

# How to Solve Problems 5 of 8

## *Facing Failure*

#0343

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—1960

Tonight we're going to have another study on solving problems. Are you interested in that subject? How many of you have a problem tonight? May I see your hands? Well, that's most of us. And those of you who didn't raise your hands, be sure to take good notes because your problem is coming soon.

Everybody has a problem. Do you know why? Because everybody's going to school. Jesus is the Teacher.

"It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God" John 6:45.

We all want to be taught of God. God is teaching school. And the laboratory material in God's school is *problems* in this great book of experience. There is a problem, at least one every day. And I suppose some of us think that there's more than one problem a day. Perhaps one reason for that is that we are getting near the end of the term of school, and the Teacher is seeking to have us get ready quickly for the final examination.

I will suggest this to you, friend: It's far more important to pass the final examination than it is to seem to make a good grade day by day. Did you know that? And God sometimes lets us find where we've been making mistakes. And our little papers that we pass in day by day may not look very good after the check marks get on them. But the Teacher's purpose is that we shall all pass the final examination, as they say, with flying colors. That means a blue ribbon, a 100 percent, gold seal. You and I can all have that if we will, if we'll learn how to go to school in God's school, learn how to read and study the book of experience, learn how to solve problems in God's way.

Now, you remember I've mentioned to you that a problem is something you don't know the answer to. That's all it is. For if you know the answer to it, it isn't a problem, is it? Not at all. So when you come to something and say, "Oh, anything, but this, because I don't know what to do," why that's the problem, you see. That means you're in school, and the Teacher has given you an assignment.

And that leads me to review with you the ABC of solving problems. And the first is what? *Accept* the assignment. That's it. Don't evade it. Don't avoid it. Don't dodge it. Don't back up from it. Meet it. Accept it. Accept the assignment. If God has put a problem in your lap, take it. Don't be afraid. The Teacher knows what you can do with

His help, and He has expressed His confidence in you by giving you *that* particular problem.

Think of it friends, from eternity He has looked forward to *you, your* life, this very day and has pondered over the problem which would help you the most. And here it is, this one. “Oh,” you say, “This?” Yes, *this*. This is it. This problem, this is the one that is to do something for you that has never been done before for you. It’s to do something that nothing else could do. This problem, as you accept it, oh, what lies wrapped up in it.

Ah friends, did you ever see a coconut? Any of you like coconuts? I imagine. I do. But did you ever see a coconut as it comes from the tree? Ah, that’s something else, isn’t it? It’s a great big problem, isn’t it? But there’s a way to get at it. And oh, when you do, and crack it and get inside, there’s something nice to eat and to drink, isn’t there? Yes. So with every problem, if we’ll get to the *heart* of it, there is something wonderful for us.

So number one is A—Accept the assignment.

And B, you remember what that is: Believe two things: that without Christ you can do, what? Nothing, and with Him you can do *all* things. So you won’t try to do it without Him, but you will try to do it *with* Him.

C is what? Claim the wisdom that He has promised, James 1:5. He said if you lack wisdom, do what? Ask of God and it will be what? Given you. Isn’t that wonderful? It says, He gives to all men how much? Liberally. Praise God, friends. So C is claim that promise. And claiming that promise, looking to Him for the wisdom that He has promised through His various channels, come to a conclusion as to what His will for you is on that.

And that leads directly to D, which is what? Do it. Yes. Do the thing which you’ve come to the conclusion about. You’ve accepted the assignment. You believe that, with Jesus, you can do it. You’ve sought Him for wisdom, and you’ve claimed it. You’ve come to a conclusion. Now you put it into action. You put your will on the side of faith, and doing something, you do the thing. You go right into it. If it’s Jericho, and the wisdom is “March around it,” you start marching. If it’s the Red Sea, and the command of God is to “Go forward,” you start going right into that water. Whatever the conclusion is, whatever the Word of God is and the will of God is, the best you know, you proceed to put it into action. You do it.

