

Faith

Hebrews 11:6

#0727

Study Given by W. D. Frazee

I suppose we've all had the experience of performing some kind of thing that had to do with accomplishing something, some work of some kind. Something that we've done over and over again, and finally, someday, somebody comes along and says, "Have you ever thought of doing it this way?"

"No, I never thought of doing that."

"Well, that's the way you're supposed to do it, and if you do it that way, you'll do it in half the time."

"Oh, is that so?"

"Yes."

"Well, I might try it."

And so, we try it. It may be a little awkward at first because we've been used to doing it some other way. But we try it and sure enough, it cuts down the time, increases the efficiency. And I sometimes suppose when something like that happens, we say, Why didn't I know that before. Maybe, if we'd read the directions in fine type, we might have seen it.

Now, this morning, I want to study with you something very simple in this matter of seeking God and getting the help from Him that He wants us to have. And the reason that I say it's very simple is so that you'll understand that it's something that all *can* understand and get hold of and take hold of and use.

But I'm sure, as I hear people talk, that not many are getting the full benefit of these most simple plans, so I want to study them with you this morning. Hebrews 11:6:

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" Hebrews 11:6.

I'll read this as Moffatt translates it:

"...apart from faith, it is impossible to satisfy Him..."
Hebrews 11:6 (*James Moffatt Translation*).

In a footnote, Moffatt says that "satisfy" here is used in the sense of a servant giving satisfaction to his master. The foreman gives a man a job to do. He comes

around, looks it over, and he says, That's satisfactory. He looks over another man's job, and he says, That won't pass—that won't do. Well, what's the matter? Well, it lacks this. You must do this.

And it's that thought that's in this word that's translated "please," in our King James Translation, and "satisfy" by Moffatt.

Now, what is it that alone will make our prayer, our work, our seeking—anything and everything that we do to satisfy God—what is the thing that alone will make it possible to satisfy Him? Faith.

"And apart from faith it is impossible to satisfy him, for the man who draws near to God must believe that he exists and that he does reward those who seek him" Hebrews 11:6
(*James Moffatt Translation*).

Those are the two things that we must believe. And Paul, in saying that, tells us what he means by faith as we come to God. First, believe that He is. I suppose that's settled in everybody's mind. I don't suppose that anybody doubts that. You all believe that God exists. There are some people that don't believe that. They wouldn't be able to get very far in a prayer experience.

You've heard of people praying, God, if there be a God, do so and so. Well, I'd hate to have to pray that kind of prayer. Wouldn't you? Yes. And I'm quite sure that none here have to do that. We're all close enough, I trust, to God to know that He exists.

But now, the second thing:

"...that he does reward those who seek him" Hebrews 11:6
(*James Moffatt Translation*).

Or as the King James puts it:

"...that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him"
Hebrews 11:6.

Now, that is what it takes to get answers to prayer—to believe that God exists and to believe that those who seek Him diligently get something. They're rewarded. They get the blessing they seek for. Do you believe that? Do you?

Well now, I think probably all of you believe it about Elijah. We believe it about Moses. We'd probably believe it about James and Ellen White. We'd probably believe it about some of the missionaries in the foreign fields as we hear their stories. Do you believe it about yourself?

Do you believe that God hears your prayers and gives you the blessing? Or do you merely hope that you *will* someday receive the blessing? That's the question that I want to raise this morning, a very important question.

“But without faith it is impossible to please him...”
Hebrews 11:6.

To satisfy Him.

“...for he that cometh to God must believe...” Hebrews 11:6.

Two things.

“...that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” Hebrews 11:6.

Let’s go to Mark 11:22–24:

“And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God”
Mark 11:22.

That’s what we’re studying about this morning—faith.

“For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them” Mark 11:23–24.

And I suppose that many of our minds are thinking of what this doesn’t mean. Let’s think of what it *does* mean. These are wonderful promises, friends. Have faith in God.

