

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying
Message Eight : Cooperating with Christ in His Heavenly Ministry
by Running with Endurance the Race Set before Us, Looking Away
unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of Our Faith

I. Overview :

Heb. 12:1 says, "Therefore let us also, having so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, put away every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us and run with endurance the race which is set before us." The cloud is for leading people to follow the Lord, and the Lord is in the cloud to be with the people. With the people of faith, we can have the Lord's presence and His leading; all the people of faith, the church people, are the cloud. The Christian life is a race, and we must run the race to win the prize. The runners of the race strip off every burden with encumbrance, and also need to run with endurance, as well as look away unto Jesus who is the Author and Perfecter of faith. If we look away unto Him, He will transfuse and infuse us with all that He is, that we may be able to run the heavenly race and live the heavenly life on earth.

II. Truth and Enlightenment :

Day 1 --

A. Explain the cloud's significance and application from Old & New Testament.

The cloud is for leading people in following the Lord, and the Lord is in the cloud to be with the people. The children of Israel followed the Lord by the pillar and enjoyed the Lord's presence in the pillar of cloud. All the witnesses of faith, even the martyrs of faith, are a cloud. By this cloud of witnesses we follow the Lord and enjoy His presence.

B. How should we do since the Christian life is a race?

The Christian life is a race, and every saved Christian must run the race to win the prize. This prize is not salvation in a common sense but a reward in a special sense. A race is a way, because Christ is the way; He is also the race. The race we are running is Christ.

Day 2 --

A. Explain that Heb. 12:1 mentions "the sin which so easily entangles us."

"Sin" here refers mainly to the thing which entangles us from running the race, keeping the Hebrew believers away from the new covenant way in God's economy. Both the encumbering weight and the entangling sin would frustrate the Hebrew believers and restrain them from running the heavenly race in the new covenant way.

B. Expound Heb. 12:2, "look away unto Jesus".

The Greek word translated "looking away unto" means to look with undivided attention by turning away from every other object. The runners in a race turn away from everything else and look at the goal with undivided attention. The wonderful Jesus is the greatest attraction in the universe, like an immense magnet drawing all His seekers unto Him. It is by being attracted by His charming beauty that we look away from all things other than Him.

Day 3 --

A. Explain how to apply the faith in Rom. 3:22?

"Faith" here refers to the faith of Jesus Christ in us, which has become the faith by which we believe in Him. Faith has an object, and this object is Jesus, who is God incarnate. When man hears Him, knows Him, appreciates Him, and treasures Him, He causes faith to be generated in man, enabling man to believe in Him. Thus, He becomes the faith in man by which man believe in Him.

B. Explain Gal. 2:16, "faith in Jesus Christ".

Faith in Jesus Christ denotes an organic union with Him through believing. This is related to the believers' appreciation of the person of the Son of God as the most precious One. The believers are infused with the preciousness of Christ through the gospel. This Christ becomes in them the faith by which they believe and the capacity to believe through their appreciation of Him.

Day 4 --

A. Why do we say that faith is a special sense with substantiating ability?

Faith is a divine ability which has been infused into us. Whenever we contact God or listen to His word, the substantiating ability which has been infused into our being by God Himself spontaneously begins to realize the things of God, the things hoped for, and the things not seen, and we simply believe.

B. What kind of God's transfusion should we have through gospel preaching?

Proper gospel preaching is not merely a matter of teaching; it must also be a matter of transfusion. In order to preach the gospel to sinners, we must first receive something of and from the Lord. As we are preaching, what we have received of the Lord will enter, like electricity, into those who are listening. Then, they will be able to believe in the Lord.

Day 5 --

A. Expound that Heb. 11:6 mentions of faith being pleasing to God.

Heb. 11:6, "without faith it is impossible to please God." This is a very strong word in the whole universe. To please God is to make God happy. Without faith it is impossible for you and me to make God happy. God could not and would not be happy with anyone without faith. This shows us the importance of faith. He who comes forward to God must believe that God is.

B. What is faith? Explain it from our spiritual experience.

Faith is to stop yourself from doing anything. You are nothing. Faith joins you with God to make God the only One who is. To deny yourself equals to believe that God is, and to believe that God is equals to deny yourself. This is because you believe that only He is. In the whole universe He is, and all of us are nothing.

Day 6 --

A. How to receive the way of faith according to our spiritual experience?

The way to receive faith is to contact its source, the Lord, the processed and consummated God, by calling on Him, praying to Him, and pray-reading His word. We have to come forward to God's throne of grace to receive mercy and grace. This means that we have to contact God to receive faith.

B. Expound what a wonderful and all-inclusive One whom we look to He is.

Now in His ascension, in the person of the Son of God and the Son of Man as the appointed Heir of all things, the anointed One of God, the Author of our salvation, the

Sanctifier, the constant Succor, the instant Helper, the Apostle from God, the High Priest, the Minister of the true tabernacle, the surety and the Mediator of a better covenant.

III. Conclusion :

If anyone is seeking the Lord's leading, he must follow the cloud, the church; the Lord is in the cloud, meaning that He is with the people of faith. We need to run with endurance, asking the Lord to direct our hearts into the love of God and into the endurance of Christ. The faith of the believers is actually not their own faith but Christ entering into them to be their faith. Faith is a substantiating ability, a sixth sense, the sense by which we substantiate, give substance to, the things unseen or hoped for. According to Hebrews 12:2, for the joy set before Him, Jesus endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down on the right hand of the throne of God. Therefore, God highly exalted Him to the heavens, gave Him the name above every name, made Him both Lord and Christ, and crowned Him with glory and honor.