And then E, as I gave it to you in former lessons, is what? Express faith and thanksgiving. When you have done your best to carry out the will of God, then, my dear friends, believe with all your heart and *express* that faith that God is doing something and that He will do it, that God has taken your poor efforts, weak and inefficient though they may seem to be, and that God is working out His will. Isn’t that nice? Oh, I am so glad for that.

Now, I'm coming to F tonight. And F is facing failure. Some of you may have been wondering about that. This A, B, C, D, and E, it all looks good, but what about after you get down that far and it just is failure, just plain failure? Then what?

Well, thank the Lord, there's an answer, and I'm going to study it with you a little. And the text that we're starting out with, you might not think is a text on this subject, but it is definitely on this subject. 2 Corinthians 2:14. Now, this is one of those texts that's worth a million dollars. So if you know it, you're a millionaire.

"Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ" 2 Corinthians 2:14.

He causes us to do what? Triumph in Christ. How often? Always.

"Well," you say, "I thought your subject was facing failure."

Exactly. This is the text for it:

"Thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ" *Ibid.*

*Desire of Ages*, page 490:

"The Savior is by the side of His tempted and tried ones. With Him there can be no such thing as failure, loss, impossibility, or defeat" *The Desire of Ages*, page 490.

Isn't that wonderful, friend?

"With Him there can be no such thing as failure, loss, impossibility, or defeat" *Ibid.*

Oh, I think that's wonderful.

Now, with that, page 679 of this same wonderful book, *Desire of Ages*. The one I'm going to read now helps us to understand the one I just read:

"[Jesus] knew that the life of His trusting disciples would be like His, a series of uninterrupted victories, not seen to be such here, but recognized as such in the great hereafter" *Ibid.*, page 679.

Ah, we're beginning to get a key.

"[Jesus] knew that the life of His trusting disciples would be like His, a series of" *Ibid.*

What?

“Uninterrupted victories” *Ibid.*

How often would the victories be? Always, just like I read in the Bible:

“Thanks be unto God which always causes us to triumph in Christ” 2 Corinthians 2:14.

The life of the trusting disciple will be like that of his Master, a series of uninterrupted victories. And what were the next six words that I read?

“Not seen to be such here” *Desire of Ages*, page 679.

Exactly. Say that with me:

“Not seen to be such here” *Ibid.*

What does that mean? It means it won't look that way. In other words, as you look into the book of experience, you'll say, “Lord, but I don't see it. It doesn't seem to be that way.” That's right. That's what He said. It wouldn't look that way. And so when it doesn't look that way, it only proves that the Word of God is true, doesn't it? If it *did* look that way, then God's word wouldn't be true. Is that correct?

Oh, some people would give so much if they could just read the mystery of God's providence right now. God has reserved that for the future:

“What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know”  
John 13:7,

When?

“Hereafter” *Ibid.*

Who said that? Jesus. Who to? Peter. Where is it? John 13:7. Oh, that's wonderful. Let's say it together:

“What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know  
hereafter” *Ibid.*

The life of the trusting disciple is like that of his Master:

“A series of uninterrupted victories, not seen to be such  
here, but recognized as such in the great hereafter” *Desire  
of Ages*, page 679.

Dear friends, if you and I will just live a hundred years, we will have all our questions answered, and the problems solved and all the solutions before us. Am I correct? Oh, God is wonderful to make a promise that in His glorious Heaven, in His eternity He's going to make it all clear and plain.

Let me read this here in *Volume 9*. Oh, this is something that will thrill your heart:

“Not seen to be such here, but recognized as such in the great hereafter” *Ibid.*

*Volume 9*, page 286:

“All that has perplexed us in the providences of God will in the world to come be made plain” *Ibid.*, page 286.

What is the first word? All. How much does that take in? Every page. You know, we're going to take our laboratory manual to Heaven with us, and some of the things that we just have to accept by faith down here in this world, up there God is going to explain the whole thing to us. And then we won't need faith any more on those points. Is that right? By then we will have learned the *habit* of trusting God and believing anything He says, so He can afford to explain it all to us.

