just turn back a page to Romans 10:17. Oh, I want every one of you to have a strong foundation, built on the Rock, solid as the Rock. We take these materials from the

Bible and from nature and from the experiences of life, and mix them with faith, thoroughly mix them with faith. Do you know what has to happen to that concrete, sand and gravel? The water has to touch every particle, doesn't it? Suppose you just let the water touch half the mass and just put it in there. What would you have? A good foundation? Why no. It isn't worth building on. Let's see now how we're going to get faith? All together:

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

Just as a baby, when it is born, has to begin to eat pretty soon, right away, so the child of God has a little faith to start with, but he feeds it on what? On the Word of God.

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

Now let's see how faith doesn't come. Proverbs 19:27. What's the first word? Cease. What does that mean? Stop. What color light would you put at the crossing? A red light. And that means what? Did you ever find out that a red light meant—stop? Will you read this verse with me?

“Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causes to err from the words of knowledge” Proverbs 19:27.

Cease to what? To hear. Now, notice he doesn't say, “Cease to do it.” Don't even what? Don't even hear. Don't even listen.

Do you remember somebody that once started to listen to something she shouldn't have listened to? Who was that? Eve. Is that where sin entered this world? Just by what? Listening. Did she believe God's Word when she went to the tree? Who did she believe when she left the tree? The Devil.

Oh, folks, think of it. I want you to see it here this afternoon. In your imagination, see that tree; see that serpent; hear it speak. And remember, she wasn't dumb. She wasn't stupid. And she wasn't confused when she went up there. She had a good mind, better than anybody here. But she went away confused, deceived, in rebellion against God. And it wasn't a matter of weeks or days. It just took a just little while listening to the serpent.

Is the serpent still broadcasting? Oh yes, at the same tree—the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The serpent is still talking and millions are listening.

Did she have faith when she went up there? Did she have faith in God's Word? Yes. Is that what she had when she left? No. What happened? She lost it. She lost it by what? Listening. And that listening led her to the place where she was willing to disobey God, and then she got something else besides just listening. What did she get? Tell me what did she get? She got the fruit all right. Just think a

minute. What did she get? But what did she get up there at the tree that made her sure in the wrong road? She got an experience. Didn't she?

Is that what people get in these Pentecostal meetings? Is that what they get in a spiritualistic séance? Is that what they get in many of these offshoots? They get what? An experience.

Did Eve think she was wrong when she left the tree? She thought she was right. That made it all right, didn't it? What? Was she still wrong? Can a person be wrong and think he's right? That's what being deceived is. Am I correct?

And Satan, the great serpent deceives the whole world (Revelation 12:7–9). He deceives the whole world. He does it just like he did Eve. That's the great purpose of most of these radio broadcasts, most of these telecasts—TV, most of what's in the newspaper, the movies, all the media. It's the serpent working to confuse and befuddle the senses, and fill the mind with that which robs the soul of faith, and confirms the soul in an experience so that they no longer can fully believe the Bible just as it reads. This is what's going on all around us.

Now Satan has a Seventh-day Adventist version of that too. Don't forget it. Satan's purpose is to rob our people of faith in the Spirit of Prophecy, and he has many ways of doing it. But the way he has found most successful down through the ages is to get people to quit listening to the Word and start listening to something else. And so the wise man in our verse here says what?

“Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that...”

What?

“...causes to err from the words of knowledge”
Proverbs 19:27.

When is the time to close the book? After I've read it from cover to cover to see whether it is good or bad? Do you have to drink a gallon of milk to see whether it is sweet or sour? Do you? Why no. When should Eve have quit listening? We might say, “Before she started.” But when was, by all means, the time to stop? As soon as the Devil began to suggest doubt. Is that right? Right then she should have said, “This is no place for me. I'm leaving right now.”

But she lingered. And finally, the Devil dared to directly contradict what God had said, and she still stood there enamored, entranced, enchanted, hypnotized until she was led on to experiment with disobedience, and found it pleasing and wonderful. And she came home with a testimony of the experience that she'd had. And she got a convert.