Now, faith, according to these verses, is not believing that we will receive something. It is believing that we will receive what God has promised because our faith is to be in God. How can I believe something and believe God in believing that if God never said it? Couldn’t do that.

Suppose I say to you this morning, I have faith that Brother Foote is going to give me a million dollars next week.

Why, you have faith that Brother Foote is going to give you a million dollars?

Yes, I have that faith—strong faith.

You mean you believe Brother Foote is going to give you a million dollars?

Yes, he’s going to give me a million dollars.

Well, did he say so?

No, he didn’t say so.

Well now, if I have faith that he's going to give me a million dollars next week and he never said so, whatever faith I have, it's not in Brother Foote, is it? No. It may be in a hunch I have or something else, but it's not in Brother Foote because he didn't promise me the million dollars.

And you can never have faith that somebody is going to do something and have faith in *them* if *they* haven't committed themselves to the point of saying that they will do that. Isn't that clear?

So, let us not imagine that faith in prayer means that we decide what we want and we come to God and say: Lord, I want an automobile, I want an airplane, I want a new house, I want a new dress, I want a pair of shoes, I want the neighbor's chickens to keep out of the garden, I want a new roommate, I want something different for breakfast in the morning. Any of those things that I went over, has God promised any of them?

[Audience] No.

Well, I can't read it in the Bible that He has.

Now, does that mean it's wrong to pray about any of those things? No. It's all right. You can pray to God about *anything*, but the only thing that you can have faith in God about when you pray is something God said.

So I read in Romans 10:17:

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

When I hear the Word of God, then if I believe it, I have faith, and as I keep exercising, that faith grows. I like the way it's put here in the book *Education*, page 253:

"Faith that enables us to receive God's gifts is itself a gift, of which some measure is imparted to every human being. It grows as exercised in appropriating the word of God. In order to strengthen faith, we must often bring it in contact with the word" *Education*, page 253.

So, the way to strengthen faith is to exercise it by reading the Word and then saying, Lord, I believe it. I believe it. Whenever you read a verse, let your heart respond saying, Lord, I believe that and I believe it's for me. I accept it. That's mine.

If it's a command, say, Lord, I'll do that. If it's a promise, say, Lord, I believe you'll do that for me. I accept it. I thank Thee. That's faith. Let us get rid of so much future tense in these matters.

Now, hope deals with the future. As Paul says:

"...for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?"
Romans 8:24.

We can hope many things, and hope is a wonderful blessing. We're to have hope. But I'm not studying about hope this morning. I'm studying about what? Faith. And many people confuse the thing. They have hope and they call it faith, and all the while faith is lying an unused tool, gathering dust and in some cases rust, just because it's not being used. Oh friends, that tool of faith will get you many things that hope will never get.

When I was a boy, I used to hear a proverb (maybe you've heard it), "If wishes were horses, beggars would ride." Hope may be wishing for many things. It may even expect certain things, but God has never promised us everything that we hope for. What a strange yard we'd have full of things if we had everything we'd ever hoped for. We'd need a manager of a museum to take care of it, wouldn't we?

But we're not studying hope this morning. We're studying faith. And faith puts us in present possession of things. They may be visible things; they may be invisible. But the purpose of faith is to enable us to appropriate and receive *this morning* the blessings that God has promised. And remember, faith is simply believing the Word of God and claiming the promise as our own.

So Jesus says:

"...Have faith in God" Mark 11:22.

Now, in the 24th verse, He tells us how to have faith in God—how to exercise faith. Mark 11:24:

"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them" Mark 11:24.

If you simply believe you *will* receive them, that's what? That's hope—that's hope. But if you believe that you *do* receive them right now because God has promised, then you have what? Faith, faith. Do you see the difference?

"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them" Mark 11:24.

I thank the Lord for faith. Don't you? Now, I want to read you some simple directions in how to apply this in a very definite way, as we pray. I'll read here from *Gospel Workers*, 261:

"Not because we see or feel that God hears us are we to believe. We are to trust His promises. When we come to Him in faith, we should believe that every petition enters into the heart of Christ. When we have asked for His blessing, we should believe that we receive it, and thank Him that we have it" *Gospel Workers*, page 261.