“All that has perplexed us in the providences of God will in the world to come be made plain. The things hard to be understood will then find explanation. The mysteries of grace will unfold before us. Where our finite minds discovered only confusion and broken promises, we shall see the most perfect and beautiful harmony. We shall know that infinite love ordered the experiences that seemed most trying” *Ibid.*

How did this package get out here? I didn't order it. No, I didn't, but who did? God did. And there it is. It's delivered with my name on it. How did it get here? I order it? No. I wouldn't order that. I don't know enough to order that, especially when it ends in failure as far as I can see. It looks like a stunning defeat. Oh, no, I wouldn't have had this for anything. I did everything to avoid it and still it came.

“The thing which I greatly feared is come upon me”  
Job 3:25.

Yes. Look by faith.

“We shall know” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 9*, page 286.

There in eternity as we look back to it.

“We shall know that infinite love ordered the experiences that seemed most trying” *Ibid.*

When that’s read up there around the great white throne, who is that aged patriarch that says, “Amen” with a great voice over there? Well, that’s Job. That’s Job. Yes. And the *whole* book is written to tell us the wonderful story of Job’s failures, defeats, disappointments one after the other, as men look at it. And did his friends come around and rub it in and tell him that he really was a terrible failure? Did they? Yes. Did Job understand it? No, he didn’t.

Are there any things that we don’t understand? Oh my, we could write a book tonight about them, couldn’t we? But Heaven is writing its explanation of it all. And friends, I’d rather read Heaven’s explanations than our lamentations. What do you say?

“As we realize the tender care of Him who makes all things work together for our good, we shall rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory” *Ibid.*

Do you know what you do when you get joy unspeakable in your heart? Well, you speak all you can and then I suppose you clap your hands and jump up and down for joy. Yes, there are things in the Bible about that, aren’t there? Yes. Oh friends, Heaven is going to be *full* with shouts of rejoicing when we examine under the microscope God’s explanation of those problems that looked like they ended in failure in our lives down here.

All right. Now let’s read a little more on this. You know the page before is wonderful, *Desire of Ages*, 678:

“As the world’s Redeemer, Christ was constantly confronted with...” *Desire of Ages*, page 678,

What?

“...apparent failure” *Ibid.*

He came right down through A, B, C, D, E, and then came right up against F. He faced failure. And that happened not once or twice or three times, but it says, “He was *constantly* confronted with that.” Now, I don’t think the Spirit of God exaggerates. Do you, friends? If I understand this, friends, it means to tell us that every day of Christ’s life here, there was something that He was trying to do that apparently didn’t get done. Is that what it means? Let me read it again:

“As the world’s Redeemer, Christ was constantly confronted with apparent failure. He, the messenger of mercy to our world, seemed to do little of the work He longed to do in uplifting and saving” *Ibid.*

He wanted to do this much, but lo and behold, it was just a little, apparently.

“But He would not be discouraged” *Ibid.*

Then the Lord’s messenger quotes this wonderful text from Isaiah 49. I want you to turn in your Bibles to it because this is Jesus speaking prophetically. You know that it was the Spirit of Christ that spoke through these Old Testament prophets. And many places Christ is speaking Himself, prophetically of what He would say down here in this world. Isaiah 49:4 and remember *Desire of Ages*, page 678, applies this to Jesus and His earthly ministry:

“Then I said...” Isaiah 49:4

This is what Jesus said.

“I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for naught, and in vain: yet surely my judgment is with the LORD, and my work with my God. And now, saith the LORD that formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob again to him, Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength. And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth” Isaiah 49:4–6.

Ah, from the apparent failure that He was facing there among the Jews, His faith turned to look to the glorious vision of the Gentiles and the whole world, receiving the light of the knowledge of the glory of His grace. But He had to do it by *faith*, my friends. By faith.

Now, if you and I are following Jesus, do you think we’ll pass over any of the road He passed over?

“These are they which follow the Lamb” Revelation 14:4,

Where?

“Whithersoever He goeth”

That is Revelation 14:4, and that’s talking about whom? The 144,000. Are you going to be one of them? I hope so. Ah, my dear friends, if you *are* one of the 144,000, you will sing the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb. And the Lamb went through His life facing problems A, B, C, D, E, F. And when He came to F, He looked failure

right in the face and expressed His faith and went right on, my friends. He wouldn't be discouraged. He wouldn't be daunted; He wouldn't acknowledge defeat. Oh no.

