

Holding Us in His Hand

#0702

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—June 26, 1964

John the 10th chapter, in our last vesper service, you remember we were meditating on some wonderful words of Jesus in the 14th chapter of John. This evening we shall look at some other words, wonderful words of Jesus in the 10th chapter, beginning with the 27th verse.

John opened his heart to the words of Jesus as perhaps none other of the disciples did. And so much of what he has written down in this Gospel of John is the simple record of the words that Jesus spoke. It's John, you know, that wrote down that statement of Christ:

“...The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life” John 6:63.

So, if we want inspiration tonight, we shall find it in the words of Christ. If we want power and life, we shall find all that we need in these words that fell from the lips of our Lord.

John 10:27 beginning:

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand. My Father, which gave them Me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are One” John 10:27–30.

As in the Scripture, we read last vesper service, so in this, we see how Christ identifies Himself with the Father. Last week, we noted that the Father and the Son, with the Spirit, are united in entering our hearts, living with us, abiding with us.

Here, the figure is that of holding us in His hand:

“...Neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand”
John 10:28.

“...No man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand”
John 10:29.

“I and My Father are One” John 10:30.

God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself, and today the Father and the Son, with the Spirit, are united in a great holding action, holding you and me.

“Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy” Jude 1:24.

Thank God, our salvation does not depend upon our holding Him, but on His holding us. And there's a world of difference in that if you stop to think about it.

“I steadier step when I recall
That if I slip, Thou dost not fall!”
“It Fortifies My Soul to Know,” by Arthur Hugh Clough.

We're like little children, and how wonderful it is, friends, that if our grip grows weak if our grasp is feeble, we are held not by our hold of Him but His hold of us.

“...Neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand”
John 10:28.

I wonder if there's anybody who would like to pluck us out of His hand. Oh, yes. Satan would, wouldn't he? Yes. But unless we deliberately choose to leave Him, He will hold us fast.

I'm impressed, again and again, dear ones, with the literally infinite pains that God will go to, to take care of one individual in one experience. The Bible is full of experiences like that. And the book of life is full of those experiences. And we should be seeking in our study of history, biography and autobiography, and in our daily study of our own lives, we should be seeking for just such evidences.

Just this week, it was my privilege to hear a good friend of mine, a young man, telling of an experience that the Lord gave him when he was a soldier in the army during the Korean War.

Like other Seventh-day Adventists, he took the position for noncombatancy and also, of course, to keep the Sabbath. But as often happened, he was switched around from one company to another, one division to another. And this particular week found him in Seattle in a camp awaiting orders to ship out to Korea.

He was anxious to meet with our church in Seattle this particular Sabbath, as he knew that it would doubtless be the last Sabbath that he would be in the United States for some time; perhaps the last Sabbath he would ever spend here any time because as you know, the Korean War was costing many casualties.

And so, early in the week, he talked to his sergeant about his desire to keep the Sabbath and get a pass to go to church. As I say, this was a place where he'd just come into from another camp in another part of the country. So, the man he was dealing with did not know him.

But this particular sergeant seemed to be moved by a definite and decided determination that this young man should not get his Sabbath off.

In fact, he told him, he said, "If anybody ought to get Saturday off," he said, "I ought to get it. I'm a Jew."

But he said, "I can't get my Saturday off," and he says, "You're not going to, either."

He says, "I'm not going to even let you talk to the commanding officer."

So, our young friend was praying about it from day to day and wondering how and what could be done. Friday, he felt impressed to talk to some Seventh-day Adventist minister. He got hold of the pastor of the local church, who had him phone the young people's secretary of the conference. The office was not too far away. And the man counseled with him over the phone, but this young man being under orders to sail presently, was in a restricted area; there was no way that this pastor could contact him there, and it was already Friday afternoon.

He said, "Well, I may be able to do something for you tomorrow morning." But he said, "There is nothing that I can do for you this evening. You're just on your own."

And he prayed, of course, that the Lord would guide him.

He had been assigned to be on KP duty (that's on kitchen duty) Friday evening and all Friday night. Apparently, they were working all through the night in that kitchen at this particular time. And so, he was on duty. And what could he do?

