

Unmovable

#0173

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—March 31, 1978

The text is 1 Corinthians 15:57–58. I love the epistles of Paul, don't you? What a veteran worker he was. What courage he communicated to those who heard him and read his letters, and it reaches down to us today.

“But thanks be to God, which gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord” 1 Corinthians 15:57–58.

The word is unmovable. Unmoveable. It's a wonderful thing in this time when every wind of doctrine is blowing to have things settled in our experience with God. It's a wonderful thing to have things settled in our minds, in our relationship to the church, which is the body of Christ. It's a wonderful thing to have things settled regarding our own hope for the future so that nothing can shake that hope. The apostle Paul in another epistle, the one to the Hebrews, says that everything that can be shaken will be shaken so that:

“...those things which cannot be shaken may remain”
Hebrews 12:27.

So, my dear friend, you're going to be shaken; that is you will if you can. You'll be shaken to see whether you *can* be shaken or not. But God intends that you and I shall be steadfast, *unmovable*, always abounding in the work of God.

Jesus was unmovable. Satan tried every way to turn Him from his purpose to go up to Jerusalem and give His life as the sacrifice for the sins of men. He tried to scare Him. He tried to flatter Him. He tried to offer Him a lot of other good opportunities. But Jesus was intent on carrying out His Father's will. He was steadfast, unmovable. I want us to notice some expressions in His last talk with His disciples just before He went into the Garden of Gethsemane.

Turn to John 13:36–38. They were gathered there in the upper room; you remember they had the Passover supper. Jesus had instituted the sacrament—it was to commemorate His death. Then around the table when He conversed with them about the fact that He was soon to leave them, and that they were to carry on His work.

“Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, whither goest thou?
Jesus answered him, Whither I go, thou canst not follow Me now; but thou shall follow Me afterward. Peter said unto

him, Lord, why cannot I follow Thee now? I will lay down my life for Thy sake” John 13:36–37.

Did Peter mean it? Was he a hypocrite? No, he was sincere:

“Jesus answered him, Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied Me thrice” John 13:38.

What an announcement. Now let’s turn over to Luke 22; get a few things the beloved physician wrote down that John didn’t put in his book. Luke 22:31. Here is some more of this diagnosis of the Great Physician dealing with Peter:

“...the Lord 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. And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with Thee, both into prison, and to death. And He said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shall thrice deny that thou knowest Me” Luke 22:31–34.

Here is the warning that Satan is trying to sift the disciples as wheat. Jesus has prayed for them, and especially for Peter. But you notice Peter’s response to that. Instead of saying, “Why, dear Lord, I’m so glad that You’re praying for me, and I want to be converted right now in answer to Your prayers.” Instead of saying that, in effect he said, “Lord, thank You for Your prayers, but I don’t think I need them. Maybe some of the others do, but I’m all settled. I’m going to stick with You no matter what happens. I’m ready to go with You both to prison and to death.”

Again I ask, did Peter mean what he said? Yes, he meant it, but he didn’t know himself. And so Jesus is telling him: “Peter, there’s trouble ahead, there’re tests ahead. I’m praying for you and you better pray for yourself because before the morning breaks, your test is coming.”

Let’s turn to Matthew 26, and read it the way Matthew tells is.

"Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of Me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad. But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee. Peter answered and said unto Him, Though all men shall be offended because of Thee, yet will I never be offended. Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shall deny Me thrice. Peter said unto Him, Though I should die with Thee, yet will I not deny Thee. Likewise also said all the disciples” Matthew 26:31–35.

Now let's put this together, friends. Is it possible to be sure in one's mind and yet not really be stable, and settled, and immovable? Is that possible? Is it possible to think that everything is beyond any question, beyond any point of regression or failure, and yet to have in one's own heart and life the elements of failure? Is that possible? Yes. So, tonight we want the spirit of self-examination as we study this matter of being unmovable.

How would you get a person ready for a shaking? How would you get a person ready for the tests that come with the failure of others? By putting them through preliminary tests similar to what they're going to face. Is that right? Is that the way the army does to soldiers who are going to face the terrors of battle? Yes. I understand that in some of the training after preliminary tests and drills that they are actually put on the battlefield and have to crawl on their stomachs through barbed wire entanglements with live bullets spraying over their heads from machine guns—a terrible ordeal.

God is seeking to get you and me ready for the time when everything that can be shaken will be shaken. So, in mercy and love, He lets us have tests ahead.

In the book *Ministry of Healing*, page 71, I read:

"Trials and obstacles are the Lord's chosen methods of discipline and His appointed conditions of success"
Ministry of Healing, page 471.

What does discipline mean here? Training. Discipline and disciple come from the same root. A disciple then should expect what? Discipline, training.

"Trials and obstacles are the Lord's chosen methods of discipline and His appointed conditions of success" *Ibid.*

What does "conditions of success" mean? If you're going to have success, you must have what? Trials and obstacles.

Someone says, "Brother Frazee, I must have some big success ahead of me then."

That's right. You do, provided you pass the examination.

"Trials and obstacles are the Lord's chosen methods of discipline and His appointed conditions of success" *Ibid.*

I want to meet the conditions. What do you say?

Now just a few pages over, we read a description of one of the greatest trials that comes to anybody:

"In His mercy and faithfulness, God often permits those in whom we place confidence to fail us, in order that we may

learn the folly of trusting in man, and making flesh our arm”
Ibid.