Isn't that wonderful, friends? Do you do that when you pray? Or do you hope that the thing you asked for will get done the day after tomorrow or next week or next year?

"When we have asked for His blessing, we should believe that we receive it, and thank Him that we have it. Then we are to go about our duties, assured that the blessing will be sent when we need it most. When we have learned to do this, we shall know that our prayers are answered"
Gospel Workers, page 261.

Now, it indicates it might take some study and practice to learn it, just as we learn things in school—learn to write or learn to multiply or divide or add or subtract—and when we've learned to do this, we shall know that our prayers are answered:

"...exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think..."
Ephesians 3:20.

That's the way God wants to answer our prayers. But it depends on this matter of faith.

But, somebody says, it's so much easier to believe when I feel it. Yes. And do you know what you *don't* need to use when you feel it? You don't need to use faith.

In the road from here over to the hollow, sometimes the road's going uphill, and sometimes it's going downhill. Which do you suppose is the easiest to walk? Downhill? Yes. Easier to walk downhill. But can you get there even when the road is uphill? Provided you do what? Put forth the effort. That's it.

And it's your privilege to believe God even when you don't *feel* like it by putting forth the effort, expressing the faith, because after all, even when we don't *feel* much like believing right now, when we don't *feel* that a certain thing is so, if somebody should come up and put the question squarely to us, Do you believe God, every one of us would say, Sure, I believe God. I believe God. Well, why not believe Him about this?

I'll read another one. This is from the little book, *Steps to Christ*. My, how thankful we should be for these precious volumes. This is page 51 of the little pocket edition, another comment on this wonderful text we've just read:

"Jesus says, 'What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them'...There is a condition to this promise—that we pray according to the will of God. But it is the will of God to cleanse us from sin, to make us His children, and to enable us to live a holy life. So we may ask for these blessings, and believe that we receive them, and thank God that we have received them" *Steps to Christ*, page 51.

Isn't that nice? As you notice, three things there that are plainly stated that God has promised are His will. Those aren't the only things. They're three wonderful things. To cleanse us from sin. Are you cleansed from sin? And make us His

children. Are you God's child? Or does your heart say, "Oh, I hope I am. I hope I'm God's child"? And to enable us to live a holy life. Does God enable you to live a holy life? Oh, I wish He would. I want Him to. I'm praying that He will.

Do you know that every one of those, my dear friends, can be an expression of doubt? God wants us to get to the place where some things are settled. Ah, but somebody says, I fall, and that makes me doubt. Well, it ought to make you doubt yourself, but not God. He is able to keep you from falling.

But I want you to go to James 1 now and see why it is that people fall. People worry themselves into a condition that results in failure, and then they use that failure to justify their doubt. They say, Yes, see. I told you. I was afraid I couldn't hold out. I was afraid that I couldn't. Now, you see, I didn't. That's just what I was afraid of.

Now, let me read it out of the Bible. James 1, beginning with the second verse:

"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your..."
James 1:2-3.

What?

"...faith worketh patience" James 1:3.

Now, patience here is not talking just about the idea of being meek like a lamb, so if somebody hits you in the face, you don't hit back. It's the idea of persistence, perseverance, endurance, keeping right at it, going on to the end. And the trying of your faith works that endurance—patient endurance.

"But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask..." James 1:4-6.

What?

"...in faith, nothing wavering" James 1:6.

Would any of you that are a little sleepy, would you repeat this verse with me. All together—the others that are awake, too:

"But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering..." James 1:6.

Once again:

"But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering..." James 1:6.

We're to ask in what? In faith. Now, when you write a letter, and you want to send it to Washington, or New York, or Chicago, or Chattanooga, what do you put it

in? An envelope. Does it make any difference whether you put it in an envelope or not? Can't you just drop it in the mailbox, just the open letter? Would that be all right?

[Audience] No.

