

Looking unto Jesus

#0677

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—February 8, 1963

[Singing, "It Was for Me."]

The text this evening is found in Hebrews the 12th chapter verses 1–2:

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" Hebrews 12:1–2.

Now, what is it that we are to do while we're running? Look. Look where? Look to Jesus. We're to:

"...Run with patience..." Hebrews 12:1.

That is, with patient endurance, with perseverance.

"...the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus..." Hebrews 12:1–2.

One night this week I was awake in the night, and I got to meditating on this verse. And the Lord impressed my mind with three experiences that are to come to us as we look to Jesus that I want to share with you this evening. They became very precious to me in the night hours as I meditated on them.

And as they became precious, I said, "Now, I must share those with the folks at the coming vespers service."

And I'm sure that you will be blessed, and I will be blessed as I go over these with you, three wonderful lessons that God has for you and me to enter into as we look to Jesus.

The first is how weak and unworthy we are. That's a very natural reaction when we look to Jesus. And that isn't just people that are down in the gutter, drunkards and publicans and sinners as they're called.

Notice what happened to Isaiah. In the sixth chapter of his book, he tells us about it. In the first verse, he says:

“...I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and His train filled the temple” Isaiah 6:1.

Then, he describes the glory of the scene. He tells us what he heard the angels singing:

“...Holy, holy, holy...” Isaiah 6:3.

And then, in the fifth verse, he gives us his reaction:

“Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone...” Isaiah 6:5.

“...I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts” Isaiah 6:5.

Now, friends, I think Isaiah knew something about the Lord before the Lord gave him that wonderful vision, don't you? Yes. But oh, as he saw the Lord as he had never seen Him before, he saw himself as he had never seen himself before. And it didn't look good; it didn't look pretty. And the reason it didn't look good nor pretty is he wasn't good or pretty.

And you and I aren't, friends. And if we have any idea that we are, we just need to look at Jesus, a longer look, a clearer look. Looking unto Jesus, we will see how weak and unworthy, how undone we are.

Notice the prophet Daniel, the ninth chapter of his book. He confesses his sins and the sins of his people. And the angel comes and cheers him and teaches him.

But in the 10th chapter, he's seeking again, and he receives another vision. And in this vision Christ, as Michael, reveals Himself to him. But as He did, the 8th verse says:

“...I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength” Daniel 10:8.

Do you see the picture, friends? As he caught a view of the glory of the Son of God, he felt himself to be what? Weak, undone.

“...My comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength” Daniel 10:8.

And so, Daniel agrees with Isaiah that a view of Jesus brings a view of self that is not flattering, not flattering at all.

With this, I'd like to read *Steps to Christ*, page 29 in the little pocket edition:

“One ray of the glory of God, one gleam of the purity of Christ, penetrating the soul, makes every spot of defilement painfully distinct, and lays bare the deformity and defects of the human character. It makes apparent the unhallowed desires, the infidelity of the heart, the impurity of the lips. The sinner... is stricken and afflicted under the searching influence of the Spirit of God. He loathes himself as he views the pure, spotless character of Christ” *Steps to Christ*, page 29.

Did you ever study the Word and pray and feel like that? Well, shall I put it very simply, friends? That’s the way we ought to feel because that’s the way it *is*. And we don’t achieve any merit by being humble and finding out how poor and weak we are. We just get a proper view of what the facts are. We are undone. We are poor and wretched and miserable and blind and naked [a paraphrase of Revelation 3:17]. That’s our condition.

But the only way, friends, to find that out is not by studying ourselves. It’s by looking unto Jesus because He’s the measuring rod. God expects us to be righteous as He is righteous, obedient as He is obedient, perfect as He is perfect. That’s what God expects, and He has a right to expect that. That’s what the law of God requires.

Matthew 5:48:

“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect” Matthew 5:48.

And so, I repeat, the first thing and the vital thing that comes to us as we look to Jesus is a view of our own sinful, weak, undone, unworthy condition.

