

John 14:1–3

Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled

#0487

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—April 19, 1974

These words of Jesus in John 14:1–3 were spoken by the Savior at the last supper. He had washed the feet of the disciples. He had given them the bread and the wine, and He was speaking with them there around the table. He had spoken of His going to the Father.

The disciples were troubled that there should be any part of separation. They had no idea, although He had told them about the cross which was just ahead, they had no idea that before another sun should set, Jesus would be hanging on the tree. But there gathered in the upper room, they heard this wonderful assurance of Jesus—these wonderful words of comfort.

It's significant that the Savior was thinking not of His own suffering and sorrow, but He was reaching out in the endeavor to comfort these who were so near and dear to Him:

“Let not your heart be troubled...” John 14:1.

He said.

“...ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” John 14:1–3.

And as we meditate on this beautiful passage tonight, let us drink in, first of all, the precious assurance that He wants to be with us. He wants us to be with Him. That's the whole purpose of the entire plan of salvation—to get man and God together. This is why the Gospel condemns sin and points to the remedy for sin. Sin is an intruder. Sin is a troublemaker. Sin is what is responsible for the separation:

“But your iniquities have separated between you and your God...” Isaiah 59:2.

And the reason that God hates sin is that sin has brought separation between those that God loves and God.

Oh, my dear friends, if you love somebody very much, you want to be with them very much. Jesus loves us very, very much, and He wants us to be with Him. He wants to be with us. So, He says, I am going to the Father's house to prepare a place for you.

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there you may be also” John 14:3.

What is the purpose of the second coming? Reunion. That’s why all heaven is soon to come to this planet. That’s why Jesus is going to bring the angels with Him and send them all over this world to gather the resurrected saints and the translated, and together we’ll meet the Lord in the air. And with the Savior ascend back to the pearly gates and enter in to rejoice in that fellowship, that wonderful association with Jesus and with the good and blessed of all ages.

I will come again. Sweet promise. Wonderful assurance. Jesus is coming again. But thank God, the reason He’s coming—He’s coming for us. He’s coming for me.

Jesus, my Savior, shall come from on high,
Sweet is the promise as weary years fly,
O, I shall see him descending the sky,
Coming for me, for me.

Yes, it’s for me that He’s coming as if I were the only one. He thinks I’m valuable enough that He’d make the whole trip just to get me and feel it was a payload. Isn’t it nice to be worth that much to heaven? You are, my friend, whether you know it or not. Whether it’s ever dawned upon your soul or whether you’ve reveled in it for years, you are worth that much to heaven. You are worth that much to Jesus. That’s why He paid redemption’s price.

But now, He does not desire us to be in uncertainty and fear during the interval between His first coming and His second coming.

“Let not your heart be troubled...” John 14:1.

He says.

“...ye believe in God, believe also in Me” John 14:1.

Is it really true that believing in Him, we need not be troubled? Is that really true? That’s what He said. Does He tell the truth? Oh, yes. For in the sixth verse, he says:

“...I am the way, the *truth*, and the life...” John 14:6.

A week ago, we studied together some wonderful things from the book of God, pointing out how feeble man is, utterly lacking in what it takes to help us, and by the same token lacking in what it takes to hinder us or hurt us. Man is powerless to lift us up, and man is powerless to knock us down if we are abiding in Christ.

And so, this evening, we want to note especially the security, the comfort, the help, the courage that come from looking unto Jesus:

“Let not your heart be troubled...” John 14:1.

He said.

“...ye believe in God, believe also in Me” John 14:1.

I love that wonderful hymn:

Jesus, I my cross have taken,
All to leave and follow Thee.

You're familiar with it. Do you remember that stanza tucked away in the body of the hymn:

Man may trouble and distress me,
'twill but drive me to Thy breast,
Life with trials hard may press me,
Heaven will bring me sweeter rest.

O, 'tis not in grief to harm me,
While Thy love is left to me,
O, 'twere not in joy to charm me,
If that love be hid from me.