What’s one of the tests that may come to us? Our friends, our brother and sister, those in the family, at home, any or all of these may fail us. Tell me, did Jesus, Himself have to meet this test? How many really held up His hands and helped Him in Gethsemane? Not one. How many stood with Him when the mob were binding Him and leading Him away? Not one. And so those who have the faith of Jesus will be able to stand no matter what human being will disappoint them.

Again and again, I come in contact with dear people who are troubled because of the mistakes, the failures, the outright *sins* of people in the church. When Satan, the accuser of the brethren, accuses them before God day and night, he doesn't have to make up a lot of lies. Satan finds plenty to do just to keep him busy reciting our faults and failures and mistakes, doesn't he? Oh, yes. But thank God, Jesus can help you and me to have an experience in faith that is in no way dependent upon what others do.

Joseph was true to God, even though his brothers sold him as a slave. And think of it: For 10 years as a servant, and then for three years in prison, he was true to God. A few years later, he had the privilege of saving the lives of those brothers who had been ready to kill him, and did sell him as a slave. Isn't that a wonderful experience of stability, of being unmovable? God wants every one of us here tonight to have that experience.

I rather think that nobody here has been treated any time in your life as bad as Joseph was. The point is, the grace of God held Joseph steadfast. Whatsoever things were written afore time was written for our learning that we through patience and comfort of the Scripture might have hope. *Jesus* is with us.

In the little book, *My Life Today*, we read this wonderful promise:

“Jesus stands by our side, and shall we falter? No. As the trials come the power of God will come with them” *My Life Today*, page 94.

What will come with the trials? The power of God. They come in the same mail, dear friends. So if you happen to open first a letter that's full of problems, remember, you may have to do it by faith, you can open another envelope, and there is the power of God to meet the trial. Oh, for faith to lay hold of it. What do you say?

Now, I want you to turn over to Revelation 5 and see where the keeping power is to stabilize every one of us. Do you know what keeps the angels? You say an angel doesn't need to be kept. Angels are all right—they're ok. Well, one-third of them left, one-third of them apostatized. But there is something that keeps those angels in Heaven from any instability. I'm going to read it here in Revelation 5, but before I read it there, I'm going to read it in Volume 5 of the *Commentary*, page 1132. Listen to this marvelous statement:

"The angels ascribe honor and glory to Christ, for even they

are not secure except by looking to the sufferings of the Son of God. It is through the efficacy of the cross that the angels of heaven are guarded from apostasy. Without the cross they would be no more secure against evil than were the angels before the fall of Satan. Angelic perfection failed in heaven. Human perfection failed in Eden, the paradise of bliss. All who wish for security in earth or heaven must look to the Lamb of God" *Bible Commentary, Volume 5*, page 1132.

Oh, dear friend, if even an angel has to look to the cross to be secure and unmovable, what about you and me? If they can be kept that way, I can too.

Now look in Revelation 5. This marvelous chapter in some ways I think it's one of the most wonderful chapters in all the Bible. Here we see God seated upon His throne with that book sealed in His hand. A mighty angel proclaims, "Who can open this book?" And there is silence throughout the universe. As the prophet weeps, one of the elders steps over to him, lays his hand upon his shoulder and says, "John, don't weep, somebody's going to open that book. The Lion of the tribe of Judah has prevailed to open the book and to loose the seals."

So John turns to see that conquering Lion come and open that book in the hand of the King upon the throne. And as he turns to look to the Lion, he sees a Lamb.

"...I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain..." Revelation 5:6.

Who is that Lamb? Jesus. He comes and takes the book and opens the purposes of God to the universe. But now I want you to notice the response, the reaction, the result of all this; this is what I want you to see. Here is the Lamb, He's come, the Lamb as it had been slain. He takes the book. Now notice the three songs that are sung. First, we hear the 24 elders—men redeemed from this world falling down before the Lamb in the eighth verse.

The ninth verse will you read with me?

"...they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by Thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth" Revelation 5:9–10.

So, already there in Heaven there are men. We know the names of some of them. Enoch, Moses, Elijah, and there are multitudes of others that went with Jesus at His resurrection and ascension whose names we don't know, but they are there.

How did they get there? Through the blood of the Lamb. They're up there tonight and they're singing this song in the Heavenly Sanctuary—"Worthy is the

Lamb, Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by Thy blood.” That’s the power that saved them here in this world. That’s the power that is *keeping* them there at the throne of God.

Now the angels, John hears the voice of many angels round about the throne. How many of them? Ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands. What are they singing about? Read with me the 12th verse:

"Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing" Revelation 5:12.

Oh, think of it, dear friends. Those dear angels, every one of them is singing, “Worthy is the Lamb.” Talk about self-righteousness; they have none. Talk about hope in themselves; they have none. Their hope is in the Lamb that died upon the cross—the keeping power that holds them secure so that there’s no danger of their failing. That keeping power is beholding the love of the Godhead as is poured out on Calvary and revealed in the Heavenly Sanctuary in the continued mediation of Jesus.

Now, in the 13th verse, John sees the final response of every creature in Heaven, on the earth and under the earth and in the sea say:

“...Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sits upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever” Revelation 5:13.

Oh friends, the keeping power for everybody in this universe, from the highest seraph to the little child here in this world, the keeping power for every soul is in Jesus the Lamb of God—dying for us, risen for us, ascended for us, pleading for us, and is coming soon for us to reunite the family of Heaven and the family of earth. “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable,” knowing that the keeping power is in Christ who died for us and who lives a triumphant conqueror.

[Closing prayer]

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