

Onward Higher

#0370

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—June 4, 1976

“...[He] loved me, and gave Himself for me” Galatians 2:20.

Why did He pay such a price? Because you were worth that much. Never discount heaven’s evaluation of your worth.

We’re in a great controversy because Satan has been fighting God for 6,000 years. But it’ll soon be over. And you and I, I was about to say “happened,” but it isn’t a happening, it’s a planning, we happened to be born in this generation when the climax of history is rushing on before our eyes.

Now, two weeks ago this evening I was studying with you some of these coming events and the great song of triumph, the song of Moses and the Lamb which the redeemed will sing, especially the 144,000 redeemed from this last generation.

We called attention to the fact that according to Revelation 13, 14, 15, this last generation of saints get the victory over the beast and the image and his mark. They stand on the sea of glass having the harps of God [a paraphrase of Revelation 15:2]. They’re a special company who go with Jesus on His triumphal tour through the universe, telling the story of redeeming love. It’s going to be a great experience, and a great song of experience.

But my dear friends, experience doesn’t come just by reading books, even the Bible. Experience comes by experience, doesn’t it? Yes. So, we’re going to study a little more tonight about that experience. Let’s just refresh our minds with the chart.

We’re looking forward to the coming of Jesus. Since 1844 we’ve been in the hour of God’s judgment, the last hour of human salvation. This hour of God’s judgment was ushered in by the signs in the heavens, the dark sun, the bloody moon, the falling stars, and then, as the hour of God’s judgment struck, in heaven the temple of God was opened, and the Ark of His testament was brought to view [a paraphrase of Revelation 14:7 and 11:19]. And the attention of God’s people from that moment until this has been focused upon what is going on in heaven.

The purpose of the third angel’s message is to gather from every nation, kindred, tongue and people the army of sincere, obedient people who will welcome Jesus when He comes. Against them, the dragon makes war because they keep the commandments of God because they exalt that law written on the tables of stone in the Ark in the Temple in Heaven. He rebelled against it 6,000 years ago, he’s still in rebellion against it, and he’s inspiring in human hearts that spirit of rebellion.

This is the real cause of all the lawlessness and violence, the riot and revolution that we see so characteristic of the world today. This is what's back of wars and strife in every phase of life and on every continent. Thank God, He's going to have a people that have patience instead of restlessness, peace in their hearts instead of war and rebellion. What do you say?

Now, this last war of the enemy meets its climax during the seven last plagues just after the close of probation. Previous to that comes this interesting time of the Loud Cry when, just before probation closes, the Spirit of God is poured upon His people from the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary, and they go out to give the message with the greatest power ever witnessed in this world. Thousands will be converted in a day, as on the day of Pentecost. Miracles will be wrought. The sick will be healed. Signs and wonders will follow the believers [a paraphrase of *Great Controversy*, page 612].

But this, of course, enrages the enemy, and so he inspires the powers of earth to persecute the people of God. And at the very time that power from above is raining down upon the people of God, power from beneath will be stirring up the hosts of the wicked to oppose the church, to persecute the saints. And thus, the people of God will be between two great powers, the power from above and the power from beneath.

And friends, when the church is filled with that power, persecution will be here as it was in the days of the apostolic church. Do you want persecution? Well, nobody wants it. But friends, I'd rather have power and persecution than lack of power and lack of persecution. What do you say?

Somebody was asking me the other day, "What do you suppose is going to happen to wake us up? Do you suppose God will have to let persecution come and wake us up?"

I said, "Brother, it's the other way around. Persecution is not going to come upon a sleeping church, a world-loving church. What is there about that to arouse the wrath of the dragon?"

No. Instead—don't miss this—instead of our waiting for persecution to wake us up, we should listen to the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ and let the call from heaven wake us up, and get ready for the Latter Rain and the Loud Cry. And when that happens, persecution will be here. Don't worry about that.

Those who wake up when persecution comes, many of them will wake up too late. Like the foolish virgins, they wake up with no oil in their vessels, and as the result, they go out in darkness.

But tonight, I want to study with you something of the wonderful experience that precedes the falling of the Latter Rain and the giving of the Loud Cry because this is the experience that belongs to us now. This is the experience that many are having now. This is the experience that God is calling every one of us to enter into now.