Yes, friends:

Man may trouble and distress me,
'twill but drive me to His breast.

The utter inability of man to meet our needs draws us and drives us to the fountainhead of health and courage and strength and blessing, even Jesus Himself. So He says:

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me” John 14:1.

You know, as I pointed out to you last Friday night, in the closing conflict, the last of the great controversy, those who are standing for God will find every earthly support cut off, but we need not feel sorry for them, we need not feel sorry for ourselves as we look forward to that. As David says:

“Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident. One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple. For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion: in the secret of His tabernacle shall He hide me; He shall set me up upon a rock. And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me...” Psalm 27:3–6.

That's from the beautiful 27th Psalm, another one that I love to hear sung. By the way, won't it be nice to hear David sing some of his own original compositions, accompanying himself on the harp, as he used to do there at Bethlehem? Oh, what it will be, friends! But thank God, we can learn to sing in the house of our pilgrimage those psalms of faith and hope and trust and courage that direct our eyes from men, with their frailties and failings, to God, who doeth all things well.

Let us think for a little tonight of why it makes sense to trust in God. He says:

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me” John 14:1.

In the first place, friends, God always knows the answer. God always knows the answer. Things are expensive today, but one of the most expensive commodities on the market is good advice. No matter how much a man can earn working with his muscles, the highest fees are still paid for good counsel, solid sense and advice. Too bad so much of it is misspent. Too bad so much of the confidence is misplaced, but you know what I mean—what I'm saying—and you understand it.

Now, what a wonderful thing it is to find in Jesus, a counselor who never makes a mistake, who knows everything, in all dimensions. He was from all eternity. He will be through all eternity. He knows everything that ever happened. He knows everything that's ever going to happen. There is nothing hid from Him.

How men are maneuvering and trying to get certain information in Washington today. Well, the Lord knows all about it and did before they ever started squabbling about it. He knows all about it. The Lord knows what the stock market's going to be next week, what the war news is going to be. He knows how you're put together personally. He knows what makes you happy better than you do. He knows your future. Yes, God is infinite in wisdom. How wonderful to have an audience with the One who knows all things.

But that's only the beginning of the wonder. He not only knows everything, but He also has all power. Sometimes people are strong in good advice, but they lack what it takes to implement their counsel, but God is not short there. He is almighty, He is omnipotent.

And what do those expressions mean? They mean that there is nothing impossible with God. He's demonstrated that thousands of times, from creation right on through. God spoke and the Red Sea rolled back, and Israel went through on dry land. God spoke and the walls of Jericho fell down with no human hands touching them. God spoke and the dead were raised, in the days of Elijah and Elisha, and then in the ministry of Jesus here on earth. God spoke and blind eyes were opened, deaf ears unstopped, the lame men went like deer, leaping over the earth.

Oh friends, God is not only wise, He's powerful. God can do more than heal sick bodies. He can relieve weary hearts. He can heal the sick soul. He can bring forgiveness to sin. He can take away the guilt. He can do anything. He's all-wise. He's all-powerful.

But oh, there is something way beyond His wisdom and His power, and that's His love. There are people that have money that you and I might sometimes desire in order to solve some problem that money, we think, could solve, but if the people who have the money are not interested in us, what good does it do to us? What good does it accomplish? Not a bit.

But Jesus has demonstrated that all the resources of the universe are available to help those He loves, and He loves you, and so there is nothing kept back, nothing in reserve, that you cannot have that you need.

Now, let's put that together—infinite wisdom, infinite power, infinite love—all harnessed to the one task of helping you with every problem, filling every need. Isn't that wonderful? Ah, somebody says, I wish I could believe it. Well, of course, if you can't believe it, it's hard to get any good out of it, isn't it? Certainly. That's why our text says:

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me” John 14:1.

As Jesus said to the two blind men who approached Him:

“...According to your faith be it unto you” Matthew 9:29.