Oh, you put it in a what? In an envelope. That's right.

Now, this says we're to ask, in what? In faith. Let's be sure, friends, when we send a prayer to Jesus that it's in the envelope. What do you say? In faith, in faith.

What are the next two words? Nothing wavering. What does wavering mean? Back and forth, like a pendulum.

"...For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive..." James 1:6-7.

All that he asks. What? What? *Anything*. Why, he's afraid he won't get all he asks. The truth is he's not going to get *anything*. That's what it says. This is an all or nothing proposition. His faith can't reach to what God has promised. He's afraid he won't get all that, but God says, My dear friend, you won't even get a little bit.

And do you know what happens as the result of that? That confirms him in his unbelief. He says, See, I told you, I told you. We prayed and we prayed and we prayed, but it didn't happen, didn't happen. See, it doesn't work for me. Maybe I'm not good enough. Maybe God will hear your prayers, but He won't hear mine. So you pray for me because maybe God will hear you. He doesn't hear me.

"For let not that man think that he shall..." James 1:7.

What?

"...receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways" James 1:7-8.

Oh friends, this morning, I pray that every one of us may learn how to use this simple tool of faith.

"...he that cometh to God must believe..." Hebrews 11:6.

Believe two things. What's the first we read?

"...that he is..." Hebrews 11:6.

We all believe that. And second:

"...that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" Hebrews 11:6.

Oh, let's seek Him in faith, brothers and sisters. What do you say? Let's come to God and put away all these doubts and uncertainties, and leave hope where it

belongs. Let's not substitute hope for faith. Let's get out our faith and use it and say, Lord, here are some things you've promised. I've come to ask you to fulfill your word.

You've promised to forgive my sins, and Lord, I have a number of sins you've convicted me of. I don't want to carry them around any longer. You've said:

"If we confess our sins you are faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" 1 John 1:9.

Lord, I want that done right now. I believe you want to do it right now. I'm giving those sins to you. I believe you're doing it right now. I believe that the precious blood of Jesus is cleansing me. I believe that that precious blood is covering my sins in the books of heaven.

And before we get up from our knees, we should press on to the place where we can thank God that the thing is done. Is that right? That's what I read here:

"...What things soever ye desire, when ye pray..." Mark 11:24.

Do what? Believe. Believe what?

"...believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them"
Mark 11:24.

Thank the Lord. Now, there's been a lot of presumption on some of these matters. That's what makes some people afraid. Presumption and faith are sometimes very close together. For example, presumption claims God's promises without meeting the conditions. Presumption would claim that our sins are forgiven when we haven't given them up. God cannot *forgive* our sins unless we *give* Him the sins.

But can I settle that this minute? Can I give up my sins to God? Oh, yes. By choice. And that doesn't mean I have to wait a week and see whether it lasts or not. This moment, I can make the choice and God will forgive me. So, we need to beware of presumption. But when we have made the choice and given the sins, then we're to believe that God accepts us.

Again, presumption is sometimes exercised in claiming things that God hasn't promised. For example, suppose a man is lying here sick with a fever. He's got 102 degree temperature. He asks the ministers to come in and pray for him. And suppose that he simply gets out of that bed, even though he's got 102 fever, and goes out here and goes to work. He says, I've prayed, the brethren have prayed, I believe the Lord's healed me, and so I'm well, and I'm going to act like it.

Now, don't misunderstand me. That could be faith under some circumstances, but it could be presumption. You say, Well, how would you know? Well, I shall not go into that this morning, but I simply call your attention to the fact, friends, that the faith that I'm talking about this morning is the faith that has a definite promise of God concerning which there can be no question.

Has God promised to heal everybody that's sick every time somebody prays? No, He hasn't, see, so it might be presumption to just get up out of a sickbed. There are times when that's what people ought to do, but that's not my subject this morning. I'm studying the simple exercise of faith concerning promises that are clear, unequivocal, without any question, and one of these is the forgiveness of sin.