You'll find it graphically portrayed in *Volume 1*, page 187:

"God leads His people on, step by step"
Testimonies for the Church, Volume 1, page 187.

You notice the steps—step by step by step by step. How does God lead His people on?

[Audience] Step by step.

Has He led you that way? Yes.

"God leads His people on, step by step. He brings them up to different points calculated to manifest what is in the heart. Some endure at one point, but fall off at the next. At every advanced step the heart is tested and tried a little closer... Those who come up to every point, and stand every test, and overcome, be the price what it may, have heeded the counsel of the True Witness, and they will receive the Latter Rain, and thus be fitted for translation"
Ibid.

The Latter Rain comes upon those who have taken the steps. And these are steps in experience. The Latter Rain enables the church to give the Loud Cry and gather in the remnant from Babylon. The Latter Rain seals the saints so that their characters will remain firm and spotless for eternity. The Latter Rain prepares the church for the ordeal of Jacob's trouble. The Latter Rain is heaven's enabling, getting the church ready for the day of translation when Jesus comes. Oh friends, I want that rain of the Holy Spirit. What do you say?

But now, notice, before the Latter Rain comes the early rain. And the early rain is not the work of a moment or a day. The early rain is what enables you and me to take these steps one by one, day after day. What are these steps?

"...Different points calculated to manifest what is in the heart" *Ibid.*

Somebody says, "Well to me, Brother Frazee, this sounds something like righteousness by works."

Oh, no. It's righteousness by faith but it's *righteousness* by faith. It isn't law-breaking by presumption. Not a bit of it. It's *righteousness* by faith. It takes faith to keep the commandments of God. It doesn't take faith to break them, friends.

What a strange idea! What does Revelation 14:12 say?

"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that..."
Revelation 14:12.

That do what?

[Audience] Keep.

Oh, that's legalism. What? No. It's the Word of God.

Now, I interrupted you, didn't I? Let's go back and start over again. This time, we'll let the word of God speak without any interruptions. All together:

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

You mean keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus go together? Certainly, they go together, friends. In fact, it's impossible to have one without the other. We could never keep the commandments of God without the faith of Jesus. And anybody who has the faith of Jesus will do what Jesus did. He said:

"...I have kept My Father's commandments..." John 15:10.

And He says:

"If ye love Me, [you will] keep My commandments" John 14:15.

So, let's not try to do it without faith and love, but let's get enough faith and love to *do* it. What do you say?

And my point is that this experience is not a sudden, instantaneous thing. God leads His people on how? Step by step. And this doesn't mean (don't miss this point), this doesn't mean that we gradually become more and more accepted. Oh, no. We are accepted the moment we surrender to Jesus. The thief on the cross was, and every soul who is saved is saved by giving himself to Jesus and letting the blood of Christ cover his sin, and letting the Holy Spirit enable him to do God's will.

But my point is, while we're accepted fully by Jesus through His righteousness all the way along, there is an actual change in the human life and character that goes on under the ministration of the Savior. And this is what I'm studying about tonight.

Let me make it plain that no matter what step you are on, on this ladder, you are accepted clear up here. The perfection of Jesus covers you, provided—don't miss it—provided your choice is to accept the perfection of Jesus. If you turn your back on Him and start down instead of going up:

"If we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge
of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins"
Hebrews 10:26.

The blood of Jesus can cover *any* sin no matter how bad it is if we're willing to give it up. But the blood of Jesus can't cover the sin that rebelliously I hug to my heart and say, "No, I won't give that up. I'll die first."

Oh, no, no. The smallest sin, if sin is ever small, will sink my soul to hell if I hang onto it. But the greatest sin, thank God, I can be forgiven and cleansed if I'm willing. So:

"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.

Now, 1 John 1:7:

"If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin" 1 John 1:7.

Notice that 1 John 1:9 shows that forgiveness is dependent upon our confessing our sin. 1 John 1:7 shows that the cleansing is dependent on our walking in the light. Not that we can earn it, but my dear friends, God can never cleanse us from sin unless we're willing to *be* cleansed. He's not going to force us. He's not going to catch us, tie us up, and throw us into the cleansing fountain. Not a bit of it. Thank God, He waits for the consent of our will.