And so, my dear friends, infinite possibilities are for you and me if the hand of faith reaches up to reach the hand of love that's stretched out to help us—infinite possibilities. Wonderful blessing.

“...According to your faith be it unto you” Matthew 9:29.

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me” John 14:1.

Now, I would like to help somebody here tonight that would like to believe, but you're not quite sure whether you do or not and not quite sure how to do it. And all of you folks that know how, you just listen while I make it plain to some that don't understand. Will you do that? And if you do understand it already, just thank the Lord for it and pray for any who may be hesitating, who may be uncertain.

What does it mean to believe in the sense that Jesus is speaking of it here? This expression is oft-repeated by John, who wrote these words. We remember those immortal words in John 3:16. Let's repeat them together:

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” John 3:16.

Notice that God's love has been poured out, and everyone who believes in Him will, what? Not perish, but instead, have what? They'll have everlasting life. It all hinges on what? Believing. Not only our present peace but our eternal salvation is dependent on what? Believing.

Let's go to John 1:12. All together, read with me, please:

"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name" John 1:12.

Who is it gets the power? Those that believe on His name. Now, this is also spoken of here in the first line as doing what? Receiving Him.

"...as many as *received* Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name" John 1:12.

Those who receive Him believe Him. Those who believe Him receive Him. Again, the 5th chapter of John's Gospel, the 24th verse:

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" John 5:24.

Passing from death to life depends upon two things, Jesus says here. First, is doing what? Hearing. And second is? Believing. This agrees with what we read in John 1:

"But as many as *received* Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name" John 1:12.

Jesus was speaking to a multitude of people when these words were given, and among them, some believed and some didn't. Jesus said that those that believed were entering into what? Life. And those that didn't were in condemnation. Is it possible for my mind to make a decision that places me either on the side of belief or on the side of unbelief? This is precisely the point, dear friends.

God has given to every one of us the ability to choose—don't miss it—not only what we will *do* but what we will *believe*. We can either believe God and enter into His promises or we can disbelieve Him and go the way of rebellion.

You think of Adam and Eve back there in the Garden of Eden. God made them perfect, but He gave them the power of choice. He instructed them concerning obedience, and for some time, they went along in cooperation with their Creator. But the third chapter of Genesis tells us the story of Eve listening to whom? Satan, speaking through a serpent. And sad to say, she chose to believe the serpent instead of believing God, and her unbelief in what God said led her to do what the serpent said.

Let me tell you, friends, unbelief always precedes an outward transgression. Whenever we *do* anything that's contrary to the law of God, it is because something has happened in our minds in which we've lost some of that precious faith—belief in what Jesus says. Eve lost it listening to the serpent, and you and I can lose it in the same way.

Faith comes by listening to the Word of God:

“...He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life...” John 5:24.

Unbelief comes by turning from what Jesus says and listening to what the enemy says. Let me put it this way. The person that is strongest in faith here tonight, the most experienced Christian in this congregation—if he will spend next week listening to the serpent instead of Jesus, he will lose some of the faith he has and begin to believe the Devil’s lies.

On the other hand, the weakest person here, the one that has the least faith, who finds it hardest to believe—if he will shut his ears to the voices of sin and this world, if he will open his heart to the Word of God and listen to Jesus speaking, faith will grow in his soul, and he will become more and more conscious of what a joyful thing it is to trust in Christ for salvation full and free.

You hold it in your hand, my friend. You hold it in your hand. You can decide. We become like that which we look at. We are affected by that which we listen to.

“...He that heareth *My* word...” John 5:24.

Jesus says.

“...and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation...” John 5:24.

Let’s take another verse on this from Romans—the 10th chapter and the 17th verse. Perhaps you’ll read this verse with me:

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

Faith is just the opposite of unbelief, and as unbelief comes by listening to the serpent, faith comes by hearing what? The Word of God. Do I want more faith? Then listen more to the word. But not only—watch this—not only am I to hear His word, but I’m to believe. I’m to put my will on the side of faith and action.

