

Looking Away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfector of Our Faith**Monday 1/12****Related Verses****Heb. 12:2**

2 Looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfector of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down on the right hand of the throne of God.

Heb. 1:3

3 Who, being the effulgence of His glory and the impress of His substance and upholding and bearing all things by the word of His power, having made purification of sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Heb. 2:9

9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little inferior to the angels because of the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death on behalf of everything.

Phil. 3:13-14

13 Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before,

14 I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.

2 Tim. 4:7-8

7 I have fought the good fight; I have finished the course; I have kept the faith.

8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, with which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will recompense me in that day, and not only me but also all those who have loved His appearing.

Heb. 10:25-26

25 Not abandoning our own assembling together, as the custom with some is, but exhorting one another; and so much the more as you see the day drawing near.

26 For when we sin willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice of bulls and goats for sins,

1 John 4:19

19 We love because He first loved us.

Related Reading

The Greek word translated “looking away unto” [Heb. 12:2] means “to look with undivided attention by turning away from every other object.” The runners in a race, such as the hundred yard dash, turn away from everything else and look at the goal with undivided attention. In this verse Paul seems to be saying, “ Hebrew brothers, do not stand there considering and looking around. You must turn away from everything other than Christ and look to Him with undivided attention. This is the way to run the race.” 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. (*Life-study of Hebrews*, p. 550)

In all his other Epistles Paul presents to us mainly the Christ who dwells in our spirit (Rom. 8:10; 2 Tim. 4:22) as the life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45) to be our life and our everything. But 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 Paul’s other Epistles the indwelling Christ is versus our flesh, self, and natural man. 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. By His death and resurrection He accomplished everything that is needed by both God and man. Now in His ascension He is sitting in the heavens, in the person of the Son of God (1:5) and the Son of Man (2:6), in the person of God (1:8) and man (2:6), as the appointed Heir of all things (1:2), the anointed One of God (v. 9), the Author of our salvation (2:10), the Sanctifier (v. 11), the constant Succor (v. 16), the instant Helper (4:16), the Apostle from God (3:1), the High Priest (2:17; 4:14; 7:26), the Minister of the true tabernacle (8:2) with a more excellent ministry (v. 6), the surety and the Mediator of a better covenant (7:22; 8:6; 12:24), the Executor of the new testament (9:16-17), the Forerunner (6:20), the Author and Perfector of our faith (12:2), and the great Shepherd of the sheep (13:20). If we

look unto Him as such a wonderful and all-inclusive One, He will minister heaven, life, and strength to us, transfusing and infusing us with all that He is, that we may be able to run the heavenly race and live the heavenly life on earth. In this way He will carry us through all the lifelong pathway and lead and bring us into glory (2:10).

The wonderful Jesus, who is enthroned in heaven and crowned with glory and honor (v. 9), is the greatest attraction in the universe. He is like an immense magnet drawing all His seekers to Him. It is by being attracted by His charming beauty that we look away from all things other than Him.

Verse 3 of chapter 12 says, “For compare Him who has endured such contradiction by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary, fainting in your souls.” This short word refers us to the four Gospels, where we see how Christ endured such contradiction by sinners. At that time the sinners were all the religionists, Judaizers, priests, scribes, and elders of the people. When the Lord Jesus was on earth, He confronted all these opposers who were doing their best to frustrate or stop Him from the way of God’s new covenant. But He was not frustrated; rather, He cut the way, slaying it by suffering the death of the cross. (*Life-study of Hebrews*, pp. 551-552)

Further Reading: *Life-study of Hebrews*, msg. 50

Tuesday 1/13**Related Verses****Heb. 12:1**

1 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,

1 Cor. 9:24-27

24 Do you not know that those who run on a racecourse all run, but one receives the prize? Run in this way, that you may lay hold.

25 And everyone who contends exercises self-control in all things; they then, that they may receive a corruptible crown, but we, an incorruptible.