Another one is that God wants to make us His children. 1 John 3:1 and 2:

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called..." 1 John 3:1.

What?

"...the sons of God" 1 John 3:1.

Second verse:

"Beloved..." 1 John 3:2.

What's the next word? What is it? Oh, I hope we will *someday*. Is that what it says?

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

Well, what are the conditions to that promise? John 1:12:

"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God..." John 1:12.

Have you received Him? Oh, I don't know whether I have or not. Well, let's find out right now. Revelation 3:20:

"Behold, I stand at the door and..." Revelation 3:20.

Do what? Knock. Who is that? Jesus. Where is He? What is He doing? What does He want?

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in..." Revelation 3:20.

Can I say to God, "Lord, I want you to live in my heart. You promised to do it. You said if I'd open the door, you'd come in. Lord, I'm opening the door right now. I believe you've come in. I believe you have come in, and therefore I believe on the authority of God's Word that I am God's child because you wrote it down in the book:"

"...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.

Lord, I believe you, and oh, I thank Thee. I was a child of the Devil. Now I'm a child of God. I was without hope. Now, I have sweet hope. I was without a Redeemer and a Savior, lost in sin. Now, Jesus is mine and I am His.

And my dear friends, that comes through believing God. That comes through seeking God and mixing faith with our prayers. And all the seeking in the world will never do it without the faith, dear friends. It will never do it, never do it, never do it.

You know, most of you know how to drive an automobile. You know how to use the starter button. But I want to tell you something. You can press that starter button with your foot or hand, depending on what kind of automobile it is, and you can crank that engine—woo, woo, woo, woo, woo, woo—and you can go on till you run that battery clear down and if the key isn't on, it won't do any good. Will it? No.

And somebody might come up and say, Well, you haven't tried long enough. Why friends, a thousand years wouldn't be long enough on that program. No, it wouldn't, it wouldn't.

And no matter how earnestly you seek and no matter how much you cry and weep and plead and beg and urge, without faith, it is impossible to get the blessing. Do you know why? Well, I'll tell you why, friends. Here it is. *Messages to Young People*, page 102:

"Faith is the hand that takes hold of infinite help..."
Messages to Young People, page 102.

"Faith is the hand that takes hold of infinite help..." *Ibid.*

That's it. Suppose I call up one of you on the phone Monday morning and I say, Oh, friend, I just need some money so much. Couldn't you let me have a \$10 bill. He says, Yes, I'll give you a \$10 bill. Come on over here.

And so, I come over there, and I just stand there, and I say, Won't you please give me a \$10 bill? And He holds it out to me right there. Won't you please give me a \$10 bill? Oh, I need it so much. I don't know what I'll do without it. I have some bills I've got to pay. I must have it. And he stands there holding it out to me.

What must I do? Just reach out my hand, take it, yes. I'll get it so much faster that way. In fact, that's the only way I ever *will* get it—the only way.

"Faith is the hand that takes hold of infinite help..." *Ibid.*

Our problem is we're dealing with invisible things, but we just as well adjust to it, friends, because that's what we *are* dealing with is invisible things. Do you know the greatest things in this world are invisible? The greatest powers that we know of are invisible.

Here's gravity that's holding us in our swing around the sun. Nobody ever saw gravity. Did he? Did you ever see it? Did you ever see it walking around or lifting things? No, never did. But oh, it's there—tremendous power, my friends. And faith is dealing largely with invisible things. That's what Paul says, it's:

“...the evidence of things *not* seen” Hebrews 11:1.

But let's just adjust to that and remember we are accepting things that we cannot see. And if we *could* see them, then we wouldn't use the faith tool, we'd use some other tool. We'd use our eyes or ears or some one of these five senses, but here is something that the five senses can't take hold of.

We can't see what we take by faith. We can't hear it, nor taste it, nor smell it nor feel it, no but oh, bless God, we can appropriate it. We can believe the promise of God, and we can say, Yes, Lord, I'm reaching out the hand of faith to lay hold of it, and I believe it's mine. I know you've heard my prayer because you cannot lie, and I read here that when we have learned to do this, we shall know that our prayers are answered.