And so, these upward steps are taken as the result of two things that the Christian must ever be seeking. One is enlightenment; the other is obedience. We cannot take a step unless we see it. I mean, understand that it's a step to be taken.

So, day by day as we study the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, we should be saying, "Lord, show me what's wrong in my life that I may put it away. Lord, show me some right thing that You want me to do that I haven't been doing, and help me to start in doing it."

But mere information is not enough. Faith is not only believing that what God says is true, it's believing that His promise to enable us to do it is a fact. And thus, through the power of Jesus Christ, what we read in God's Word can be translated into the experience of our lives. Praise His wonderful name!

So tonight, we're emphasizing especially this progressive work. I was much impressed with a little statement here in *Volume 3*, page 540. Let me share it with you:

"We should have a spirit of progress. We must guard continually against being fixed in our views, feelings, and actions" *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 3*, page 540.

What does "fixed" mean? Set, yes, that's right. Now, it's all right for some things to be permanent. The law of God is permanent. But we should be careful,

friends, that we do not get mixed up and think that our *views* are to be as fixed as what God has written on the tables of stone.

“We must guard continually against being fixed in our views, feelings, and actions. The work of God is onward. Reforms must be carried on” *Ibid.*

What must be carried on?

[Audience] Reforms.

What is reform? Well, it's re-formed. Form means to what? Shape, or mold. And what does “re” mean. Again, do it over again.

See, we were made in God's image in the beginning. Then, we lost it through sin. So:

“...God *formed* man of the dust of the ground...” Genesis 2:7.

Now, He's got to *reform* us. He *formed* Adam out of the clay, but this work of *reform*, that's done with this protoplasm here, friends. And it's a gradual work.

“Reforms must be carried on, and we must take hold and help move on the car of reform” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 3, page 540.*

Will you help push?

“Energy, tempered with patience and ambition, and balanced by wisdom, is now needed by every Christian... Our motto should ever be, ‘Onward, higher’...” *Ibid.*

“Our motto should ever be, ‘Onward, higher’...” *Ibid.*

Will you say that with me?

“Our motto should ever be, ‘Onward, higher’...” *Ibid.*

Again:

“Our motto should ever be, ‘Onward, higher’...” *Ibid.*

Shall we have that as our motto? Thank God for the privilege! You know, the nice thing about going higher? We're closer to heaven. Mind you, not closer in our standing, but closer in our understanding. Not closer in our acceptance, but closer in our experience.

Just let me use an illustration. Do you suppose it would be possible for an earnest Christian that didn't know anything about the light of this message but he's serving God the best light he has, to be puffing away on a cigar, or a pipe, or even a

cigarette and not know any better and still be saved? Do you think that could happen? Why sure that could happen.

But friends, when he hears this wonderful truth and finds that his body is the temple of the living God and gives up that poisonous weed, and his bloodstream begins to clear up and his mind begins to clear up, he's not any closer to Heaven in his acceptance, if he'd accepted Jesus before, but he's certainly closer to heaven in his experience. Isn't he? Sure. Some of you here tonight have experienced that, and so with every point of truth and every phase of human experience.

"God leads His people on..." *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 1*, page 187.

How?

"...step by step. He brings them up to different points calculated to manifest what is in the heart. Some endure at one point, but fall off at the next. At every advanced point the heart is tested and tried a little closer... Those who come up to every point, and stand every test, and overcome, be the price what it may, have heeded the counsel of the True Witness..." *Ibid.*

That's Jesus.

"...and they will receive the Latter Rain, and thus be fitted for translation" *Ibid.*

So, if you want the Latter Rain, you'll be finding out what these steps are and taking them one at a time. How often would you like to take a step? Once a year? I'm sorry to say, friends, there are people that don't take even one step a year. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could take at least one step a week? Do you suppose we could come to the place where we'd take a step a day?

I've seen people take 40 steps in just a few days, dear friends, as they hear this message for the first time. They change the day they keep, change their ideas on the nature of man, change 40 things in diet, dress, music, reading, association, recreation, child training, family worship, a tremendous amount of changes, all in a few weeks, a few months.

But is that the end? Oh, no, no. God is still leading us on. And listen, until we receive the Latter Rain, our motto is what? What did we read there? Onward, higher, onward, higher. The Latter Rain will enable us to go still higher but not on what we're talking about. All right.