Looking Away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfector of Our Faith

26 I therefore run in this way, not as though without a clear aim; I box in this way, not as though beating the air;
 27 But I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest perhaps having preached to others, I myself may become disapproved.

2 Thes. 3:5

5 And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the endurance of Christ.

Eph. 2:8-9

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves; it is the gift of God;
 9 Not of works that no one should boast.

1 Cor. 3:14-15

14 If anyone's work which he has built upon the foundation remains, he will receive a reward;
 15 If anyone's work is consumed, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Related Reading

The Christian life is a race. Every saved Christian must run the race to win the prize (1 Cor. 9:24). This prize is not salvation in a common sense (Eph. 2:8; 1 Cor. 3:15) but a reward in a special sense (Heb. 10:35; 1 Cor. 3:14). 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, saying, "Run with endurance the race which is set before us" (12:1). (*Life-study of Hebrews*, p. 545)

The race we are running is actually Christ Himself. The Lord Jesus said, "I am the way" (John 14:6)...Because Christ is the way, He is also the race...Our way is our race...The way we are walking is the race we are running. Therefore, Christ, who is the way, is 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 (Phil. 3:12-14) that he might finish it

(Acts 20:24). Then at the end he triumphantly proclaimed, "I have finished the course" [2 Tim. 4:7]. For this he will receive from the Lord a reward—the crown of righteousness (v. 8).

We, the believers in Christ, have all received His salvation through faith in Him. This has been settled once for all. But whether we shall be rewarded by the Lord depends on how we run the race. In 1 Corinthians 9 Paul was running the race. In Philippians, one of his last Epistles, he was still running (3:14). It was not until the last moment of his running, in 2 Timothy 4:6-8, that Paul had the assurance that he would be rewarded by the Lord at His coming. With this reward in view, Paul charged the believers to run the race so that they may obtain the reward, the prize, an incorruptible crown.

In 1 Corinthians 9:26a Paul says, "I therefore run in this way, not as though without a clear aim." Paul did not run the race uncertainly but with a definite goal in view. Today we must run the race with a definite goal; we should not run uncertainly.

In order to run the course of the race, we need to put off every encumbrance and the entangling sin (Heb. 12:1)...The runners in a race must strip off every unnecessary weight, every encumbering burden, that they may have no impediment to running the race. It is easy for us to pick up unnecessary burdens. But if we would run the Christian race, we need to put off every encumbrance, every unnecessary burden or impediment. From Hebrews 12:1 we see that we also need to put off "the sin which so easily entangles us." Here the sin refers mainly to the thing that entangles us from running the race. Both the encumbering weight and the entangling sin frustrate us in running the race. The encumbrances are outward, but the sin is inward, for it involves our sinful nature. Within our sinful nature there is something that often entangles us. In order to run the course of the Christian life, we need to put off the entangling sin.

At the end of Hebrews 12:1 we are charged to "run with endurance the race which is set before us." We need to run with endurance because there is much opposition to the Christian race. In order to run this race, we must suffer the opposition with endurance, never growing weary or fainting in our souls (v. 3). (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, pp. 1866-1869)

Further Reading: *The Conclusion of the New Testament*, msg. 171

Wednesday 1/14**Related Verses****2 Pet. 1:1**

1 Simon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have been allotted faith equally precious as ours in the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:

Rom. 10:17

17 So faith comes out of hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Rom. 5:5

5 And hope does not put us to shame, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Rom. 3:22

22 Even the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ to all those who believe, for there is no distinction;

Rev. 1:9

9 I John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and endurance in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

Gal. 2:16

16 And knowing that a man is not justified out of works of law, but through faith in Jesus Christ, we also have believed into Christ Jesus that we might be justified out of faith in Christ and not out of the works of law, because out of the works of law no flesh will be justified.

Gal. 6:10

10 So then, as we have the opportunity, let us do what is good toward all, but especially toward those of the household of the faith.