Now, if people have an experience and get converts fast, that proves it is a good thing, doesn't it? What? Doesn't it? Oh, anything that gets converts, that's what we want, isn't it? What? What does this verse say?

“Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causes to err from the words of knowledge” Proverbs 19:27.

No matter how many converts people are getting if the experience that the converts have leads to disobedience instead of obedience, we may well question it, friends. I don't need any of that kind of help. I've too much of that nature in me already. What about you? What I need help with is help to have faith, more faith; to exercise faith. And faith comes by hearing what? The Word of God. Let me feed on it. What do you say?

Now there's another danger we want to point out in this matter of getting the material and mixing it. Did any of you ladies in the kitchen ever find that you ran into difficulty trying to put material into your mixer too fast? Can it happen?

Suppose we're pouring a footing, a foundation (You know this building we're in here—everything under you is concrete. It took tons and tons of material to do it.). Now suppose we're in a hurry, and so we haven't time to thoroughly mix it all, but we just pour it in here and throw it around a little and on with the job. We've got to get through. Will that work? No, it won't work.

We must not only avoid error. Even when dealing with truth, we must take it in no faster than we can mix it.

Now take the human body. Does the human body have a mixer? Where is it? Well, it's the stomach all right, but there is one before that. The stomach is about the only one that works in some people. But what's this first mixer? The mouth. And what a good mixer it is—a wonderful mixer. It takes bread, and we chew it and we chew it and we chew it. And what's supplied there to mix with it? Saliva. And it can actually change starch to dextrin and maltose, if you keep it there long enough, so that it gets sweet.

Have we been warned against eating too much, too fast? Have we been encouraged to take a bite of food and chew it and chew it and chew it and chew it in a relaxed, enjoyable way?

“Oh, but I haven't time for that. I've got to get here. Get there. I've got to get to the office. I've got to get to the factory. I've got to get to class. I've got to get to a Bible study. Here bring it in. I've got about 10 minutes to eat.”

Have we even, in God's great kindness, been told what to do when our time is limited through some emergency? What have we been told to do? Well, eat less and masticate thoroughly and slowly. If there's any time to eat slowly, it is when you are in a hurry. That's right.

Now, I wonder how this would work with spiritual things? This is very important, friends. I want to give you a statement from *Ministry of Healing*:

“Christ imparted only that knowledge which could be utilized” *Ministry of Healing*, page 448.

Let me read that again, and then I want you to say it with me:

“Christ imparted only that knowledge which could be utilized” *Ibid.*

All together:

“Christ imparted only that knowledge which could be utilized” *Ibid.*

Again:

“Christ imparted only that knowledge which could be utilized” *Ibid.*

What does "utilized" mean? Used, taken, chewed, digested, absorbed, assimilated, put into action. Say folks, if the next time you read and study you take just enough to do something about, I wonder if that would be a new experience for somebody?

Do you know what happens to food, perfectly good food when we overload the stomach with it? Does it add to our strength? Does it increase the size of our muscles? Why no, it burdens the system. Many people are mental dyspeptics; the idea that the way to get educated is to pour in more and more and more and more is a mistake. Try it on a concrete mixer. If the machinery had a voice, it would say, "Stop. Give me time to wet and mix what you put in here, and an opportunity to pour it out, put it on the job," and so with the stomach.

The stomach does cry sometimes. Did you ever hear it? It has what the concrete mixer doesn't have. It has nerves. It has a way to get up here. But sometimes instead of crying, it seems to be asleep. It really is groaning, but we don't hear it. It makes us sleepy. Whatever the effect, overeating interferes with the thing that eating is supposed to accomplish. The Bible says we are supposed to eat for what? Strength, not for drunkenness (Ecclesiastes 10:17).

What's the purpose of study? It's to build the foundations of faith. It's to give us an experience with God. But remember, I repeat, in the very process of study men can become befuddled, their minds befogged, why? Because they are over stuffing the mind. An overstuffed chair may be comfortable to sit in, but an overstuffed mind, that's something else. You don't want that, do you? No, no.

So cease to hear the instructions that causes to err, and take in only that knowledge which can be utilized.