“With Him there can be no such thing as failure, loss, impossibility, or defeat” *The Desire of Ages*, page 490.

Oh, I pray God for that faith and courage to take possession of all our hearts. What do you say, friends?

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

That's it. That's the faith that took Him through the wilderness of temptation. That's the faith that took Him up to that synagogue at Capernaum when nearly everybody turned and left Him. That's the faith that took Him through Gethsemane and on to Calvary and up to the last moment of life. Oh, that faith will carry us through. That faith that faces failure and by faith plows right on through.

Think of John the Baptist. What happened to him? Well, after a few months of witnessing for Jesus, he was taken by Herod and cast into a bad hole, a dungeon, and finally his head was taken off. Was his life a failure? Wasn't it? Or was it? Was that a failure? Oh, Jesus said that among those born of women, there was no greater prophet than John the Baptist. And in *Desire of Ages*, we read:

“Not Enoch, who was translated to heaven, not Elijah, who ascended in a chariot of fire, was greater or more honored than John the Baptist, who perished alone in the dungeon”  
*The Desire of Ages*, page 225.

So when the kingdom of God is here on earth again in the glorious new earth state, one of the greatest heroes of faith there will be John the Baptist. Failure? Oh, no, friends, a glorious success. That's the way Heaven writes it up.

What do you say we let God make up the balance sheet on our lives, on our work? Won't that be the right thing to do? He is the One who can make a true estimate.

Romans 8:35–37. Facing failure? Yes.

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us” Romans 8:35–37.



Why friends, it's getting better. Our first text says we always triumph in Christ. This one says we're what? *More* than conquerors right in the midst of all these apparent failures that He has mentioned.

"Ah," but somebody says, "But surely there have been some mistakes in my life. I know that I have made mistakes. I know that everything I've done, even when I have tried to do my best, hasn't been just what it should be. What about those?"

That's correct, friends. I'm sure as we look back over our life record, even our best tries are termite eaten with selfishness and full of the results of a lack of judgment. Does what we have studied tonight so far apply? Yes, provided we learn what to do with that part of our problems. I want to study that with you.

When we face failure friends, while we should be full of faith and courage and believe that God is working out His will and all that, that doesn't mean that we think we are infallible and that we can't learn anything. Maybe we have made a mistake. Maybe we have. Now, what about it if we have? One of the most encouraging statements on that to me is in *Christ's Object Lessons*:

"If you have made mistakes, you certainly gain a victory if you see these mistakes and regard them as beacons of warning. Thus you turn defeat into victory, disappointing the enemy and honoring your Redeemer" *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 332.

Now friends, this is really wonderful. This is how to take every liability and make an asset out of it. That's right. How? Why if you have made a mistake, see the mistake, recognize it, learn from it, and avoid that thing, and thus you turn defeat into what? Victory—disappointing the enemy, and honoring your Redeemer. Oh, God wants us to resolve to make every apparent failure a success. What do you say, friends?

So you see, this is all very practical. It isn't just singing with your head in the clouds. It's marching on with your feet on the ground.

"If you have made mistakes, you certainly gain a victory if you see these mistakes and regard them as beacons of warning. Thus you turn defeat into victory, disappointing the enemy and honoring your Redeemer" *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 332.

Oh, I love that, and I know you do. With that we'll put *Volume 6*:

"Mistakes will often be made" *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 6*, page 192.

What? Yes.

“Mistakes will often be made, but every error lies close beside the truth. Wisdom will be learned by failures, and the energy that will make a beginning gives hope of success in the end” *Ibid*.

Wisdom is learned by what? Failures. So when you face what looks like a failure, analyze it and see if there's some wisdom you can learn out of it. When something comes up in your experience that looks like defeat, look into the thing, say, “What did I do that I shouldn't have done, or what didn't I do that I should have done? How could I have done this better, wiser? If I had it to do over again, how would I do it again?”

Well, you say, “How can you do that if you believe that God is leading all the while?”

