

LOOKING UNTO JESUS

Hebrews 12:2: Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith; Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the Cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right Hand of the Throne of God.

The Book of Hebrews naturally divides itself into three divisions. It is represented by three special names and titles given to our Lord.



The first is: [Jesus — The Apostle of our Profession.](#)

In this capacity, Jesus comes down to us from God, revealing to us His Will, and making known to us His plan of mercy and the way of our return to His favor and fellowship.

It follows the opening verse of the epistle – “*God has spoken to us by His Son.*”

Hebrews 1:1-2:

¹ God, Who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the Prophets,

² Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, Whom He hath appointed Heir of all things, by Whom also He made the worlds;

Jesus is the Revealer of God, and His Gospel is the final Word from Heaven to man.

The next relates to: [Jesus — Our Great High Priest.](#)

This occupies the central portion of the Epistle down to the 10th chapter. In this we see Jesus turning back from man to God. He is operating a way and opening a door for man through His Atoning Blood and His priestly intercession before the Throne, referring to this in the 10th chapter:



Hebrews 10:19-22:

¹⁹ Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the Holiest by the Blood of Jesus,

20 By a new and living way, which He hath consecrated for us, through the Veil, that is to say, His flesh;

21 And having an High Priest over the House of God;

22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of Faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

In the last four chapters, we see Jesus under another figure and character, as the [Author and Finisher of our Faith.](#)

He has come down from Heaven and revealed the Will of God. He has gone back to Heaven with His finished work and Precious Blood, and opened a way for us to return to God. We are not left to find that way alone. We must have a Guide and Pioneer — a Captain to point the way and lead us safely through.



So, Jesus comes back again, the second time, to take us by the hand and conduct us one by one along the Pilgrim's Pathway to the Celestial City and to our Heavenly Father's house.

Matthew 28:20: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

John 10:27-28:



27 My Sheep hear My Voice, and I know them, and they follow Me:

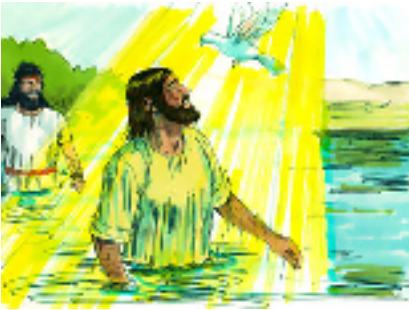
28 And I give unto them Eternal Life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand.

This is the figure to which our text calls attention in its beautiful appeal.

Now let us look first at the character in which the Lord Jesus is here represented, and then at our attitude toward Him.

JESUS IS THE AUTHOR

This implies several precious truths. He is the ideal man Whom God perfected after waiting ages, and through all the generations of man's failure, until at last He could look down upon the Son of Man and say: *"This is My Son, in Whom I am well pleased"*.



Matthew 3:16-17:

16 *And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him:*

17 *and lo a voice from Heaven, saying, "This is My Beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased."*

After this pattern, God is now making all other men. There are but two races of men on the earth. The race of Adam, and the race of Christ.

Christians are born-again of the second Adam (Christ), and are now being made and conformed to His Image and likeness. He has gone before us at every step of the way. He has fought the battles we must fight. He has won the victories we must win over the devil, the world, and the flesh.

We now *"ought to walk, even as He walked Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth."*

2 Corinthians 5:21: *For He hath made Him to be sin for us, Who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.*

1 John 2:6: *He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked.*

1 Peter 2:21-22:

21 *For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps:*

22 *Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth:*



He points us to follow in His shining footprints, and calls to us from Heaven and says, *"Follow Me"*.

John 12:26: If any man serve Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall also My servant be: if any man serve Me, him will My Father honour.

Jesus is our Leader. Other men may cause us to miss the mark. Therefore the instruction — “Looking unto Jesus”.

Hebrews 12:2: Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith; Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the Cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right Hand of the Throne of God.



Adam and Eve sold out to the devil and so entered his family, which is diametrically opposed to the Jesus way, for God stated this so in the Book of Genesis:

Genesis 3:15: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her Seed [Jesus Christ]; It shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His Heel.

All mankind is the seed of the man; but Christ is the Seed of the Woman by conception of the Holy Spirit. When, therefore, we are born again, He puts His Own Spirit in us. He breathes His Own Life into our being. He not only tells us what we ought to do, but **He becomes the living reality of what we ought to be with His Spirit within us.**

He, Jesus, is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. Everything we need and are is in Jesus. Therefore, looking (that means *continuing on, never ending*) unto Jesus.