Col. 1:12

12 Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light;

Looking Away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfector of Our Faith**1 Cor. 15:45**

45 So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul"; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.

1 Pet. 1:8

8 Whom having not seen, you love; into whom though not seeing Him at present, yet believing, you exult with joy that is unspeakable and full of glory,

Related Reading

All the overcoming saints in the Old Testament are only witnesses of faith, whereas Jesus is the Author of faith [Heb. 12:2]. 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 (2 Pet. 1:1). When we look unto Jesus, He as the life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45) transfuses us with Himself, with His believing element. Then, spontaneously, a kind of believing arises in our being, and we have the faith to believe in Him. This faith is not of ourselves but of Him who imparts Himself as the believing element into us that He may believe for us. Hence, He Himself is our faith. We live by Him as our faith; that is, we live by His faith (Gal. 2:20), not by our own. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, p. 3827)

As the Author and the source of faith, Jesus is also the Leader, the Pioneer, and the Forerunner 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 Perfector of faith in His glory and on His throne in heaven, He transfuses and even infuses us with the faith that He originated and perfected.

In ourselves we do not have faith...Unbelief is the fiber of our constitution. Hence, in ourselves it is impossible to meet the New Testament requirement of faith (Gal. 1:16).

Ephesians 2:8 tells us clearly that the faith through which we were saved is not of ourselves. We have received it as a gift from God. God is the source and Giver of faith, and we are the recipients of this divine gift. God has put something into our being which becomes our faith. Second Peter 1:1 says that we "have been allotted faith equally precious." Faith is precious because it has been given to us as a gift by God. The more we turn to God and contact Him, the more faith we have.

According to the New Testament revelation, faith is simply Christ Himself. Because Christ Himself is faith, the apostle Paul speaks of the faith of Jesus Christ (Rom. 3:22), the faith of the Son of God (Gal. 2:20), or faith in Christ (Phil. 3:9). Faith, which is the unique requirement of the New Testament, is Christ Himself being transfused into us to become our element and ability to believe in Him and in all the divine, spiritual, and heavenly things. Hence, faith is the faith in Christ as well as the faith of Christ. In other words, faith is simply Christ Himself as our believing element and ability.

A proper preaching of the gospel is a presentation of Christ as a living person whom we may look upon. When we look upon Him, He as the living person is impressed into us, not merely into our mind and heart but also into the deepest part of our being, our spirit...When Christ as the living figure is infused into our mind and our heart, eventually reaching our spirit, He becomes precious to us, and we desire to accept and receive Him. This is faith, or believing. We are infused with this believing element and ability, and we call upon the name of the Lord. When we hear the gospel and see Christ as a living person in a divine scenery, our appreciation of, and reaction to, Christ as a wonderful figure arises within us. This is the living Jesus infused into us to become our faith. Therefore, He is the Author of our faith; He is the origin and the origination of our believing element and ability. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, pp. 3827-3829)

Further Reading: *The Conclusion of the New Testament*, msg. 380

Thursday 1/15

Related Verses**Heb. 11:1**

1 Now faith is the substantiation of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

2 Cor. 4:13

13 And having the same spirit of faith according to that which is written, "I believed, therefore I spoke," we also believe, therefore we also speak,

Rom. 1:2

2 Which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures,

Rom. 8:24-25

24 For we were saved in hope. But a hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what he sees?

25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly await it through endurance.

Heb. 11:27

27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king, for he persevered as one seeing the unseen One.

Luke 9:23

23 And He said to them all, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

John 8:24, 28, 58

24 Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am, you will die in your sins.

28 Jesus therefore said to them, When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am, and that I do nothing from Myself, but as My Father has taught Me, I speak these things.

58 Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, Before Abraham came into being, I am.