Now, that is true and must be true not merely at the beginning of the Christian life, friends. I pointed out, that wasn’t the beginning of Isaiah’s experience with God. That certainly wasn’t the beginning of Daniel’s experience with God, was it? No. He was an old man and had back of him decades and decades of a deep experience. And yet, see how he expresses himself. And so, you and I are to have, we *will* have a similar experience.

Page 64 of the little pocket *Steps*:

“The closer you come to Jesus, the more faulty you will appear in your own eyes; for your vision will be clearer, and your imperfections will be seen in broad and distinct contrast to His perfect nature” *Steps to Christ*, page 64.

And so, if somewhere in our thinking there has been the subconscious or the conscious thought that after five years or ten years or twenty years of Christian experience, we ought to get to the place where we don’t see ourselves as so full of failures and weaknesses, just accept the fact right now, dear friends, that it’s the

other way around. The closer we get to Jesus, the more faulty we will appear in our own eyes.

“...If we do not see our own moral deformity, it is unmistakable evidence that we have not had a view of the beauty and excellence of Christ” *Ibid.*, page 65.

“But,” somebody says, “do you think we ought to be just falling and sinning again and again?”

My dear friends, the worst thing about us is not what we do, it's what we *are*. That's the problem. Sometimes people feel offended because somebody finds out some bad thing they've done. They wish that somebody hadn't told about it. Well, we can all be sympathetic with that, doubtless.

And sometimes people *really* get offended because somebody tells something about them that isn't true; say they've done something when they haven't. But I want to tell you something, friends. Whether the reports about us are true or false, they fall far short of the depth of the sin that's in the soul of all of us.

“...Within, out of the heart of men, proceed...” Mark 7:21.

...a whole list of things that Jesus mentions. And if at any time you get offended because somebody you think has misunderstood you, remember, you'd feel worse if they understood you. No, I mean that very seriously. That's true, very true.

Thank the Lord, the Lord has arranged for much of that revelation of our degradation and depravity to be done in secret alone with Him, if we'll be willing to go in for some interviews. And the psychoanalysis that we need, friend, many of us, is kneeling down alone with the great Physician. And He'll probe deep down into the hidden recesses of our mind. And as we look to Jesus, we'll see things about ourselves and discover things about ourselves, under the influence of the Spirit of God, that will make us loath ourselves and despise ourselves.

And then, instead of feeling hurt at the way others think about us, we'll say, “Lord, if they only knew the half of it, they wouldn't even want me around.”

“Well,” you say, “that's not very encouraging.”

Whether it's encouraging or not, brethren and sisters, it's the truth, it's the truth. And if what I have is a cancer that is eating away on my vitals, the physician that simply tells me it's a little sore and he'll put a little salve on it and that'll be all right, isn't my good friend, is he? No. And Jesus is my good friend, and He's a good Physician.

So, looking unto Jesus, I find how weak and wretched and miserable and full of failures I am. But there's something else that I find looking unto Jesus.

Let's turn to 1 John 3:2. Oh, I love this text:

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is” 1 John 3:2.

So, looking to Jesus, the precious revelation dawns upon my soul, “That’s the way I’m going to be.”

“Me, like Him?”

Yes.

“I’m going to be like Jesus?”

Yes.

“Well, how could that be?”

“Well,” He says, “never mind. It doth not yet appear.”

“Well, I can agree on that. It certainly doesn’t yet appear.”

But oh, it says:

“...We *know* that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him” 1 John 3:2.

“...like Him” 1 John 3:2.

Say friends, that’s the part of looking unto Jesus that I like. Now, I need the first in order to appreciate the second. But if I stop at the first, all I’ll get out of it is gloom and discouragement. And I’ll go around with a long face, and I won’t make a very good witness for Jesus.

