

Message 8: Cooperating with Christ in His Heavenly Ministry by Running with Endurance the Race Set before Us, Looking Away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfector of Our Faith

2017 ITERO-S 8d



Hymn:

TO RUN

I. Run with Endurance the Race Set before Us

“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”

A. There are Witnesses to be the Leading Cloud in the Church (Where)

The cloud is for leading people to follow the Lord: In Greek witnesses implies the sense of martyrs

1. Recognize where is the cloud: 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 best way to seek the Lord's presence is to come to the church.
2. Follow the leading of the cloud: 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.
3. Become the copy of the cloud: Since we are the people of faith, we are today's cloud, and people can follow the Lord by following us; those who seek Him can find His presence with us—[1 Cor. 14:24-25; 9:24, 26-27](#)

B. Run the Race Without the Encumbrance and Entangling to Win the Prize (Why)

Every saved Christian must run the race to win the prize, not salvation in the common sense but a reward in a special sense

1. An encumbrance is an impediment of running: An encumbrance is a weight, burden, or impediment; the runners of the race strip off every unnecessary weight, every encumbering burden, that nothing may impede them from winning the race.
2. Entangling sin is the willful sin: Here the entangling sin is the willful sin of forsaking the assembling together with the saints, of giving up the new covenant way in God's economy, and of going back to Judaism—[Heb. 10:26](#)

C. Run the Race by the Love of God and into the Endurance of Christ (How)

We need to run **with endurance**, asking the Lord to direct our hearts into **the love of God** and into the endurance of Christ—[2 Thes. 3:5](#)

1. To love God with the love of God: This is our love toward God, issuing from the love of God, which has been poured out in our hearts—[1 John 4:19](#)
2. To endure with endurance of Christ: This is to endure with the endurance of Christ that we have enjoyed and experienced—[Rev. 1:9](#)

PREFACE This message concluded this series of messages. It pointed out to us that when we have received all the wonderful things of Christ's heavenly ministry, what should be our attitude. What should be our attitude to cooperate with Him.

APPLICATION Faith is to stop yourself from doing anything. You are nothing. Faith joins you with God to make God the only One who is.

The brothers need to ask themselves, “Is it me or Christ who is the husband to my wife?”

Sisters, when you comb your hair, you should be able to say, “Praise the Lord. It is no more I, but Christ.” You and I have to do everything in this way.

When people come to seek your help, you should pray: “I am not the one that can meet their need. Lord, You are the One.”

When we speak for the Lord, we should pray: “I should not be the one who speaks, You are. I have already been crucified but you are now lives in me. You should be the One who speaks.” If we live in this way, the riches of Christ will come out of our mouth.

BURDEN The most important thing in the Christian life is to seek out the journey which the Lord has ordained and faithfully walk on it. A poor phenomenon among believers today is that many have not found the journey that the Lord has ordained for them. Some, even though they have found it, do not walk on it. This is the reason that their living is filled with so much spiritual death, gloom, and restriction, and this is the reason that there are so many conflicts and arguments in God's work. The most important task for each of us is to put ourselves into God's hand in a quiet, patient, prayerful, consecrated, and obedient way and wholeheartedly seek after His leading. We should be willing to obey Him and act only in accordance with His will. We should pray that He reveal to us the journey He has designated for us. After this, we should pay any price to wholeheartedly walk on it.

LOOKING AWAY UNTO JESUS

THE AUTHOR OF FAITH

TO KNOW THE FAITH

THE PERFECTER OF FAITH

II. **Looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our Faith—Heb. 12:2**

“Looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter 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”