You know, folks, this is the way we all began to learn. Jesus said:

“...Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven” Matthew 18:3.

You know how little children learn, don’t you? Daddy and mother say to the little one, See the star, and what does the little one lisp? Star, star. How did you learn that was a star out there in the sky? Somebody you loved and trusted told you, and you repeated it. Am I correct? That’s the way you learned it.

You think of the alphabet. How do you know that A is A? Somebody you loved and trusted pointed to a certain symbol and said A, and you said what? A. And so it

was with B and C. Oh, that God may help us to be that simple in our faith—in our attitude toward Jesus. What do you say? If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater.

I read something the other day that impressed me very much, and that is there are some things that we do not believe unless we can understand them, but there are other things that we cannot understand unless we believe them. Ponder over that.

And let me tell you that one of the great problems with the skeptic, the scoffer, the infidel, the higher critic, the modernist, is this. He does not know how truth is received into the inner sanctuary of the soul. He supposes that by argument, he can arrive at an understanding of truth. He supposes that spiritual things can be comprehended by the same tools that are used in solving a mathematical equation.

But all the mathematics in this world will not make plain to anybody the taste of a watermelon or a peach. Will it? Never. And so David says:

“O taste and see that the LORD is good...” Psalm 34:8.

And so, we’re dealing with the experimental, and if without arguing when God says something, we open our minds and hearts to His assurance, we can grow in faith. We can understand by believing first, instead of waiting to believe until we understand. I repeat, this is the way most of us have learned most of what we know in life, and it is the law of progress in the spiritual experience.

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me” John 14:1.

Ah, yes. He wants that little band of disciples gathered around the table in that upper room to be at peace. Turn again to that 16th chapter, this time, of John. This is part of the same message that Jesus was giving the disciples on this occasion—John 16:33:

“These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” John 16:33.

The man that said that—the God-Man that said it—was even then in the shadow of the cross, but He looked beyond, He saw the triumph, and He longed for the courage of it, the cheer of it, the hope of it, to grip every heart.

“...be of good cheer...” John 16:33.

He says.

“...I have overcome the world” John 16:33.

He speaks of His victory as already accomplished. By faith, He knows that He will plant the banner on the eternal heights, and He wants His friends to share with Him in that hope

Are you sharing it tonight, friends? Are you sharing it? He invites you to turn aside from the temptations of Satan and pay no attention to them. He invites you to turn aside—turn away from men who have not power to lift you and who cannot hinder you if you stand with Jesus. He wants you to abide with Him.

I've asked my dear friend, John Graves, who's just come back from Central America, to sing for me at this time, Under His Wings I Am Safely Abiding. You might like to turn to number 587, while our brother sings these beautiful words of courage, comfort, faith, hope and cheer.

[Sung by Brother Graves]

Under His wings I am safely abiding,
Though the night deepens and tempests are wild,
Still I can trust Him, I know He will keep me,
He has redeemed me, and I am his child.

Under His wings, under His wings,
Who from His love can sever,
Under His wings my soul shall abide,
Safely abide forever.

Under His wings, what a refuge in sorrow,
How the heart yearningly turns to its rest,
Often when earth has no balm for my healing,
There I find comfort and there I am blest.

Under His wings, under His wings,
Who from His love can sever,
Under His wings my soul shall abide,
Safely abide forever.

Under His wings, O what precious enjoyment,
There will I hide till life's trials are o'er,
Sheltered, protected, no evil can harm me,
Resting in Jesus I'm safe ever more.

Under His wings, under His wings,
Who from His love can sever,
Under His wings my soul shall abide,
Safely abide forever.

Did the Lord ever give you peace down there in the mission field with a song like that, John?

[Brother Graves] Oh, yes.

[Elder Frazee] That's right. Well, we even have some troubles up here.

[Brother Graves] Oh, yes.

[Elder Frazee] Yes, we even have some troubles up here.