But oh, if I’ll go on into that second experience, and I’ll take these promises that tell me that Jesus that I look at has the character that’s to be mine, that all that He is I am to be, oh, what a world of cheer and courage I can get from that. What do you say?

Let’s look at another one, 2 Corinthians the 5th chapter and the 21st verse. Now, this sounds almost too good to be true, but it’s too good not to be true:

“For He hath made Him to be sin for us, Who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him” 2 Corinthians 5:21.

He took my place so I could take His place. He took my sin so I could have His righteousness. Isn’t that wonderful, friends, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him?

“Me? My life made righteous like His?”

Yes. That’s the blessed hope.

Again, Revelation the 14th chapter and the 1st verse:

“And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with Him an hundred forty and four thousand, having His Father’s name written in their foreheads” Revelation 14:1.

Another translation says:

“...Having His name and His Father’s name written in their foreheads” Revelation 14:1 (Unknown version).

Well, of course, it means the same. The character of the Son and the character of the Father are the same. But glory be to God, here are thousands and tens of thousands of precious souls that so reflect the image of Jesus that it is said that His very name is written in their foreheads.

And looking unto Jesus, every lovely thing that I see about Him makes me rejoice because that’s the way I’m going to be. Isn’t that nice? If He’s pure, then I’ll be pure. If He’s loving, I’ll be loving. If He’s kind, that’s the way I’ll be. If He’s courteous, I’ll be courteous. Every divine attribute revealed in the life of Jesus is to be revealed in me. And friend, if you’ll come around and see me one of these days a hundred years from now, you’ll agree with me, that that’s the way I’m going to be.

I’m so glad God gives my brothers and sisters grace to put up with me while I’m on that road. Do you ever feel that way? But ah, friends, catch the blessed reality, the glorious reality that we *shall* be one of these days like Him in every way, without one defect, without one lack, without one failure, without one stain. Why, how is it he puts it here in Ephesians 5 verses 25–27? Let’s look at that:

“...Christ... loved the church, and gave Himself for it;
That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word, That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish”
Ephesians 5:25–27.

Ah yes, thank God, friends, it’s going to happen. And so, when I look to Jesus, the more wonderful I see He is, the more wonderful I know it’s going to be like Him. Isn’t that a cheering thought? Isn’t that a thrilling thought?

You know, the advantage of faith is that it operates in the unseen realm. I can’t see the future life. And it’s only by faith that I can know that at any time, will I ever become fully like Him. But friends, I believe it.

As dear old Elder Haskell used to say, “It’s so because God says so.”

Well, isn't that reason enough? That's reason enough.

And here, we've read these texts tonight, and we can revel in the fullness of assurance and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Let's do it, friends.

Now, do any of you have any trouble agreeing with me that looking to Jesus helps us to see how weak and unworthy and full of failures we are? Do you all agree with that? All right. Now, do you agree with me on this second point? Does looking to Jesus bring to your heart the assurance that that's the way you're going to be?

"Ah but," somebody says, "but Brother Frazee, I don't know. I just wish I could be as sure of that as I am of the first."

Well, how will you ever *be* sure?

Wait till you get there and then say, "Well, I guess it's so"?

Is that it? Why, no. If you do, you'll never experience it.

"...Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for..." Romans 4:3.

What?

"...righteousness" Romans 4:3.

"...If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth" Mark 9:23.

I want to tell you something, friends. Before we ever look like Jesus in the eyes of others, by faith, we're going to grasp the divine reality that that's the way we're going to be because God has promised it.

That's like the birth of Isaac. You remember that God promised Abraham and Sarah a son. But their faith for a while didn't catch the reality of that. But after a long series of experiences, they finally came around after about 25 years to faith in its fullness. And then, what happened? Isaac was born, Isaac was born. But both Abraham and Sarah had to come to the point of believing it just because God said so before anything was apparent. Is that true? And that is set forth as an example of righteousness by faith.

