

THE HEAVEN-SENT LADDER

Jacob dreamed, and behold a ladder set upon the earth, and the top of it REACHED TO HEAVEN: And behold, the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

Genesis 28:12: And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to Heaven: And behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

And Jesus said to Nathanael:

John 1:51: And He saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see Heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.

God is unfolding one of the great mysteries of the Bible to one of His choice servants by the name of Jacob. The story begins way back in the Book of Genesis with a man who is fleeing for his life. On his first day, Jacob began his travels toward Syria from the City of Beersheba, a distance of 40 miles. He comes to a place which later would be known as Bethel and lodged in the open for the night. He feels like one who has been



deserted, forsaken and thrown away. It is the very first time he has ever been far from home. At the end of the day, he falls to the ground exhausted. Then, crawling over to a stone, he converts it into a pillow and lays down to rest for the night. His heart is heavy, and it is hard to turn off all the thoughts that are racing through his mind. But the Lord gives His beloved sleep as the Word teaches, and before long, he is fast asleep. This is the man we read of in ***Malachi***

1:2. "Jacob have I loved", said the Lord. God

comes to him this very first night and lifts his heavy-burdened heart with a most wonderful dream.

Malachi 1:2: I have loved you [Jacob], saith the LORD. Yet ye say, Wherein hast Thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the LORD. Yet I loved Jacob.

He sees a great giant-like LADDER and it descends to the earth and reaches up into the sky to the very Throne of God. He beholds angels walking up and down on this ladder. As his eyes sweep upwards, it is a sight for sore eyes: The Person of the Lord

of Hosts standing at the top end of this Heaven-sent staircase. As though this was not enough to cheer him up, the Lord began speaking to Jacob like he is really someone of importance.

Genesis 28:15: And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.

Genesis 28:13-14:

¹³And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;

¹⁴ And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

Surely God is a good God and His mercies are toward them that seek Him. The Lord could not have shown Jacob or spoken to him at a more opportune time. He felt like a castaway and forsaken by God and man. The Lord took knowledge of him in all his distress and spoke words that seemed too good to be true. Before Jacob left home, with all his heart he wanted and sought for the spiritual blessings of the Lord and of his forefathers. It now looked as though he had lost everything and had to run for it to save his very life. However, the One, whose blessings are far greater than Jacob's father, appeared to him and prophesied blessings on him. These blessings were much finer than any he had heard before.

Surely God is a good God and His mercies are toward them that seek Him.

The Bible reads:

Proverbs 10:22: The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and He addeth no sorrow with it.

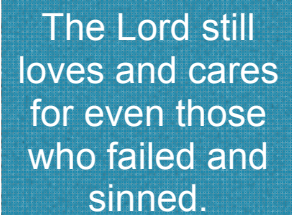
Jacob can hardly believe his ears. The Lord has blessed him above all he could ask or think.

It would be well for the critics of Jacob to pay a little more attention to God's handling of Jacob. There are some preachers and Bible teachers who have spoken and written some very unkind things about this man of God. I remember several of their statements: "Jacob was the founder of the modern bargain counter"; "Jacob completely justified his name"; and "the first recorded utterance of Jacob: Sell me thy birthright". There we see the commercial instinct developed in Jacob to getting and grabbing.

These same critics have the nerve to try to cover up their attacks and sneak out with these soft words. "It is not our intention to insult anyone; no less injure Abraham's grandson. If we are wrong, our apologies gladly will be given when we meet in the glory of heaven." This is a nice way out, but it will be too late for their atonement. It is this very Saint of God (Jacob) that the Lord tells the whole world about, saying:

Malachi 1:2: I have loved you [Jacob], saith the LORD. Yet ye say Wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the LORD: yet I loved Jacob.

The Lord still loves and cares for even those who failed and sinned. He will not cast off nor reject, for He looks at the heart and not the outward appearance. God took the time when Jacob felt less than the least and gave him the most encouraging uplift. Jacob awakens out of his sleep and cries out, ***How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the HOUSE OF GOD AND THE GATE TO HEAVEN. Genesis 28:17***



The Lord still loves and cares for even those who failed and sinned.

Like the light scatters the darkness, so the presence of the Lord scatters the blues from Jacob's heart. His spirit is revived for now. He feels like a new man. He is now made rich with the promises of God and God's wonderful prophesies over his future posterity.

Out of his thankfulness to the Lord for being so good to him, Jacob promised the Lord, in effect: "I am going to build for Thee a House of Worship on this very spot where I made that stone my pillow. Then too, Lord, I want to be the first one to place tithes into this New Church."