Now, let's see if we can have a few examples of this, *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, page 380:

"Again and again I have been shown that God is trying to lead us back, step by step, to His original design—that man

should subsist upon the natural products of the earth”
Counsels on Diet and Foods, page 380.

Was there any butcher shop in the Garden of Eden? No. Was there any slaughterhouse? No. Will there be in the earth made new? No. There’s been a lot of it in between, hasn’t there?

Now God, it says, is trying, oh He’s trying, He’s been trying for a century:

“...to lead us back, step by step, to His original design—that man should subsist upon the natural products of the earth”
Ibid.

But how does He lead us to do this? Step by step.

I was reading something interesting from Elder James White. This is in the old book *Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene*, pages 223, 224. I want to share it with you. Notice the good common sense of it:

“The cause of hygienic reform is onward and all enlightened and sincere reformers will follow on in the path of light and right. The changes from injurious habits of life to those conducive to health are great and should be made with care. Is a man a tobacco user, a tea and coffee drinker, a meat eater, taking his three meals, let him begin with tobacco and put that away. Then let him leave off the use of tea and coffee, eat less meat, and make his third meal very light. He will find this a heavy tax upon his system. He may all the time feel worse, but what of that, there is a glorious victory ahead. Soon he can dispense with flesh meats all together. His appetite will become natural and he can take simple healthful food with a keen relish. Next he leaves off the third meal. As he sleeps his stomach rests, and in the morning he does not suffer from faintness as when his stomach was taxed with the third meal. When right habits of diet are established and the victory over the morbid appetite is gained, the morning hours, especially in summer, are the happiest and best. Shall we stop here having gained victories? How natural and consistent that we should still look forward to higher and yet holier attainment in life and happiness”
Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene, pages 223–224.

Now, you notice the common sense of the step-by-step progress? So, we do not go—don’t miss this—we do not go to people that are unacquainted with this beautiful program of healthful living, and say to them, “Now look here, everything you’ve been doing is wrong and stop it right now. And start over here with a different program of life.”

If we know these principles, we give people time to progress, how?

[Audience] Step by step.

Listen, don't you like to have people treat you that way? It's interesting. Sometimes people take years to make some changes, and then they'll turn around and want their relatives to make the change all in 24 hours. Not very consistent, is it? Let us give our dear friends time to make the changes. And in the meantime, let's keep making some more. What do you say?

Somebody has observed that a rung of the ladder was never made to stay on but just to put your foot on while you're getting ready to take the next step. And that's the way with these steps, dear friends. Onward and what? Onward and higher.

But now, watch. I must warn you against something because unless I do, somebody will leave this meeting tonight and do absolutely the wrong thing.

"Let's see, how could that be done?" you say.

Well, I'll show you how it could be done.

I think, "Well, let's see. I gave up tobacco 30 years ago, and I haven't eaten any meat for 10 years."

And so, I go on and I think of the different things I've done.

And I say, "Five years ago, I went on a two-meal-a-day plan, and I feel better now. Maybe it'd be better if I just went on one meal a day."

That'd be a step, wouldn't it? Yes, it would be a step, but I'm not sure it'd be a step upward. I'm afraid it might be a step sideward or even backward.

Now, did you know there was a testimony in here written to a man that had made so much progress in health reform that he was on a one-meal-a-day program? I didn't invent this story or pull it out of the air. You'll find it in *Counsels on Diets and Foods*, page 191:

"I have been informed that you have taken but one meal a day for a period of time; but I know it to be wrong in your case, for I have been shown that you needed a nutritious diet, and that you were in danger of being too abstemious"
Counsels on Diet and Foods, page 191.

In danger of what? Why, could a person be too abstemious? Apparently, it's possible. So, taking one step after the other doesn't mean eating less and less and less and less and less. Now, there are some people that don't need this paragraph I'm reading at all. Should I advise you to close your ears?

"...I have been shown that you needed a nutritious diet, and that you were in danger of being too abstemious"
Ibid.

Now, this dear man, and if I'd tell you his name, you'd know that he was really a wonderful saint. He was. He not only had gotten on the one-meal-a-day program, according to this, but he'd even decided that the way to get the victory was to fast. So, he fasted for two days.