Related Reading

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...Although they may shake their heads, not

Looking Away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfector of Our Faith

consenting to our preaching, deep within they will believe what we are saying. Although some may say to themselves that it is silly to believe, something within them will continue to react and bring them to the point where they say, "Lord Jesus, thank You. You are so good. Lord, You are my Savior." Because some element has been transfused into their being, they will be able to believe in the Lord. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, p. 3829)

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. The gospel preacher must pray until he...is fully charged with the divine element.

Ministry depends upon our utterance, which is the release of the divine element. If our ministry is proper, we will be charmed and charming whenever we come to minister. The proper ministry is altogether a matter of being fully transfused with God Himself. First, we are charged with the divine element, and then in the ministry we radiate that divine element into others in a charming way...When the sinners come to the church and hear the proper preaching of the gospel, they are charged with God. God Himself as the heavenly electricity is transmitted into them. Because God Himself is transfused into them in this way, they find that they have faith.

Once such faith is generated within us, it can never be removed from us. Even if we try to deny the Lord, we ultimately find ourselves unable to do so, for Christ as faith has been infused into our being. For example, on the night that the Lord Jesus was arrested by the Jews, Peter denied Him three times in His presence (Luke 22:47-61). However, Christ as the believing element and ability was still in Peter. As the Lord petitioned, his faith ultimately did not fail (v. 32). We may have similar experiences of denying the Lord temporarily. At times we may be swayed by our human feeling and understanding and deny the Lord temporarily. Yet while we are denying Him, nevertheless there remains the

believing element and ability deep within us, which nothing and no one can remove. This is Christ Himself infused into us as precious faith (2 Pet. 1:1). All the believers, from the greatest to the least, have such a faith.

We live by His faith, by Him as our faith (Gal. 2:20). Genuine believing is to believe in the Lord Jesus by His faith...Faith is not our invention; it cannot be initiated by us. It is impossible for us to generate faith. Faith is an aspect of Christ Himself, and apart from Christ we have no faith of our own. We do not live by our own faith but by the faith of the Son of the living God who has faith and who Himself is faith to us. Such faith issues from our knowing and appreciating Christ. If we look at ourselves, we will never find faith. But if we forget ourselves, turn to the Lord Jesus, and call on Him, faith will immediately rise up within us. The more we abide in Him, the more we are infused with Him as our faith. This faith is the faith of Christ; it is Christ believing within us. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, pp. 3830-3831)

Further Reading: *CWWL, 1959*, vol. 2, "Christ Making His Home in Our Heart and the Building Up of the Church," ch. 11

Friday 1/16**Related Verses****Heb. 11:5-6**

5 By faith Enoch was translated so that he should not see death; and he was not found, because God had translated him. For before his translation he obtained the testimony that he had been well pleasing to God.

6 But without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing to Him, for he who comes forward to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

John 8:58

58 Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, Before Abraham came into being, I am.

Ecclesiastes 1:2

2 Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; Vanity of vanities; all is vanity.

2 Cor. 3:18

18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

Rom. 12:3

3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to every one who is among you, not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think, but to think so as to be sober-minded, as God has apportioned to each a measure of faith.

Rom. 10:12

12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord is Lord of all and rich to all who call upon Him;

1 Thes. 5:17

17 Unceasingly pray,

Heb. 4:16

16 Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.

Related Reading

God requires you only to believe that He is [Heb. 11:6]. 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 (vv. 13-14). Our God's name is the verb *to be*. He is I Am Who I Am. He is the only One.

The Bible says that if you do not believe in Christ, you have no life (John 3:15-16, 36)...Our life is not something that exists forever. We are today, but eventually, we will not be tomorrow. So in the whole universe we are nothing. I am nothing, our hall is nothing, Anaheim is nothing, California is nothing, the United States is nothing, and the whole globe is nothing! This is because they do not exist forever...Actually, the things that are seen are not the things that exist; they are vanities (2 Cor. 4:18). (*CWWL, 1994-1997*, vol. 1, "Crystallization-study of the Epistle to the Romans," pp. 276-278)

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. I am not, so I should not be the one who loves my wife. It should be Christ loving my wife. He is; I am not. I should not be the one to go shopping. He should be the One. When you pick up something on sale in the department store, you have to check, "He is, or I am?"