- A. **Jesus is the Author of faith:** we need to look away unto Jesus with undivided attention; Jesus is the Author of faith, the Originator, the Inaugurator, the source, and the cause of faith:
 1. Christ with glory: The wonderful Jesus, who is enthroned in heaven and crowned with glory and honor, is the greatest attraction in the universe—**Heb. 2:9**
 2. A drawing magnet: He is like an immense magnet drawing all His seekers to Him and to look away from all things other than Him—**S. S. 1:4; Jer. 31:3**
- B. **He enters into us to be our faith:** the faith of the believers is actually not their own faith but Christ entering into them to be their faith—**Rom. 3:22 and footnote 1; Gal. 2:16 and footnote 1**
 - Transfuse the believing within us: Our believing is our reaction to His attraction; When we look away unto Jesus, he transfuses us with Himself, His believing element—**Rom. 10:17**
 - Christ as our faith: Hence, Christ Himself is our faith; we live by Him as our faith, that is, by His faith—**Gal. 2:20**
- C. **This faith is a substantiating ability:** Faith is a substantiating ability, a sixth sense, the sense by which we substantiate, give substance to, the things unseen or hoped for—**Heb. 11:1**
 - Subjective experiences: The function of our five senses is to substantiate the things of the outside world, transferring all the objective items into us to become our subjective experience.
 - The degradation of the church is the degradation from unseen things to seen things; Faith assures us of the things not seen and is the evidence, the proof, of things unseen.
- D. **This Faith is to believe that God is, I am not:** Faith is to believe that God is—**Heb. 11:6**
 - To believe that God is, is to deny our self; in the whole universe He is, and all of us are nothing—**Luke 9:23.**
 - Oh, the joy of having nothing and being nothing, seeing nothing but a living Christ in glory, and being careful for nothing but His interests down here (J. N. Darby)
- E. **Jesus is the Perfecter of the faith:** Jesus is the Perfecter, the Finisher, and the Completer, of our faith—**Heb. 12:2**
 - The increase of the faith: We all have the same faith in quality, but the quantity of faith we have depends upon how much we contact the living God so that we may have Him increased in us—**Rom. 12:3**
 - The way to receive the 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—**Heb. 4:16; Rom. 10:12;**
- F. **He wants to bring us into the glory:** 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—**Heb 12:2**
 1. The elder son was glorified in resurrection: The Lord Jesus knew that through His death He would be glorified in resurrection and that His divine life would be released to produce many brothers for His expression—**John 12:23-24**
 2. Many sons run the race to get into glory: If we look away unto Him, He will transfuse us with all that He is, that we may be able to run the heavenly race, finish the lifelong pathway and enter into glory—**Rom. 8:29; Heb. 2:10**

TO RUN

I. Run with Endurance the Race Set before Us

[Heb 12:1] 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

A. There are Witnesses to be the Leading Cloud in the Church (Where)

[Num 9:17] And whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tent, then after that the children of Israel set out; and in the place where the cloud settled, there the children of Israel encamped.

- The cloud lead people to follow the Lord; with the people of faith, we can have the Lord's presence and His leading; the best way to seek the Lord's presence is to come to the church.

B. Run the Race Without the Encumbrance and Entangling to Win the Prize (Why)

[1 Cor 9:24] 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.

- The Christian life is a race; the prize is a reward in a special sense; an encumbrance is a burden; the entangling sin is the willingful sin of forsaking the assembling together, of giving up the new covenant way in God's economy.

C. Run the Race by the Love of God and the Endurance of Christ (How)

[2 Thes. 3:5] May ... to direct our hearts into the love of God and into the endurance of Christ

- Positively, we need to enjoy the love of God so that we can love Him back and live Him out. Negatively, we need to endure with the endurance of Christ to endure sufferings and withstand the enemy

LOOKING AWAY UNTO JESUS

II. Looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our Faith

[Heb 12:2 Looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter 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

A. Jesus is the Author of faith

- Jesus is the greatest attraction in the universe who attracts us to look away from all things other than Him [S S 1:4] Draw me; we will run after you

B. He enters into us to be our faith

- Our believing is our appreciation of Christ as a reaction to His attraction
[Rom 10:17] So faith comes out of hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

C. This faith is a substantiating ability:

- Give substance to, the things unseen or hoped for; assure us of the things not seen
[Heb 11:1] Now faith is the substantiation of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

D. This Faith is to believe that God is, I am not:

- To believe that He is everything to us and that we are nothing
[Heb 11:6] For he who comes forward to God must believe that He is...

E. Jesus is the Perfecter of the faith:

- The quality of faith the same, but the quantity depends upon how much we contact the living God so that we may have Him increased in us
[Rom 12:3] ...but to think so as to be sober-minded, as God has apportioned to each a measure of faith.

F. In order to bring us into the glory:

- If we look away unto Him, He will transfuse us with all that He is, that we may be able to run the heavenly race, finish the lifelong pathway and enter into glory
[2 Tim 4:7-8] ...I have finished the course...Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, with which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will recompense me in that day...
[Heb 2:10] For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in leading many sons into glory