

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying

Message Eight : Looking Away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of Our Faith

I. Overview :

The Greek word translated "looking away unto" denotes looking with undivided attention by turning away from every other object. The Hebrew believers had to look away from their old religion and away from all earthly things, away unto Jesus. It is by being attracted by His charming beauty that we look away from all things other than Him so that we may run with endurance the race which is set before us. The apostle Paul ran the race and won the prize. 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. As we look away unto Him continually, He will finish and complete the faith that we need for the running of the heavenly race. The way to receive such a faith is to contact its source, the Lord, by calling on Him, praying to Him, and pray-reading His Word.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain the meaning of the words, "looking away unto" in Hebrews 12:2.

The Greek word translated "looking away unto" in Hebrews 12:2 means "to look with undivided attention by turning away from every other object." The Hebrew believers had to look away from all the things in their environment, away from their old religion and its persecution, and away from all earthly things, that they might look unto Jesus, who is now seated on the right hand of the throne of God in the heavens.

B. Expound the Christ in Hebrews.

In Hebrews he points us particularly to the Christ who has sat down in heaven and who is of so many aspects, that He may care for us in every way. In this book the heavenly Christ is contrasted to the earthly religion and all earthly things. To experience the indwelling Christ, we need to turn to our spirit and contact Him. To enjoy the heavenly Christ, we need to look away from all things on earth unto Him, who has sat down on the right hand of the throne of God.

Day 2 —

A. Fellowship the Christian life being a race.

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. The apostle Paul, who ran the race and won the prize, was nearly the only one who likened the Christian life to a race. In the book of Hebrews he charged the Hebrew believers to run the race.

B. State that we must run the race.

As believers, we should not stand still in Christ. We must run the race. We should not take the time to consider or look around, to stand still or walk slowly. Paul began to run the course of the heavenly race after he was taken possession of by the Lord, and he continually ran that he might finish it. Then at the end he triumphantly proclaimed, "I have finished the course".

Day 3 —

A. Expound how we can receive the precious faith.

All the overcoming saints in the Old Testament are only witnesses of faith, whereas Jesus is the Author of faith. He is the Originator, the Inaugurator, the source, and the cause of faith. In our natural man we have no believing ability. We do not have faith by ourselves. The faith by which we are saved is the precious faith that we have received from the Lord.

B. State Jesus being the Author and the source of faith.

The life He lived was a life of faith, and the path He walked was a path of faith. In His life and path He originated faith. He cut the way of faith and, as the Forerunner, took the lead to pioneer it. As we look to Him as the Originator of faith in His life and in His path on earth, and as the Perfecter of faith in His glory and on His throne in heaven.

Day 4 —

A. Explain how we should be to preach the gospel to others.

Faith, the substantiating ability, is like a sixth sense. We acquired this substantiating sense through the preaching of the gospel. In order to preach the gospel to sinners, we must first receive something of and from the Lord. Then, as we are preaching, what we have received of the Lord will enter, like electricity, into those who are listening.

B. Expound that every gospel preacher must first be charmed by the Lord.

Every gospel preacher must first be charmed himself and then he will be able to charm others. What he says may not seem logical, but like a battery that is being charged, the hearers will be charmed. For this reason, the church must pray a great deal for the preaching of the gospel. The more we pray, the more charming the gospel meeting will be.

Day 5 —

A. Expound that God requires you only to believe that He is.

God requires you only to believe that He is. The verb to be is actually the divine title of our Triune God. In Exodus 3 Moses asked God what His name was. God answered that His name is I Am Who I Am. Our God's name is the verb to be. He is I Am Who I Am. He is the only One.

B. Explain the great I Am.

Then what is existing? Who exists? Only the great I Am—I Am Who I Am. He who comes forward to God must believe that God is. Faith is so critical. Without this, you can never make God happy. You must believe that God is. Faith is to stop yourself from doing anything. Faith joins you with God to make God the only One who is.

Day 6 —

A. Explain what the effect the power of faith on people makes.

A man who has met Christ in faith is different. Only those who have touched Christ have His power manifested through them. All the filthy and binding sins are shaken off from us when we touch Christ. The minute we believe in Him, His resurrection life comes into us. By faith all these become real in us.

B. Expound Jesus being the Perfecter, the Finisher, of faith.

Faith is simply the Lord Jesus Christ. He is not only the Author, the Originator, of faith but also the Perfecter, the Finisher, of faith. If we look to Him continually, He will finish and complete the faith that we need for the running of the heavenly race. As the Completer of faith, He is continually infused into us as the believing element and ability when we pray to the Lord, fellowship with Him, pray over the Bible, attend church meetings.

III. Conclusion:

In order to have faith, we must look away unto Jesus. Who is the source of faith. When we look away all things unto Jesus, He will transfuse Himself into us, filling us with Himself. As a result, we have faith spontaneously. Faith is Christ Himself acting subjectively on our behalf. He infuses Himself within us, making Himself into us, until He Himself, as a living person, becomes an element of faith. In this way, He makes us a man full of faith. Faith is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. He is not only the author of our faith but also the perfecter of our faith. If we look to Him continually, He will finish and complete the faith that we need for the running of the heavenly race. He is continually infused into us as the believing element and ability when we pray to the Lord, fellowship with Him, and attend church meetings.