And so, before you and I ever experience a character like Jesus, we must by faith grasp the promise:

"...We *know* that when He shall appear we shall be like Him" 1 John 3:2.

Now, you don't need to get into some discussion or argument as to just where it is that that divine perfection is to be fulfilled, friends. It's all right to study it and

gather together the references. But if some brother thinks it's a little sooner or a little later than you do, don't let that worry you, friends. The important thing is:

“...He which hath begun a good work in you will...”
Philippians 1:6.

What?

“...will finish it until the day of Jesus Christ” Philippians 1:6
[marginal reading].

It wouldn't make any difference if we knew the exact day that we were supposed to reach that point. We wouldn't know how to get there, would we? Who's going to get us there? Jesus.

And being fully persuaded that what He's promised He's able to perform [a paraphrase of Romans 4:21], we press toward the mark like Paul, and say, “I haven't attained. I haven't yet reached that perfection. But oh, I keep pressing toward that mark [a paraphrase of Philippians 3:12–14].

Thank God, friends:

“...I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day” 2 Timothy 1:12.

All right. Now, what are these two things, then, we see looking unto Jesus? First, we see how weak and undone we are. And second, we grasp the blessed reality that the Gospel is the means by which we are to become like Him in every way, and our faith grasps that assurance.

And we say, “Thank God, that's the way I'm going to be through the grace of God.”

Turn to Romans the fourth chapter, please. You know, in some ways this third and last point that I want to give you on what comes to us as we look unto Jesus, in some ways, it seems to me it's the most wonderful of all.

And let me say it to you very simply, friends, in between this beginning of the Christian life when we see ourselves weak and undone, and all along the way while we're journeying toward that blessed experience of becoming fully like Him, all along the way as we look to Jesus, He counts us and accounts us as if we had already reached that place of being like Him. Isn't that good news?

And so, watch, if that's so (and I'm going to read the proof here if any of you don't know the proof), that means that all the way along, while I look at Jesus, I see that beautiful life not only as something that someday shall be mine as far as other people looking at me will see it. It'll be lived out in me in its fullness. But oh, by faith I see that beautiful life as the way the Father looks at me tonight. He counts me that

way tonight. He loves me just as if I had already reached that point. He accepts me just as if I were already like Jesus.

Does He love any of you that much? Does He accept any of you that way? Ah, friends, every one if you just meet the conditions.

Let's read about it here in Romans, the fourth chapter beginning with the third verse:

“For what saith the Scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered” Romans 4:3–7.

Oh friends, this is wonderful. Now, let's look at it. Here's a man that David says is blessed. Who is he? The man whose sins are forgiven and covered. Covered with what, shall I ask? Covered with the blood of Jesus. But what does the blood stand for? The life.

“...The life of all flesh is the blood thereof...” Leviticus 17:14.

Then, when my sins are covered by the blood of Jesus that means they're covered by the what? The life of Jesus. Can you get anything better than that, friends? Oh, no. You can't get anything better than that.

Here's this book. Suppose this book has the record of my sins. But now I'm going to take the Bible, and I'm going to let it represent the life of Jesus. All right. Here are my sins, and there you could look at them and see them in all their ugliness.

But now, I give myself to Jesus, and He says, “I'm going to cover all that up with My precious life.”

Now, tell me, friends, can you see any of my sins now? No, you can't see a one. They're all what? Covered, covered with the precious blood.

And that's what happens not at the end of the Christian life but at the beginning of the Christian life. And day by day, as I keep looking unto Jesus and see how weak I naturally am and unworthy and undone, and then follow on to grasp the precious thought that someday I shall be like Him in all that fullness, with that, praise God, I take hold of the present reality that God, for Christ's sake, counts me that way right now, for His name's sake.

Ah, friends, what more could love do for us than that? Will you tell me? Isn't that wonderful love? Wonderful love.

All right. Now, let's turn to Romans 5:1 and see how blessed that is:

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have..."

Romans 5:1.

What?