But I want to tell you something, friends. If your faith joints haven't been used much and they're all—well, I was a going to say, arthritic, it may cause a little pain when you begin to use faith. And it may be easier to just slip back in the chair or in the bed and say, Oh, I'm just afraid I can't do it. Rise, take up Thy bed and walk.

Oh yes, don't lie there on that pallet waiting for the moving of the waters. No, friends, you may wait a thousand years. Don't do that. Rise, take up Thy bed and walk. Right now. You don't have to wait for the waters to move. Just take the Word of God, believe what God says, and go free.

Believe that God loves you. He says so. Believe that He gave His only Son for you. He says so. Believe that you can have the help. When? Right now. Jesus died for you. He gave His life on the cross for you. He rose for you. He's pleading for you. He wants you in simple faith to say, Lord, I come to claim your promise. I believe it. I know you mean me.

Early Writings, page 72:

“True faith lays hold of and claims the promised blessing before it is realized and felt. We must send up our petitions in faith within the second veil and let our faith take hold of the promised blessing and claim it as ours. We are then to believe that we receive the blessing, because our faith has hold of it, and according to the Word it is ours. ‘What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them’” *Early Writings*, page 72.

There's our verse again, isn't it—Mark 11:24.

“Here is faith, naked faith, to believe that we receive the blessing, even before we realize it” *Ibid*.

That's just trusting in the Word of God. A friend of mine was telling me about two little girls that he heard talking one day, and one little girl was jumping up and down like this. She says, Oh, I've got 10 cents, I've got 10 cents. And the other little girl says, Let me see, and she opened her hand. There was a nickel. Oh, she said, I

thought you had 10 cents. You've only got five cents. Oh, she said, I've got five cents, and Daddy promised me five cents. I've got 10 cents.

Well, how about it, friends? Did she have 10 cents? Sure she did, sure and she was laying her plans according to 10 cents, not according to five cents. And those that treat God that way will never be disappointed, my friends.

Oh, let us not confine our enjoyment to the nickel we hold in our hands. Let us believe with all our hearts that the infinite riches of heaven are ours through faith in Christ.

“Faith is the hand that takes hold of infinite help...”
Messages to Young People, page 102.

Now, one of the most important things in exercising faith is to express it. Did you know that? There are some plants that, if you don't get them out in the sunshine, they'll die, and faith, if it is not expressed, tends to wither and droop and finally die.

Concerning the remnant, we read in Revelation, the 12th chapter, and the 11th verse:

“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony...” Revelation 12:11.

Every time we express faith, it increases it, and so we are told by the Spirit of God that the preaching at our Sabbath service should generally be short, that the people may have an opportunity to express themselves.

What a strange thing, friends, it would be if we were all students in a school and at the physical education period, we all marched to the gymnasium, took our places in carefully arranged seats, and watched the teacher get up there and go through all sorts of gymnastic exercises. Wouldn't that be interesting? Yes. Some people would like that, wouldn't they? Yes. But it wouldn't develop any what? Any muscle. And that's what a gymnasium is supposed to be for.

Oh friends, *this* is God's gymnasium—His church is—and He desires you to exercise. There may be leaders and teachers to help us learn the movements and the motions and the exercises, but oh, it's *my* muscles that are developed as *I* exercise; it's *your* muscles that are developed as *you* exercise. Faith is a gift:

“...of which some measure is imparted to every human being. It grows as exercised...” *Education*, page 253.

Will you exercise it this morning? And friends, back to that gymnasium again. Do they just have the strong students exercise? Do they say, “Now, let's try you all out. There are a hundred students. There are about 10 of you that have pretty good strong muscles. We'll use you. The rest of you sit over there on the side and watch these strong folks exercise”? Maybe if you'll watch them all year, you'll get strong, too.

