

KESSID SERMON NOTES



Sermon

"The Gaze of the Soul"

Date

7-15-18

Speaker

Pastor Danny Clinton

We will be looking at AW Tozer's Book: "The Pursuit of God" (Chapter title: The Gaze of the Soul)

Deliverance and Delight

(Vs) Psalm 18:19 NKJV – "He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me."

Question: What is faith? How do I know that I have faith?

- Almost everyone who preaches or writes about the subject of faith seems to have much the same things to say concerning it...they tell us that...
 - Faith is believing a promise.
 - Faith is taking God at His word.
 - Faith is believing the Bible to be true and stepping out upon it.
- The rest of the explanation is usually taken up with stories of people who have had their prayers answered as a result of their faith. These answers are mostly direct gifts of a practical nature: Health, money, physical protection or success of some kind.

In the Scriptures, there is practically no effort made to define faith.

- Outside of a brief functional definition in *(Vs) Hebrews 11:1 – "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."* Here, faith is defined functionally, not philosophically.
- *This is a statement of what faith is in operation, not what it is in essence.*
- We are told from where it comes and by what means: *(Vs) Rom 10:17 – "Faith is a gift of God," and "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."*

In a story in the Book of Numbers, faith is illustrated for us...

- Israel became discouraged and spoke against God, and the Lord sent fiery serpents among them.

(Vs) Num. 21:4-9 – "... And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵ And the people spoke against God and against Moses."

In the New Testament, this important bit of history is interpreted for us by no less an authority than our Lord Jesus Christ Himself

- He is explaining to His hearers how they may be saved. He tells them that it is by believing. Then to make it clear, He refers to this incident in the Book of Numbers.

(Vs) John 3:14-15 – "No one has ascended into Heaven except He who descended from Heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life."

- Notice: That for Jesus "look" and "believe" were synonymous terms.
- "Looking" on the Old Testament serpent is identical with "believing" on the New Testament Christ.
- We are supposed to understand that while Israel looked with their external eyes, believing is done with the heart.
- Jesus is saying, "Faith is the gaze of a soul upon a saving God."
- To confirm this, think about passages we have read elsewhere...

(Vs) Psalms 34:5 – "Those who look to Him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed."

(Vs) Psalms 123:1-2 – "To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maidservant to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, till he has mercy upon us."

(Vs) Matt. 14:19 – "Then He ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then He broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds."

Indeed: "Jesus taught His power lay in His continuous look at God"

(Vs) John 5:19-21 – So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of His own accord, but only what He sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all that He Himself is doing. And greater works than these will He show Him, so that you may marvel. For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom He will."

It is summed up for us in the Hebrew epistle when we are instructed to run life's race...

(Vs) Heb. 12:1-3 – Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

From all this we learn that faith is not a once and done act, but a continuous "Gaze of the heart."

- In this way... Faith looks out instead of in and the whole life falls into line.

Thought: "Now, if faith is the gaze of the heart at God, and if this gaze is but the raising of the inward eyes to meet the all-seeing eyes of God, then it follows that it is one of the easiest things possible to do." – A.W. Tozer

First – Since believing is looking it can be done by anyone.

- It would be like God to make the most vital thing easy and place it within the range of possibility for the weakest and poorest of us.
- God has seen to it that the "one life-and-death essential" can never be subject to breaking or tampering.

Equipment can break down or get lost, water can leak away, records can be destroyed by fire, the minister can be delayed, or the church burn down. All these are external to the soul and are subject to accident or mechanical failure: but looking is of the heart and can be done successfully by any man standing up or kneeling down or lying in his last agony a thousand miles from any church."

Second - Since believing is looking it can be done any time.

- No season is superior to another season for this sweetest of all acts. God never made salvation depend upon new moons nor holy days or sabbaths.
- A man is not nearer to Christ on Easter Sunday than he is any other day.
- As long as Christ sits on the throne every day is a good day and all days are days of salvation.

Now think about us as a Church of Worshipers...

"Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow... The body becomes stronger as its members become healthier. The whole Church of God gains when the members that compose it begin to seek a better and a higher life."