Listen friends, we said that God is teaching school. Is that right? How many of you ever taught school? May I see your hands? Oh yes, quite a number. Did you give your pupils any problems? What for? So they'd learn some things. Now I want to ask you something. Were you very careful—watch this!—to *a/ways* give them problems that they would get a hundred percent on the first time they tried to solve it? If you did, you should have been discharged.

The way people learn is by being challenged often with problems that are a little beyond them. Am I correct? Yes. And they struggle with that problem and they tug at it, and they get the very best answer that they can. And they bring it to the teacher. The teacher looks at it and knows at a glance that it's what? The wrong answer.

Does that mean that that student is a failure? Not at all, my friends. And then what does the teacher do? Does the teacher just turn to the answer book and say, “Oh no, you say the answer is 676, but the book says it is 578?” So the student just writes in 578 and goes back to his desk and tries to memorize that the answer to that particular problem is 578. Is that the way you teach school? I hope not. What do you do?

Why you help that student to review his processes. You go over the work with him and help him to find out what he did that was what? A mistake. And by the time he gets through, he has that answer, and he's ready now. It isn't just that answer that's important. In fact, the answer, if you'll allow me to put it this way, is not the important thing at all. No, what is the important thing? The important thing is learning the process.

And dear one, if as a student in God's school you have made a mistake, if you come up with the wrong answer in spite of your best efforts, don't spend too much time crying. You may weep, but oh, look through your tears and you will see the divine

Teacher there ready to help you study through what you did and what you didn't do, and find out how to get the right answer. Isn't that wonderful, friends? I thank God for that.

Let me read you something wonderful. In a letter that Sister White wrote way back in 1903. Listen. It will be particularly interesting to you right here in the south:

"There are those who say that mistakes have been made by the workers in the Southern field. Do you ever make mistakes? My husband and I used to grieve when we made mistakes; but often we found that in His providence God had permitted us to do as we had done that we might understand what He wanted us to understand" *Manuscript 14*, 1903.

Ah, that's it. James and Ellen White, did they ever make mistakes? They said they did. And often they found that God had permitted them to do it in order that they might *understand* some things. Is it more important to understand God's will and way than to make a good record in the eyes of men? Is it friends? Do you know pride is at the bottom of a lot of our difficulties over apparent failure, and God is going to let our pride be humbled again and again until there isn't any left, isn't He? And I'm glad because I saw a great big bonfire the other day up in the woods where we were clearing land, and I got a picture of the proud. You know what Malachi 4:1 says?

"Behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall" Malachi 4:1.

Do what?

"Burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch" Malachi 4:1.

I don't want to be in that great bonfire, do you? So I want to get the pride out of my heart now. And one of the greatest medicines for pride (You know what it is, don't you?) is to stub our toe, especially just after we have been so sure that we wouldn't. You remember Peter had a great big cup full of that medicine. And friends, thank God it cured him, didn't it? Yes, it did. He never boasted after that. He didn't stub his toe on that point anymore, either.

Oh friends, listen:

"My husband and I used to grieve when we made mistakes; but often we found that in His providence God had permitted us to do as we had done that we might understand what He wanted us to understand."

“God does not cast us off because we make mistakes. Of Ephraim He says: ‘I taught Ephraim also to go, taking them by their arms... I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love’” *Manuscript 14*, 1903.

Little Sister, would you come please? How long has this girl known how to walk? Ten years? Could you walk ten years ago? You could? Ah, I don't believe it. She doesn't know, bless her heart. But I will tell you this, Daddy and Mother sitting here on the front seat can remember when she what? *Learned* to walk. Can't you? Yes.

Now I want to ask you something, and I wouldn't want to embarrass you or I surely wouldn't want to embarrass her, but did she ever fall down? Did you ever fall down? Bless your heart. But you're not down now, are you? What did you do? What did you do when you fell down? You got up. Thank you, you can go back to Mother.

Now Jesus uses that wonderful figure:

"I taught Ephraim also to go, taking them by their arms... I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love" *Ibid*.