Faith is to stop you from doing anything but to make God everything to you. This equals Paul's word in Galatians 2:20: "I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. Who lives? It is no longer I. I do not exist. I was terminated. I was crucified. I am finished. It is no more I, but it is Christ who lives in me. Christ lives. Christ is. Christ exists. I do not exist. This is the very essence of the short phrase *believe that He is* [Heb. 11:6]. To believe that God is implies that you are not. He must be the only One, the unique One, in everything, and we must be nothing in everything.

When you say what Paul said, "It's no longer I, but Christ," you believe that God is. To believe that God is, is so deep. It implies that you realize that you are not, but He is. *You are not* means that you do not exist. This is what the Bible means when it says to deny yourself. When a sister is about to be married, she needs to realize that she is nothing. She should not feel that she is the most beautiful and wonderful one. If she does, her marriage will be finished. That is not a believer's marriage. A believer who is about to be married should say, "Lord, I am going to marry this man. Lord, You know I am nothing. I cannot be the proper wife. I am nothing, Lord." What a blessing this is! This is the blessing of denying yourself in everything.

The Lord Jesus said, "If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself" (Luke 9:23). This word is the same as what Paul said: "He who comes forward to God must believe that He is" [Heb. 11:6]. To deny yourself equals to believe that God is, and to believe that God is

Looking Away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfector of Our Faith

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. I should not be anything. I should not exist. Only He should be everything. Only He should exist. So Paul says, "I have been crucified. It is no longer I, but Christ." (CWWL, 1994–1997, vol. 1, "Crystallization-study of the Epistle to the Romans," pp. 278-279)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1994–1997, vol. 1, "Crystallization-study of the Epistle to the Romans," ch. 7

Saturday 1/17

Related Verses

Rev. 1:7, 13-18

7 Behold, He comes with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the land will mourn over Him. Yes, amen.

13 And in the midst of the lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment reaching to the feet, and girded about at the breasts with a golden girdle.

14 And His head and hair were as white as white wool, as snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire;

15 And His feet were like shining bronze, as having been fired in a furnace; and His voice was like the sound of many waters.

16 And He had in His right hand seven stars; and out of His mouth proceeded a sharp two-edged sword; and His face shone as the sun shines in its power.

17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead; and He placed His right hand on me, saying, Do not fear; I am the First and the Last

18 And the living One; and I became dead, and behold, I am living forever and ever; and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

Rev. 22:4-5

4 And they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads.

5 And night will be no more; and they have no need of the light of a lamp and of the light of the sun, for the Lord God will shine upon them; and they will reign forever and ever.

Heb. 4:2

2 For indeed we have had the good news announced to us, even as they also; but the word heard did not profit them, not being mixed together with faith in those who heard.

2 Tim. 2:22

22 But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Related Reading

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.

Not only are our lives changed by faith, but there is a very great power within this faith which motivates thousands to become missionaries and martyrs. This great power within is irrepressible and unlimited. It makes man willing to suffer for the Lord, ride through danger, and eventually be martyred. All these abilities come from faith. When we touch Christ, everything of Him will be transmitted into us. (CWWN, vol. 27, "The Normal Christian Faith," pp. 158-159)

Faith is simply the Lord Jesus Christ. He is not only the Author, the Originator, of faith but also the Perfector, 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, listen to spiritual messages, and read spiritual books. Hence, our faith in Jesus Christ comes from Him; in fact, it is Christ Himself continually infused into us. Such faith brings us into an organic union with Christ...The increase of our organic union with Him is the increase, the growth, of Christ within us. The more Christ is infused into us as the believing element and ability, the more He is growing in us. This is our faith being perfected by the Lord...Day by day our faith will be under the Lord's