"I think that you have erred in fasting two days. God did not require it of you. I beg of you to be cautious and eat freely good, wholesome food twice a day. You will surely decrease in strength and your mind become unbalanced unless you change your course of abstemious diet" *Ibid.*

I thought you'd be interested in that. So, while our motto is to be what? Onward, higher. Let's be sure that what we're doing is a step that God is calling us to take. Let's be sure that it's a step God is calling us to take.

Would you like to know how to take steps? Here's a good suggestion, *Volume 5*, 163.

"The Lord speaks; enter into your closet, and in silence commune with your own heart; listen to the voice of truth and conscience. Nothing will give such clear views of self as secret prayer... Plain, simple duties that must not be neglected will open before you" *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5*, page 163.

Now, here's a promise. God says if you'll go to Him in prayer and kneel down as you study His Word, then in silence listen to the voice of truth and conscience, and God will bring to your mind some plain, simple duty He wants you to do. Now, don't do it unless you mean business because God isn't going to drag us up these steps. Oh, no. Let's love Him enough to *want* to see the steps and run up the path. What do you say?

But now, notice that promise. And let me take a little illustration from the life of the prophet herself. This is before she was a prophet. She was just a teenage girl. You can read about it here in *Volume 1*, page 26. She was just entering into a Christian experience. She was about 14 or 15 years old. She'd been having some experience up and down, back and forth. But she'd never prayed in public. She was naturally timid.

"It was now impressed upon me that I should seek God in prayer at our small social meetings" *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 1*, page 26.

That was just a little prayer meeting, just a few people. And her heart was impressed that she should pray in that little group. But she shrank from it. Read the story here. It threw her into darkness. She didn't see how she could do it, and then when she tried to pray alone with God why she just felt that was useless because she wouldn't do what God had impressed her with. And so, it just drove her into darkness.

Well, I won't go through the whole story, but finally, after several weeks of that, she decided that that wasn't the way, and she got help from some that knew more about Christian experience than she did. And so, she knelt down and told God she'd do anything that He wanted her to do. And what do you suppose? I'll read it here:

"I returned home and again went before the Lord, promising to do anything and suffer anything He might require of me, if only the smiles of Jesus might cheer my heart. The same duty was presented to me that had troubled my mind before—to take up my cross among the assembled people of God. An opportunity was not long wanting; there was a prayer meeting that evening, which I attended. I bowed trembling during the prayers that were offered. After a few had prayed, I lifted up my voice in prayer before I was aware of it. The promises of God appeared to me like so many precious pearls that were to be received only for the asking. As I prayed, the burden and agony of soul that I had so long endured left me, and the blessing of the Lord descended upon me like the gentle dew. I praised God from the depths of my heart" *Ibid.*, pages 30–31.

Wasn't that a wonderful experience? Well, how'd she get it? She got it first of all as she was seeking God alone.

The duty was impressed upon her, "Ellen, I want you to pray in the little prayer meeting."

"Oh, but Lord, I couldn't do that. I've never done that in public."

You know, anybody that has ever prayed in public, there was a time when they'd never done it? Am I right? Everybody that ever stands up here on Friday night and testifies, gives their witness, there was a time when they had never done it. There are some people here tonight that probably have never done it.

But remember, *everybody* that *ever* did it, there was a time when they'd *never* done it. Right? And this was Ellen's experience. But bless the Lord, the Holy Spirit didn't leave her, kept impressing her. And finally, when she came to the point of surrender full and complete and took the step, the blessing of God flooded her heart.

That, my dear friends, is not legalism. That's righteousness by faith, but it's *righteousness* by faith, not law-breaking by presumption. Not a bit of it. All right.

Now, does that mean that nobody here tonight can get the blessing of God unless he goes and prays publicly in a prayer meeting? No, no. No. God leads His people on how? Step by step. Maybe He hasn't led you to that point yet. Don't worry about it. Take the step that He's presenting to you. Do you see what I mean? This is so important.

You know, there's always danger when we get to studying things like this, there's danger of judging others, whether it's on diet, or dress, or music, or reading, or praying, or Sabbath school, or whatever, danger of judging others.

And thinking, "Well now, let's see, that person, I thought he was up here, but it looks like to me he's way down here."