But do you know, friends, what a lot of people want? God pity us. They want Jesus to hold them by their arms all the time so that they never fall. Now, if you want to go through life with Daddy having to stand there all the while to keep you from falling over, friends, what a picture that would be. Aren't you glad that your father and mother, shall I say it, let you fall a few times so you would learn to stand up and walk? Aren't you, friends? How many of you are? Yes. Well, let God teach you His way. What do you say? Let's learn from our failures. And thus in Heaven's sight, we turn every defeat into a what? Victory; disappointing the enemy and honoring our Redeemer.

Oh, I thank God for this, friends. And listen. When we've learned this ourselves, then we can teach it to other people because all around us in this sad, weary world there's a multitude of people to whom life seems just a mess and a bunch of failures. Oh, what will we carry to them? Will we carry to them some rosy dream of a place, of a life here on this planet where people never make mistakes and where everything is just according to planning? Or will we carry to them a message that right where they are, in their problems, in their difficulties, in their circumstances and surrounded with apparent failure, there's hope and light and life and joy and victory? Which shall we do, friends?

Let me read what I think is one of the most sublime and glorious utterances in all the inspired writings in these latter days. Oh this is so good, I must read you a little from the page before:

“Christ's heart is cheered by the sight of those who are poor in every sense of the term; cheered by His view of the ill-used ones who are meek; cheered by the seemingly unsatisfied hungering after righteousness, by the inability of

many to begin. He welcomes, as it were, the very condition of things that would discourage many ministers. He corrects our erring piety, giving the burden of the work for the poor and needy in the rough places of the earth to men and women who have hearts that can feel for the ignorant and for those that are out of the way. The Lord teaches these workers how to meet those whom He wishes them to help. They will be encouraged as they see doors opening for them to enter places where they can do medical missionary work. Having little self-confidence, they give God all the glory. Their hands may be rough, and unskilled, but their hearts are susceptible to pity; they are filled with an earnest desire to do something to relieve the woe so abundant; and Christ is present to help them. He works” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 7, pages 271–272.*

Oh, watch this beautiful statement now:

“He works through those who discern mercy in misery, gain in the loss of all things. When the Light of the world passes by, privileges appear in all hardships, order in confusion, the success and wisdom of God in that which has seemed to be failure” *Ibid.*

Oh, let’s let the light of the world pass by. What do you say, friends? On our own experiences and the experiences of others. We’re saved by hope, the Bible says. Oh, let’s let hope lift the fallen and cause them to see in every seeming defeat a way through to learn the lessons that lead to glory.

“My brethren and sisters, in your ministry come close to the people. Uplift those who are cast down. Treat of calamities as disguised blessings, of woes, as mercies. Work in a way that will cause hope to spring up in the place of despair.

“The common people are to take their place as workers. Sharing the sorrows of their fellow men as the Savior shared the sorrows of humanity, they will by faith see Him working with them” *Ibid.*, page 272.

Ah friends, talk about failures. Tell me. Look back over the records of history and what will you pick for the greatest failure of all the ages. If you had been with the little band of stricken men and women there on Golgotha over 1900 years ago, you would have looked up to that cross and said, “That’s the greatest failure of all times. That’s the greatest disappointment of all times. That’s the greatest defeat of all the ages.” Wouldn’t you?

That's what they said. That's what they thought deep in their hearts. They were stricken. There has never been a blacker day than that day, my friends.

But oh, through the ages of eternity, we shall look back to that hour as the hour of the greatest triumph, the greatest victory, the greatest revelation of the love of God. Let's gather at the cross, friends, and learn how to face failure and turn every defeat into victory.

May we bow our heads?

Oh precious Lord, here at Thy cross, we thank Thee for the light of love that shines in the face of Jesus. We thank Thee for the glory that passing by reveals that nothing that is ever done in Thy name is lost; that no effort that we ever make is a failure. That every seeming failure and even our own mistakes can be turned into glorious victories and triumphs through Thy wonderful, miraculous power.

And so this evening, dear Lord, take us as we are, our poor failures and mistakes and work out of us that which will be worth immortalizing. We pray in Christ's name, amen.

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