The Epistle of Hebrews gives Faith as the essential quality of the Christian life. Everything here depends upon our Faith. The heroes and victors of the past were all men of mighty Faith in Him. We are to be followers of them who, thru Faith and patience, inherit the Promises.

“The just shall live by Faith.” Jesus’ life on earth was a life of Faith.

Habakkuk 2:4: Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his Faith.

Romans 1:17: For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by Faith.

Galatians 3:11: But that no man is justified by the Law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by Faith.

Hebrews 10:38: Now the just shall live by Faith: but if any man draw back, My soul shall have no pleasure in him.

“I can of My Own Self do nothing, but as I see My Father do those things I do likewise. I can of Mine Own Self do nothing.”

John 5:30: I can of Mine Own Self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and My Judgment is just; because I seek not Mine Own Will, but the Will of the Father Who hath sent Me.

Jesus now revises to us: *“Without Me ye can do nothing.”*



John 15:5: I am the Vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing.

We have no power over the assaults of the devil without Him. Paul said, *“When I am weak, then am I strong, for His strength is made perfect in weakness. Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His MIGHT.”*

2 Corinthians 12:10: Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

2 Corinthians 12:9: And He said unto me, "My Grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness.' Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the Power of Christ may rest upon me."

Ephesians 6:10: Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.

Jesus is more than an example of faith. He is our very Faith. He is not the Author and Finisher of our Faith only — but **He IS our Faith.**

Galatians 2:20: I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the Faith of the Son of God, Who loved me, and gave Himself for me.

Ephesians 3:12: *In Whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the Faith of Him.*

Philippians 3:9: *And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the Law, but that which is through the Faith of Christ, the Righteousness which is of God by Faith:*

James 2:1: *My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of Glory, with respect of persons.*

JESUS IS THE FINISHER

Jesus does not leave the new-born children of God stillborn, or dwarfed, or incomplete, but carries on to perfection all that He begins.

The Lord Jesus is a Finisher – a finishing carpenter on the building of God, the Temples of the Holy Spirit. Many carpenters do the rough work, but the more skill is in Him who finishes, and this is Jesus.



Many times we have been stirred at the call of some inspiration, and then we fizzle out. Some fresh new excitement may put ambitions to a good purpose, but most things we start, we never finish. Things always come to an end down here on earth, and often to disappointment. But there is no end and no disappointment in looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our Faith.

Philippians 1:6: *Being confident of this very thing, that He Who hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the Day of Jesus Christ:*

He does not give up, nor get discouraged in His work on us.

Jude 24: *Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the Presence of His Glory with exceeding joy,*

Ephesians 5:25-27:

²⁵ *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it;*

²⁶ *That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word,*

²⁷ *That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having*

spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Romans 8:29: For Whom He [God] did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the Image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brethren.

2 Peter 1:2-4:

² Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

³ According as His [Jesus] Divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

⁴ Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious Promises: that by these [notice the purpose] ye might be partakers of the Divine Nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Are you marring His work in you? Are you hindering Him from making you complete in Himself?

Colossians 2:10: And ye are complete in Him, Which is the Head of all principality and power:

In Conclusion:

What is to be our attitude toward Jesus, the AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH? Looking unto Jesus literally means – *looking to with prolonged gaze. Not a glance, but a gaze.*



“Look unto Me and be ye saved” is the glance . . .

Isaiah 45:22: Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.

. . . but “Beholding in a glass the glory of the Lord we are changed from Glory to Glory even as by the Spirit of our God” is the gaze. Not a glance, but a gaze. The gaze will make us look like Him, which is the full purpose of God toward us as His children.

2 Corinthians 3:18: But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the Glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

The language expresses a spirit of constant dependence. It is not a life of self-centered and self-constituted strength, but a life that draws its supply from Jesus.

“If ye abide in Me . . .

John 15:7: If ye abide in Me, and My Words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

The Word *abide* denotes reliance upon Him and utter dependence upon the Vine, given up to the Vine. The Vine alone provides the life that sustains the branch, which we are.



This world with all its show and pomp will hypnotize you and separate you from the spirit of communion, or will blur the vision of Jesus.

The devil has used it to chloroform many from a close spiritual life. Remember, therefore, that the things which are seen are temporal, but the unseen are eternal.

Let us look, unobstructed, to Jesus.

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