You know, I got to thinking about this the other day. Suppose we go in a restaurant or a cafeteria and there are the ham and the bacon, and there are the chicken and the fish, and there's the cheese omelet, and there is the vegetable plate, and there are the fruit salad and all the rest. Now, we all go by together. And you stand there. You can tell who the saints are and who the sinners are, can't you? Can't you? No, you can't. And that's the point.

I want to tell you something, friend. Two men can be sitting at the table, the same table and both eating a dinner of fish, and one of them may have just taken a tremendous step upward, left off the unclean meat, and the other one may have taken a big step downward, leaving the path of vegetarianism. They're both eating exactly the same meal, and one of them took a big step up, and the other took a big step down. Don't try to get your notebook and tell which is which. Do you see what I'm getting at here, friends?

You know, on this dress question, remember, you may see somebody and you may say, "My, what a worldly outfit."

But that thing that you call a worldly outfit may be to that individual a big step in getting away from the world. That's right, that's right. And so, the apostle says:

"...Judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come..."
1 Corinthians 4:5.

No. The purpose of studying these things about taking steps is not so *you* can measure somebody else's progress. Not a bit of it.

"...Let a man examine himself..." 1 Corinthians 11:28.

But now, let me show you the other side of that coin, and for somebody here tonight, this will be the most important point in the meeting. You are not only to refrain from judging others but you're also not to let others judge you. Oh, don't misunderstand me. You can't keep them from it in their hearts. But you *can* keep it from letting it determine your attitude and reaction.

If God impresses you to do something and as you study the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy that's what it says to you, *do* it no matter if other people call you extreme or fanatic, or call you worldly. Do what you believe God wants you to do. Unless you listen to the voice of truth and conscience as the Holy Spirit speaks to your heart, what have you got to lead you on?

If you wait until all your family and all your friends and all your neighbors and all the other members of the church say, "Yes, this is what you ought to do and this is the time to do it," you'll wait in vain, friend.

Do you know what the word "Babylon" means? Confusion. Were you ever confused? You know what's the matter with Babylon? Well, another word for Babylon is Babel. You know what "Babel" means? That means confusion, confusion of tongues.

And when you say, "What shall I do?"

And this one says, "Do this."

And another says, "No. Don't do that. Do this."

And you listen, and you hear about a dozen different languages, that's Babel. That's Babylon. And Jesus wants you to come *out* of Babylon. Jesus wants you to know the truth. And He says:

"...If ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" John 8:31–32.

It *is* free. In the early church, Paul had to write letter after letter to places where the people were all in a stir because somebody would come along and say, "Don't you know you've got to do this? Don't you know you've got to do that?"

That's why he wrote Galatians. That's why he wrote Ephesians and Colossians. Read it there.

My point is, friends, as you take these steps, do not take what God teaches you to do and use it to measure and judge other people, and don't let what they're saying or doing judge you. Have an experience of your own with the Lord and be happy about it, and let other people be, too. Let other people be, too.

You know, it makes some people uncomfortable if somebody comes along with a style of dress different from what they're used to. What's the matter, friends? Is that insecurity? If you know you're doing right, *do* it. But let them do what they believe to be right. If you've got any light from the Lord that can help them, share it with them. But leave them with God and their conscience. So in diet, so in a world of other things, step by step up the beautiful ladder. What do you say? Step by step with Jesus.

Ministry of Healing, page 491:

"...Constantly inquire, 'What would Jesus do were He in my place?' This should be the measurement of our duty"
Ministry of Healing, page 491.

We were talking about fish a while ago just as an illustration. Did Jesus eat fish? I've heard people argue and go all around something trying to prove that He didn't do it. He did. All right.

"Well then, I'd better go out and get a fish and eat it, hadn't I?"

You notice how this is worded:

"Study carefully the divine-human character, and constantly inquire, 'What would Jesus do were He in my place?'" *Ibid.*

And thank God, I'm sure if Jesus were at my table today with all there is to eat, and in this generation, I know He wouldn't eat that fish. But there are parts of the world, my friends, there are parts of this world tonight far removed from the advantages you and I have, in places that don't have the beautiful foods that you and I can get easily, that thousands upon thousands of God's dear people are eating fish and they're asking God to bless it.

And who am I to say to them, "You're sinning"?

Do you see what I'm getting at, dear friends? Yes. And so, I leave it with you tonight, what is that motto? Onward what? Higher. Onward, higher. May God add His blessing as we consider these things in a practical way.