Dear ones, Jesus says:

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me” John 14:1.

Let’s do it. What do you say? [Audience] Amen.

Now, I’d like to be very practical here tonight. You know whether you’re resting in Jesus or not. I can’t read your heart. But if you’re resting in Jesus, aren’t you thankful for it?

Under His wings, O what precious enjoyment,
There will I hide till life’s trials are o’er,
Sheltered, protected, no evil can harm me,
Resting in Jesus I’m safe ever more.

You mean that works, even if committees don’t vote right then? Does it? You mean even if some government agency doesn’t understand? You mean that stanza’s true even if there’s sickness or lack of money? It’s always true, provided we believe, and we can choose to believe. If you’re resting in Jesus, thank Him for it.

But oh, if there’s somebody here tonight that says, Brother Frazee, I’d just give anything if I could have what you’re talking about. If you give anything, you can have it, friends. If you give anything, you can have it. You can’t buy it with money, but it’ll take everything you have.

That rich young ruler came to Jesus, and he needed just what we’re studying tonight. He saw Jesus bless the little children, and he thought, “Oh, I wish I could get blessed, too.” But when Jesus, responding to his question, What lack I yet, said, You lack just one thing. Sell everything you have and give it away and come take up the cross and follow Me. He went away how? Sorrowful. He kept his possessions and his sorrow, you see. That’s the thing.

Sin, selfishness, gets in the way. There is no way to have the peace we’re studying about tonight and hang onto self and sin. No way. We can’t buy it with money, folks, but we *can* open our hearts to receive it, if we’ll just surrender fully to Jesus and then trust Him.

So, if there’s somebody here tonight that needs that peace, that rest, I invite you to find it in the Savior. I wonder if we couldn’t sing the song right across the page, # 586. It’s another one by the same author, breathing a similar Spirit, and my brother will lead us in this, and I’d like to have you stand. If you will, as we sing, and then if there’s somebody here tonight that wants this peace and rest in Jesus, you come up here and kneel and pray, and we’ll pray for and with you, and God will hear us. You can go with peace in your heart.

[Congregation singing]

O safe to the Rock that is higher than I,

My soul in its conflicts and sorrows would fly,
So sinful, so weary, thine, thine, would I be,
Thou blest Rock of Ages, I'm hiding in Thee.
Hiding in Thee, hiding in Thee,
Thou blest Rock of Ages, I'm hiding in Thee.

In the calm of the noontide, in sorrow's lone hour,
In times when temptation casts o'er me its power,
In the tempests of life, on its wide, heaving sea,
Thou blest Rock of Ages, I'm hiding in Thee.
Hiding in Thee, hiding in Thee,
Thou blest Rock of Ages, I'm hiding in Thee.

How oft in the conflict, when pressed by the foe,
I have fled to my Refuge and breathed out my woe,
How often, when trials like sea billows roll,
Have I hidden in Thee, O Thou Rock of my soul.
Hiding in Thee, hiding in Thee,
Thou blest Rock of Ages, I'm hiding in Thee.

Will the congregation kneel with us as we pray for these dear ones.

Elder Finley: Our Father in heaven, tonight we thank Thee that there's peace in Jesus. We thank Thee that amidst the conflict of life, that amidst situations all about us that disturb our peace, that we can have peace. We thank Thee that peace comes not from circumstances, but it comes from believing in Jesus and knowing that He's living in our heart, knowing that He loves us and will accomplish in our lives that which is best.

Father, tonight, I pray especially for those who have come kneeling at the altar, seeking Thee. May each one know the peace of Christ in their heart. May each one experience that joy that comes from trusting all to Jesus.

Be with the congregation. If there's one in this congregation who has not come, who doesn't have that peace, may they tarry and stay and find that Christ is our peace. Lord, help us to apply these lessons in the laboratory of our experience this week. We pray in Jesus' name, amen.

[Elder Frazee] Let us stand. God bless you all and give you a happy Sabbath. You are dismissed.

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