"...peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God" Romans 5:1–2.

"Ah but," somebody says, "but Brother Frazee, aren't you afraid you're going to make it so easy for people that they'll feel it won't make any difference whether they sin or not?"

Listen, Paul answers that question in the sixth chapter of Romans and the first verse:

"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?" Romans 6:1.

What's the answer?

"God forbid..." Romans 6:2.

And that's what I say, "God forbid."

I want to tell you something, friends. If the thing that causes you and me to try to do right is the fear that God won't accept us if we fail once more, that we've just about used up any grace there is, and God has forgiven us so many times that if we'd fail just once more that probably would end things, I say if that's the thing that in any sense keeps us moving friends, then we don't understand God, and we don't understand the Gospel.

God wants us to see what an ocean of grace there is for us. And if we really look to Jesus, we'll have no desire to impose upon that grace or presume upon that grace, not at all.

If we see how undone we are as we look to Jesus, and if by faith we grasp the blessed reality that what He's begun He's going to finish and make us like Him, and with that, we grasp by faith the blessed fact that He accepts us right now as if we were already like Him, do you think any of that is going to make us think, "Oh, well, it doesn't make any difference then whether I fail or whether I don't?"

Will it, friends? Why, can you imagine that? No, no. If any such thought has any weight with us, it proves that we have not *really* seen any one of these three things I've told you about tonight.

Now, I want to read it to you out of *Steps to Christ*, page 62, this last thought, because in some ways, this is the hardest thing for many people to see. Many people can agree that they're weak and undone now, and some can believe that when Christ comes, maybe sometime before it, they'll be like Him. But oh, the problem is right now.

Well, the problem *is* now. Let me read this to you:

"He died for us, and now He offers to take our sins and give us His righteousness. If you give yourself to Him, and accept Him as your Saviour, then, sinful as your life may have been, for His sake you are accounted righteous. Christ's character stands in place of your character, and you are accepted before God just as if you had not sinned" *Steps to Christ*, page 62.

Think of it. Suppose you'd never sinned right up to this minute. Suppose if you're 25 years old you hadn't committed one sin in 25 years, would you be accepted? Yes. But friends, when you accept Jesus, then you're accepted by the Father just as if you had never sinned. Isn't that wonderful?

No wonder the Lord's messenger says, and you'll find it here in Book 2 of *Selected Messages*, page 32:

"We may enjoy the favor of God. We are not to be anxious about what Christ and God think of us, but about what God thinks of Christ, our Substitute. Ye are accepted in the Beloved" *Selected Messages*, Book 2, page 32.

Let's rejoice in it. What do you say, friends?

Well now, let's look tonight then at Jesus. And as we look to Jesus, first of all, we see how weak and unworthy and full of faults, how undone we are. If we're looking for the first time tonight, we see that.

But friends, if we've been living for Jesus and with Jesus for 50 years, still tonight if we look at Jesus and get a new view of Him, we're going to get a new view of how weak and undone and unworthy we are. Am I right, friends? Is that true? Oh, yes. So, don't let it discourage you.

And then, the second thing as we look to Jesus, we believe by faith that God is going to take this poor weak man, and so change him and transform him by His wonderful love that one of these days he's going to have the name, the nature of Christ revealed in him fully. Is that right? So that all the universe will see that and

nothing else. And so, even Satan as he comes probing about can find not one thing except what is like Jesus. Is that true?

Oh friends, it's going to happen right down here in this world. Just think of it. During the time of trouble, how Satan is going to test every one of us. But will he find anything that's unlike Jesus? Thank God, no.

“Those who receive the seal of the living God... must reflect the image of Jesus...” *Early Writings*, page 71.

How?

“...fully” *Ibid.*

I believe it, friends. What do you say? How do I believe it? How do you believe it? By faith; because God says so.

But now, that third point, along the way, how are we counted? We're counted righteous. How? By faith.