Now, there's somebody here tonight that God has been talking to about taking a step. It could easily be something that the preacher hasn't mentioned at all. It could easily be something the preacher knows nothing about. The Holy Spirit has access to your heart.

But my dear friend, if God is calling upon you tonight to take some step in your experience with God, whether it's the first step or way on up the ladder, if God has spoken to your heart about a definite change in your life that you know needs to be made, and by His grace, you're going to reach up your hand and put it in His hand that you and Jesus together may take that step that He's talking to your heart about tonight, wouldn't you like to come forward and kneel down here as we sing this next stanza. And as you surrender your life to God on that point, I know that God will give you the strength to take the step.

"My heart has no desire to stay
Where doubts arise and fears dismay;
Though some may dwell where these abound,
My prayer, my aim is higher ground.

Lord, lift me up, and I shall stand
By faith, on heaven's table-land;
A higher plane than I have found;
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."
Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, #625, second stanza.

Now, Pastor Boykin's going to lead us in prayer, and after we've had this prayer, this will close our meeting, but we're going to have a little after meeting for these that have come forward. And any of you that would like to stay we're going to have a praise service. All of you are welcome to stay, but all of you are free to go. This prayer will conclude our meeting.

And so, after we've had the prayer, if you who are kneeling will take these front seats and those who are wishing to stay press up toward the front. Those who are going to leave at this time, if you'll quietly make your way out to the foyer, and as the music plays, we'll have just a few minutes to disperse. And then, we'll go right into our aftermeeting.

Let us kneel together and seek the Lord.

[Brother Boykin] Our wonderful Father who art in Heaven, we thank thee for the simplicity of the gospel, the beauty of it, the preciousness of that highway that leads upward step by step. Jesus is inviting us to come through that narrow gate, to enter the narrow way, and He is right with us taking steps with us, with His arm about us.

We ask that Thou wilt forgive where we've been so slow in the past, where we've been stubborn; going our own way, have grieved Thy heart. Forgive us.

Help us, Lord, to take a definite step tonight with Thee. We know that Thy Spirit is putting His finger right on a spot in our heart, right on a place where we need to make definite confession, and by Thy grace to take a step upward. We believe Thou art going to help us do this. Maybe we're not spending enough time in the closet examining our hearts. Forgive us for this neglect. And may we determine that we're going to put first things first. And put the value on those things that Heaven values so highly that we ought to put on it.

Maybe we need to take a step on appetite, or tobacco, or whatever it is, or in dress, or music, or reading. Help us to make this step tonight by Thy grace. And may we know Lord, that every step we make with Thee makes us happier, makes us more joyful, more like heaven on earth. And we want this.

Thank Thee for such a wonderful congregation tonight, Lord, the saints of God, and we thank Thee for these who've come forward expressing to Heaven that they are going to take a step by the grace of Jesus. Bless those who didn't come forward. Thou art right with them, we know.

And now, we ask that Thou will dismiss us with Thy blessing. Give us a good Sabbath day for Jesus' sake, amen.

[Elder Frazee] How good the Lord is, isn't He, friends? How good He is. All right. We're going to have a little praise service now, and anybody that would like to praise the Lord come right up and stand by me here, and that way all can hear you, and the dear Lord will have an angel to write it down.

[Praise service followed.]

[Comments by Elder Frazee during praise service.]

[Elder Frazee] Remember, Jesus is with you on every round of the ladder.

...Brother, would you mind if I point this out—two things? Look past everybody that you think is farther up the ladder because Jesus is the great pattern. I know you know that, but the person that you think is ahead of you might fall off, but you don't have to. That's right, that's right.

But there's another point on this. The person that's ahead of you on some point might not be on some other point. God doesn't lead us all in the same order of steps, see. It isn't A-B-C-D-E-F-G-H-I-J-K-L-M for everybody. For some people, it's D-C-K-L-Z-Y and so on. We'll finally get all 26 letters, but they're in a different order. All right.

[Praise service continuing.]

[Elder Frazee] All right. Shall we pray?

Heavenly Father, we've had a precious time together communing one with another and with Thee. Rightly interpret to our hearts the message of Thy dear heart. Through it all, give each one a personal experience with Thee, for Christ's sake, amen.

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