I want to go back to the book *Education*. And this time we're looking at page

257. The name of this chapter that we've been drawing statements from is "Faith and Prayer." Notice now while I read this statement:

"Prayer and faith are closely allied, and they need to be studied together" *Education*, page 257.

What two things are we to study together? Prayer and faith.

"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" *Ibid*.

Now, what kind of prayer do we want? The prayer of faith. So as we study faith and prayer together, we learn how to mix faith with our study of the Word of God. Notice the next page, page 258.

Turn to Mark 11:24, the text on which this comment is based. I want you to see there in the Bible. What does the 22nd verse say? What did Jesus say? "Have faith in God." So faith is the subject He's discussing. Now, the verse, all together:

"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 are you to do when you pray? Believe. When are we to believe? When we pray. Do you see faith and prayer mixed together? When you pray, you're to do what? Believe. And if you will do that, Jesus says what? You'll have what you pray for.

Somebody says, "Oh, I wish that would happen to me."

Well, I wish it would too. I mean, I wish it would happen to you. But my dear friends, which happens first? That you get it or that you believe? That's what He says.

You say, "Well, I don't see."

No, you can't see. That's why you need faith. Faith isn't seeing. Faith is believing when you don't see.

Let me give you a little laboratory experiment. And this can be to somebody here in this class, the most important point in all the 4 lessons. Right now, somebody here—could be you—is going to get something more important than all the rest put together, for you.

When you pray, kneel down in front of your chair or by your bed or where ever you are kneeling for prayer and have your Bible with you. Take your Bible, open it and read a promise. Do you have a particular one in mind that meets your need?

Look it up. Read it. Put it right out there before the Lord. If you don't know any promise, open the Bible where you will and start reading until you get a promise. You won't have to read more than an hour, I can promise you. The promises are there.

All right, now there you are. Where are you? On your knees. What have you got in front of you? The Bible. It's open. What are you looking for? A promise. Now, you're praying and you're asking God to give you help, and you are asking Him particularly to fulfill this promise to you. Do you see? You're presenting that promise just as a man presents a check in a bank.

He says, "I'd like to get this check cashed."

The cashier looks at it, "Pay to the order of John Smith, \$10.00."

He says, "You're John Smith, are you?"

"Yes."

He looks at the signature on the check, Henry Meyers. He knows that signature. He knows the man has that much money in his account. He says, "Can you identify yourself?"

"Yes. I can identify myself."

"Very well."

So he gives you the money or does he? What is it that you have to do right there in his presence? You have to endorse it. Now tell me, do you have to endorse it before you get the money or after it? Before. That isn't fair, is it?

This is what it means to claim the promise of God, my friends. You write your name on that promise, as it were, and present it to God. By writing your name, you're saying two things. First, I believe this promise is for me. Second, I believe that I'm getting payment for it right now.

Isn't that what my signature on a check means? When I write my name on the back of that check, that means I'm the man this check was written to, right? But it means more than that. It means my signature that I'm getting a payment on it. Is that right? That's the way the bank proves that I got my money.

A week from now, suppose I'd say, "Now look here, I never got that money."

There's the proof, I signed.

"What things soever ye desire, when ye pray..."

Do what?

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

So dear friends, I trust that through this quarter and through the coming days from now until Jesus comes, each one of us will day by day be drawing from these sources of material—the Word, the works, and the ways of God, mixing them with faith and prayer, claiming these promises as ours, and learning by experience what God will do for those who believe what He says and do what He says.

Now, we have just a few minutes tonight to hear from somebody that didn't get to speak Friday night, or Saturday night, or Monday night. Will you come right up quickly and give your witness as we close this little series. Let your word be short and to the point. But I wish we could have several just now because expression deepens impression. Jesus wants to hear from you. I hope somebody that got a blessing out of this last point, will, while it is fresh in your mind, put your will on the side that you are going to do that.

Copyright 2021. All rights reserved.

W. D. Frazee Sermons
435 Lifestyle Lane, Wildwood, GA 30757
1-800-WDF-1840 / 706-820-9755
www.WDFsermons.org
support@WDFsermons.org