Now, this little point in closing, but friends, this last little point's going to help somebody more than all the rest I've given you the last 30 minutes, so catch this last point. Do you know what some of us would like? We'd like to get some courage out of looking at our chart and seeing that we're making progress. And right there is the insidious thing that discourages a lot of people.

Paul, will you bring me *Volume 5*?

I want to read you something from *Volume 5* that just comes to my mind because I want to clinch this point. Oh, folks, I don't want you to miss this.

I say to you that if your courage, your joy, your cheer, your assurance in the Lord comes from looking at your chart and saying, “Well, I guess I've made some progress this week,” then I say to you, friends, you're on dangerous ground.

“Well,” somebody says, “shouldn't we be making progress?”

Yes. Certainly, we should. But I'll tell you one thing, only the Lord knows how much progress we're making. But that isn't the point. The point is that's not to be the ground of our hope and our assurance.

It isn't that we're to look back on the last week and the last month and say, “Well, I can see now I'm gaining. And if I can gain the next month as much as I've gained the last month, and then gain the next two months as much as those, I think I'll be well on my way.”

No, folks. That is not righteousness by faith. And it will lead to one of two things. It'll lead either to Phariseeism or to utter discouragement.

Quit keeping a chart on yourself. Quit taking your TPR, and moaning and moping because the symptoms aren't just what you'd like.

Now, let me read it out of an inspired volume, *5T*, 199:

“Many make a serious mistake in their religious life by keeping the attention fixed upon their feelings and thus judging of their advancement or decline. Feelings are not a safe criterion. We are not to look within for evidence of our acceptance with God. We shall find there nothing but that which will discourage us. Our only hope is in ‘looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith.’ There is everything in Him to inspire with hope, with faith, and with courage. He is our righteousness, our consolation and rejoicing. Those who look within for comfort will become weary and disappointed. A sense of our weakness and unworthiness should lead us with humility of heart to plead the atoning sacrifice of Christ. As we rely upon His merits we shall find rest and peace and joy. He saves to the uttermost all who come unto God by Him”

Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5, pages 199–200.

Aren't those wonderful words, friends? Do you catch their significance? Then, while I'm to seek day by day to please my Lord, I'm not to look back over my efforts and find in them some ground of merit or some ground of assurance. No. What is my assurance? The promise of God, the promise of God.

Every day I have the same assurance the thief had, “Verily, I tell you, today you will be with Me in the paradise of God” [a paraphrase of Luke 23:43].

That's where my hope rests tonight, dear friends. And I'm happy, I'm happy because of that. And I praise God with all my soul.

“Come every soul by sin oppressed,
There's mercy with the Lord,
And He will surely give you rest...”

Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, #279, first stanza (partial).

“After you've tried for several weeks and have found that you're making some progress,” is that what it says? Why, no.

“...Verily I say unto thee, To day...” Luke 23:43.

“...To day...” Luke 23:43.

“...To day shalt thou be with me...” Luke 23:43.

And you're accepted “just as if you had not sinned” [see *Steps to Christ*, page 62].

Let's believe it, friends. What do you say? Let's let go in God. And if it seems too good to be true, it's too good not to be true.

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God..." 1 John 3:2.

Not after we've proved our son-ship and demonstrated it by 10 years or 10 days of obedience. Tonight, right now, if we accept Jesus, He accepts us. If we choose Him, He says, "I've chosen you."

And as we do it, all our sins are thrown back upon the great enemy, the one that caused them, and the life of Jesus covers us completely. Praise to His glorious name.

Shall we bow our heads?

Dear Lord, we thank Thee with all our hearts for this fresh revelation of the exceeding riches of Thy grace. What more could a loving God do? Oh, we thank Thee that the precious life of Jesus, while it shows us how weak and undone we are, inspires us with the assurance that we shall be like Him and that we're accounted like Him this very hour.