Well, he was praying about it, of course, and he was concerned, how would he keep the Sabbath? He must keep the Sabbath. He couldn't work on the Sabbath, and yet he hadn't been allowed to even contact the commanding officer.

Shortly before the setting of the sun, an officer came in, another sergeant called a number of names, and his name was one of them, this young man.

They were called together, and he said, "I have been sent here to get you men. You are the men who are to be on kitchen police tonight, KP."

And so, our friend felt impressed to just try to talk to *this* sergeant. This was a different sergeant from the other one.

And so, he went up to him and said, "Sergeant," he said, "could I just speak to you a moment privately?"

And he went off to one side. And the sergeant heard him. He heard him out as he made his plea.

He said, "I just can't work tonight."

He says, "Why can't you?"

"Well," he says, "it's my Sabbath. I'm a Seventh-day Adventist."

And so, this sergeant began to ask him some questions.

After the man had made his plea, he said, "Now, you say you're a Seventh-day Adventist. And when did you say your Sabbath begins?"

"Begins at sundown Friday."

"And how long does it last?"

"Sundown Saturday."

He asked him several other questions about the Sabbath.

Then, he says, "What do you believe about where a man goes when he dies?"

And so, our young friend told him what he believed about that and what the Bible taught.

He says, "What about hell?" He says, "Do people just keep on burning there always?"

And he told him what the Bible had to say on that.

And he kept asking him one question after another about what Seventh-day Adventists believe. And finally, he even asked him about the Spirit of Prophecy. And he told him about that.

I guess he was trying to find out whether he was really a Seventh-day Adventist or not.

At any rate, when he had gotten through his list of questions, he said, "All right." He said, "You won't have to work tonight." He says, "I'm going to let you off."

Well, of course, our friend was just happy all the way through that God had heard and answered his prayer, apparently at the last moment. And he just felt moved to ask the sergeant.

He said, "Sergeant, would you mind telling me why you did this?"

He said, "Yes, I'll tell you." He says, "I'm a 30-year man in the army, and the army's my career. I've been in the army for years, and this is my life."

He said, "In the last world war, I was over in Germany. And on the battlefield, I found myself wounded, terribly wounded, and the fighting was so intense, and the shells were falling around so that my buddies were just getting out of there as fast as they could, and I was left there under fire with nobody to look after me."

And he said, “There was a man that came out, and at great risk of his own life, he crawled out there under fire and pulled me in to safety. He saved my life.”

And he said, “After the war, after I got home to the United States, I looked that fellow up.”

And he said, “I tried to pay him. I offered him quite a sum of money, but he said he wouldn’t take it. And I tried to think of something that I could do to show my gratitude to him for saving my life, but he wouldn’t take anything.”

“So finally, I asked him, I said, ‘Well, what is there that I can do for you anyway?’ “

He said, “There’s one thing you can do for me.”

He said, “I’m a Seventh-day Adventist. And our young men don’t believe in bearing arms, and they keep the seventh-day Sabbath from Friday sundown to Saturday sundown.”

“Sometime,” he said, “sergeant, you may meet a Seventh-day Adventist boy that’s in difficulty. And that’ll be your chance to do something for me.”

And the sergeant, looking at our young friend that I’m telling about, said, “You’re the first Seventh-day Adventist I’ve met since then.”

And when I heard that story, warm out of the life of the man that had experienced it, I thought as I’ve thought before, what pains heaven will go to, to solve the problem of just one human being.

Don’t you wish God thought that much of you? But, He does, He does.

“Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father”
Matthew 10:29.

“Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows” Matthew 10:31.

Everyone here tonight, this little girl, that little boy, you young people, the older ones, ah, each one of us, dear friends, is of infinite value to heaven, infinite value to heaven.

Hear the birds out there singing now? Why, we’re told by One Who knows:

“It is only through God’s protecting care that the birds are preserved to gladden us with their songs of joy”
Testimonies for the Church, Volume 7, page 273.