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

perfecting until we meet Him on the day of rapture. For this reason, Paul calls Him the Author and Perfecter of our faith. (The Conclusion of the New Testament, pp. 3831-3832)

To learn to walk and suffer by faith, you have to look away from all things...Look away unto Jesus. This is because only Jesus is. All the others are not...We trust in the Lord. We do not trust in anyone else. Only He is. So look away from all things that are not, unto Jesus who is. This is faith. Jesus is the Author and Perfecter of our faith, so our faith is just Jesus. He is the origin and the completion of our faith.

Paul says in 2 Corinthians 4 that he spoke by the spirit of faith. He says, "We...believe, therefore we also speak" (v. 13). If you do not believe that Christ is making His home in your heart, how can you go to tell others? You have to believe that Christ lives in you and that if you die with Him through the cross, He as the resurrection life will work Himself into you. This is all by faith...The reason that you do not prophesy, that you do not speak for the Lord, speak the Lord forth, and speak the Lord into others, is mainly because your exercise of faith is short.

The way to receive such a 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 find grace. This means that we have to contact God to receive faith. This is the only way...At any time, anywhere, you can contact Him. Just call on Him and say a little word to Him. Then you will receive faith. This faith links you with God and imparts, transfuses, God into you. In this way you will have the living faith. Actually, that is God Himself moving within you. Then you will become a man of faith. (CWWL, 1994-1997, vol. 1, "Crystallization-study of the Epistle to the Romans," pp. 302-304)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1994-1997, vol. 1, "Crystallization-study of the Epistle to the Romans," ch. 9

Lord's Day 1/18**Related Verses****Eph. 6:17-18**

17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,

18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,

1 John 5:4

4 For everything that has been begotten of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory which has overcome the world -- our faith.

Luke 18:8

8 I tell you that He will carry out their avenging quickly. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?

Phil. 2:30

30 Because for the work of Christ he drew near unto death, risking his life, that he might fill up your lack of service toward me.

Rom. 16:3-4

3 Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,

4 Who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles;

Acts 20:24

24 But I consider my life of no account as if precious to myself, in order that I may finish my course and the ministry which I have received from the Lord Jesus to solemnly testify of the gospel of the grace of God.

Further Reading:

Further Reading: *Life-study of Hebrews*, msg. 50

Hymn: #1206

1 There's a race for us to run—Hallelujah,
And a way for us the race to win.
To all those who have begun—Hallelujah,
God has spoken, "Look away to Him!"

Look away! O look away!
Look to Jesus now today!
Look away from everything unto Jesus,
Look away from everything to Him!

2 Look away from all around—Hallelujah,
Look away from all the strife and din;
Look away where peace is found—Hallelujah,
Look away from everything to Him.

3 Look away from fickle soul—Hallelujah,
Look away from failing self within;
Look away toward the goal—Hallelujah,
Look away from everything to Him.

4 Look away from all the past—Hallelujah,
Look away from both the good and sin;
To the living One hold fast—Hallelujah,
Look away from everything to Him.

5 Look away into His face—Hallelujah,
He who'll finish what He did begin.
O what grace to run the race—Hallelujah—
We obtain by looking off to Him!

Churchwide Truth Pursuit of Genesis**Level 1—Sequential Life-study Reading**

Scripture Reading and Copying: Gen. 36
Assigned Reading: *Life-study of Genesis*, msg(s). 85-86

Level 2—Topical Study

Crucial Point: Jacob's Return to the Land Stopping Short at Shechem

Scripture: Gen. 33-34

Assigned Reading: *Life-study of Genesis*, msg(s). 76

Supplemental Reading: CWWN, Set 2, Vol. 38, "General Messages (2)", ch. 58 "God Speaking Through the Environment"

Study Questions: See the church website at

churchinnyc.org/bible-study