And so, while we plod along the way, strengthened by Thy Spirit, sometimes failing, oh, we thank Thee that our hope is not in what we are or what we've done, but it's in Jesus and what He's done, and what He's promised to do in and for and through and by us, to the praise of the glory of His grace who has made us accepted in the Beloved.

In His sweet name, we return thanks. Amen.

Who has a word of courage in response that you'd like to share? We can just as well fill this chapel now with many a word of courage and cheer. We ought to have a half a dozen on their feet at once, just one after the other praising God.

Yes, my dear Elder Walker.

[Elder Walker] I listened to Elder Frazee say something about righteousness by faith. I heard him say it one time. And I tell you, dear people, we had a study tonight on righteousness by faith, and it was an encouraging one.

It hasn't been very long since I listened to a sermon where the congregation was told that "you just haven't done what I told you to do."

And I heard that a number of times, and it was discouraging. But I'm encouraged tonight because we've heard that we don't have to trust to ourselves to do it, but Jesus is with us. He will help us.

"Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling..."
Jude 1:24.

And I take courage because that's true. I love my Savior tonight.

[Elder Frazee] Praise God.

[Brother from congregation] That was just for me tonight.

[Elder Frazee] Good.

[Brother continuing] I've been trying to take my TPR too much. But it's kind of been discouraging.

[Elder Frazee] Why, it sure will.

[Brother continuing] I'm glad that I don't have to worry about that, that if I keep looking to Jesus and have faith that when I see Him that I will be like Him.

[Elder Frazee] Good.

[Brother continuing] That's what's going to get me through. And I know that He'll finish the good work that He's begun in me.

[Elder Frazee] Good. After all, folks, who is it supposed to watch the TPR, the physician or the patient? Let's let Jesus do that. What do you say?

[Testimony service continuing.]

[Following are comments by Elder Frazee during testimony service.]

... Don't let that be the ground of your hope or the ground of your acceptance. You're accepted in Jesus... I don't think you'll ever get to the place, in the flesh as you and I have it now, where you'll be able to look back at the end of a week and say, "Thank the Lord, I've had a wonderful week. I haven't failed or sinned or come short in any way."

No, no. Too bad to have to rate ourselves according to our view of ourselves, see. We rate ourselves according to God's view of Jesus. Do you see what I'm getting at, folks? That's where we get our joy and our courage, see.

And if we fail, we're sorry. But oh, the place to carry that is to the secret place and ask God to forgive us, put it under the blood, and then believe that He accepts us just as if we what? Had not sinned. That's right.

...Would you folks pardon me a minute? I want to tell you a little experience. You'll be interested in this. I heard a friend of mine tell about this.

There was a gentleman who several years ago, when all trips across the ocean were done on a steamship, got his ticket, and he went on the ship. And he had arranged to take a lunch with him. And day after day, as they went across on the trip, there he was eating his lunch in his cabin.

Well, it began to get rather dry and rather stale, and he saw the people going into the dining room there from day to day.

And more and more the thought came to him, “My, wouldn’t it be nice if I could go in there.”

And so, one day, he went to the steward. He said, “How much would it cost me to go in there and get one warm meal?”

The man looked at him, “Why man,” he says, “it’s all included in your ticket.”

“It’s all included in your ticket,” and there he’d been living on crackers and cheese for several days when he could have had everything that the ship had. It was all in his ticket.

Dear ones, when Jesus accepted you as His child, when you gave your heart to Him, He intended that you should live at the king’s table and eat of the king’s bounty every day, not after you get the victory on all these things you’re trying to get the victory on, not after that, right now. You need that kind of feed to *get* the victory. You need that kind of joy and assurance and relaxation of knowing that God accepts you, for Christ’s sake.

“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven...”
Psalm 32:1.

All right, sister.

...He’s guaranteed to get us through. That ought to be enough, shouldn’t it? Then, on top of that, He says, “I’m going to count you just as if you were already perfect, as far as loving you and accepting you is concerned, right now.

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