That Satan would if God would allow it, kill all the song birds. That’s what’s in his heart—murder toward anything that’s lovely, and sweet, and pure, and good, and

blessed, yes. He hates everything like that. And so, the Devil would slaughter every cardinal, every mockingbird, every thrush, every warbler. He'd kill every one.

It's worth remembering who's behind any spirit in our hearts that wants to take life, whether of human beings or even of animals, isn't it, friends? Yes. Pests have to be dealt with sometimes, but it should cause us pain to take the life of even a lowly creature.

But my point is, friends, every bird that sings is an evidence of God's protecting care. And He says that you're worth far more than all those birds, far more, far more. He's looking after you.

And as He looked ahead and saw the plight of that young soldier in the barracks in Seattle that Friday afternoon as the sun was about to set, as he looked ahead years before that and on the battle fields of Europe provided the meeting which would eventually provide the help for that problem in Seattle. Ah, friends, as we see that, who can doubt the providence of God?

But that isn't something that happens once in a lifetime. Oh, no. Those things are happening all the time, many of them unnoticed because we're in a hurry, many of them unknown because God does not reveal His hand. We see the results. We see not the play and counter play behind the scenes. Always, God within the shadow is keeping watch of His own. Let's believe it. What do you say, friends? Let's rejoice in it. Let's thank God.

"I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand. My Father, which gave them Me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of My Father's hand. I and my Father are One" John 10:28–30.

One in love for the human family, one in the exercise of that protecting care, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, all working together just to take care of you. That's what they're working at, just to take care of you.

"...He careth for you" 1 Peter 5:7.

"O Thou, Whose bounty fills my cup
With every blessing meet!
I give Thee thanks for every drop—
The bitter and the sweet.
I praise Thee for the desert road,
And for the riverside,
For all Thy goodness hath bestowed,
And all Thy grace denied."

"O Thou Whose Bounty Fills My Cup," Jane F. Crewdson, first and second stanzas.

Yes, we should thank Him for the things we see, and the things we don't see; for the prayers that are answered, "Yes," and the prayers that are answered, "No," and the prayers that are answered, "Not now."

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

“Father, I ask the daily strength, to none that ask denied,
A mind to blend with outward life, while keeping at Thy side;
Content to fill a little space, if Thou be glorified.

I would not have the restless will that hurries to and fro,
Seeking for some great thing to do or secret thing to know;
I would be dealt with as a child and guided where I go.

Briars beset my every path that call for patient care,
There is a cross in every lot, and earnest need for prayer;
But lowly hearts that lean on Thee are happy anywhere.”
“Father, I Know That All My Life,” by Anna Laetitia Waring.

So, tonight I’m thankful for these exceeding great and precious promises.
Aren’t you, dear friends? Exceeding great and precious promises, and for the consciousness that my heavenly Father is looking after me.

“Under His wings I am safely abiding...”
Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, #529, first stanza (partial).

And:

“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High
shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty... He is my
refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust”
Psalm 91:1–2.

Now, it’s your turn. What have you to say out of the book of life, out of the book of experience that makes your heart glad, and the telling of which will make our hearts glad and Jesus’ heart glad?

[Testimony meeting followed.]

[Following are comments made by Elder Frazee during testimony meeting.]

..After the manna had been falling for 20 years, they still would have starved to death if some more manna hadn’t fallen, wouldn’t they? Was it a miracle every day it fell?

“Day by day the manna fell,
Oh, to learn the lesson well.”
[Author unknown.]

...You’re getting in on his card, his merits, isn’t that right? That’s right.

...The nice thing about that particular thing is if he doesn't furnish the gas, you don't have to go. I wish some of the rest of us could be as conscious sometimes when we run out of gas, you know. A car stops when you run out of gas but people don't.

...If you do your best, He'll do the rest.

“My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine;
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou;
If ever I loved Thee, My Jesus 'tis now.

I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me,
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow;
If ever I loved Thee, My Jesus 'tis now.

I'll love Thee in life, I will love Thee till death,
And praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath;
And say when the death dew lies cold on my brow,
If ever I loved Thee, My Jesus 'tis now.

In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow,
If ever I loved Thee, My Jesus 'tis now.
Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, #321.

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