Is that what happens? Why, no, no. Ah, if there's one hesitating here this morning—one hesitating one—I invite you, friends, stand up and lift your arms. If you can only lift two pounds, lift two pounds. Let your voice be heard in the assembly of the saints. Let your faith ring out. Say, "I believe God loves me. I know Jesus died for me. I've given Him my sins. I believe He covers them with His blood. I believe I'm my Father's child, and I'm happy in it."

Ah, you put it in your way, in your own words. It must be *your* faith that speaks, and your faith must speak in your words. And may I ask you, as a favor, please, for the next 10 minutes, let us leave out all the words about hope and want and wish. Will you do that for me, please. I'm asking it for your sakes, please. Oh, I grow so weary (and I think the angels do too) of hearing the saints of God get up and tell what they want and wish, when all the while heaven is waiting for them to express what by faith they claim this moment.

What is your word of faith this morning to the praise of the glory of His grace?

[Comments by Elder Frazee during testimony meeting.]

Pardon me just a minute, sister. You know, people hear experiences like sister here has just said, and say, Oh, I wish I had faith like that. Now, folks, I'm glad I *don't* have faith like that. Sister will understand in a minute what I mean.

Do you know God does something like that sometimes for babes in Christ? She said she was a babe so I'm just calling her what she said she was. And I'll tell you why He does it, folks, it's because if He didn't sometimes, they'd get so discouraged they'd never have faith to ever ask for anything again. Do you know that?

I want to read a little poem:

God answers prayer sometimes when hearts are weak,
He gives the very gifts believers seek,
But often faith must learn a deeper rest,
And trust God's silence when He does not speak.
[Entitled: "God Answers Prayers"]
[By: M.G. Plantz]

And we can thank God for all the times He's done some little thing we've asked Him to that He *didn't* promise to do—just in mercy to us. It's all right to recount those things. But let us in doing it be sure that we understand that a greater exercise of faith is when we've asked for something that God hasn't promised, and it hasn't come just the way we wish it had, that we know that He's heard us, we know that He's answering us exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think. That's real faith.

Or there were some things you could get at the grocery store only if you had a book with some coupons in it? Yes. Well now, suppose you want some sugar or some fat—what do you do? You look around for what? The book, and see if you've got any coupons. You don't just go down there and take some sugar off the shelves. The clerk would say, Wait a minute. Where's your coupon book? Oh, do you have to have that? Yes, you have to have it.

Listen. When you want something in prayer, why not look through the coupon book and see if there are any coupons that give you the right to ask for that? That's what the Bible is for, see. And if there's a promise that covers your need, then you can bring that to God, and the wonderful thing about this coupon book is you can use the same coupon over and over if it fits the case. You don't have to surrender the coupon, you understand. But there does have to be something that covers the case.

"...my God shall supply *all* your..." Philippians 4:19.

Imaginations. All your whims. All your fancies. All your dreams. All right.

"...my God shall supply all your *need* according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" Philippians 4:19.

Got five-pound weights, the heavenly teacher's going to try you out on 10-pound weights, so be of good courage. He said, "We'll see about that."

The power to exercise it is ours and it grows by exercise.

"...for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us..." Romans 8:26.

God manages to get the sun up over the mountain every morning, whether we remember to pray for it or not, doesn't He? Yes. There are 10,000 things God is doing for us that we don't get around to asking for. The things we should ask Him for are the things that He has asked us in His word *to* ask Him for and that He brings to our minds to ask Him for, but He's doing exceeding abundantly above all that we *can* ask or think.

Let's stand.

'tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His word,
Just to rest upon His promise,
Just to know, 'thus saith the Lord.'
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him,
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er,
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus,
O for grace to trust Him more.

O how sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to trust His cleansing blood,
Just in simple faith to plunge me,
'Neath the healing, cleansing flood.
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him,
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er,
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus,
O for grace to trust Him more.

Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just from sin and self to cease,
Just from Jesus simply taking,
Life, and rest, and joy, and peace.
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him,
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er,
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus,
O for grace to trust Him more.

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