Jacob sets in motion what should be in the heart of every believer. The Lord has done so much for us who were poor, lost and hopeless sinners. He enriched us with all the spiritual blessings of Heavenly places and in Christ. Out of love and gratitude, we should want to support His Work with faithful Christian stewardship. When we are truly right with the Lord, we are more than willing to reverence His sanctuary, and help keep the doors open. **Jacob promises to build this House of Worship on the very sight where the Heavenly LADDER came down to the earth. He recognizes that the Church has a connecting link with the Way to Heaven, with the LADDER sent from God.**

He watches the angels of God coming down this ladder from Heaven. **The Bible tells us that the angels are ministering spirits sent unto us, who shall be the heirs of salvation.**

Hebrews 1:14: Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

With messages from the Lord to His people. They go back up to report their effect on those who hear, and receive further instructions on what to do. The truth of this is found in:

Acts 7:53: Who have received the Law by the disposition of angels and have not kept it. [as said by Stephen]

We are warned in:

Hebrews 13:2: Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Since we are taught in the Word of the Lord, that angels are like unto people, we should read between the lines and get the message the Lord was trying to illustrate to Jacob. If angels can come down this Ladder safely from Heaven, and then return to the Glory World (Heaven) without a mishap, why not rely on it for ourselves? This is God's tested and proved stairway, and a sure way to travel.

Now, this leads me to the point of why Jesus said what He did to Nathanael. Here, in the *Gospel of John*, is the first time reference is made to that memorable night in Jacob's life, when he saw the Heaven-sent LADDER.



Jesus gives us the full meaning to that dream. Pay close attention to what Jesus is saying in:

John 1:51: And He saith unto him, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see Heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man".

Hereafter means from this time forth, or from this point on (Ellicott's Commentary) ye shall see HEAVEN OPEN, and that is good news to any person seeking the Lord. It tells us that Heaven's Door

must have been closed to mankind for their sins and breaking God's Laws and Commandments.

This is what happened to Adam and Eve in the Garden when they did evil in the sight of the Lord. The Way to the Tree of Life was shut up tight. They lost out with God and could not come and eat of the Glorious Tree. Paradise was then removed to Heaven above, and man could no longer enjoy that close fellowship with God. When Jacob saw this Great LADDER reaching from earth to Heaven, and Jesus' standing at the very top, he knew God was showing him the way provided for sinners to come back to God. A connecting link has been made possible and the Lord himself has provided it.

Jesus is telling us:

John 10:9: "I am the Door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be Saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.



If any man climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber. So, you can see this LADDER is to be climbed on. It is just what Jesus has told us here. **There are those who are trying to make it into Heaven by-passing Him, but this will never work.**

John 14:6: Jesus saith unto him, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me".

God wants you to come to Heaven, and He has spanned the great gulf that separated us from Him. This great Giant Bridge (LADDER) uniting earth and Heaven is Jesus. HEAVEN IS OPEN to those who come through Jesus Christ and his sin cleansing blood. Jesus is the answer to the prayers of:

Psalms 144:5: Bow Thy Heavens, O LORD, and come down: touch the mountains, and they shall smoke.

Isaiah prayed:

Isaiah 64:1: Oh that Thou wouldest rend the Heavens, that Thou wouldest come down, that the mountains might flow down at Thy Presence

Their prayers are answered in Jesus, He is called Emmanuel, which interpreted is: God with us.

John 1:1:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14: And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His Glory, the Glory as of the Only Begotten of the Father), full of Grace and Truth.

Paul said:

Hebrews 2:16: For verily He took not on Him the nature of angels; but He took on Him the seed of Abraham.

This is the very fact that the Lord promised to Jacob that is HIS SEED all the families of the earth would be blessed. How did the Lord accomplish this? He did it with the Person, who is the world's Redeemer and Sin Bearer, coming through the family of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Jesus is the answer to our question, "How can I find God"? The Bible reads:

1 Timothy 2:5-6:

⁵ For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus;

⁶ Who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.



Mediator means a go-between or a needed connecting link, to bridge the wide gap between us and Heaven.

Listen closely to what Jesus is saying:

John 1:51: And He saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see Heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.

These very angels that Jacob saw as they were climbing up and down the great



LADDER, Jesus now tells us that the angels are climbing up and down upon HIMSELF. Do you get what He means? Jesus is telling us very simply and plainly: I AM THAT HEAVENLY LADDER that God has sent for you, so you can make the journey from earth to Heaven. Angels are ascending and descending upon Me and they make it fine, and if they can, so can you.

There are many figures used in the Bible to show us what Jesus is like and they describe Jesus as THE VINE; THE DOOR; THE WAY; THE GOOD SHEPHERD; THE BREAD OF LIFE; WATER OF LIFE; THE BRIDEGROOM. The Lord Jesus is revealing Himself in an entirely new light which is the most thrilling of them all, as far as figures and types are concerned. Nathanael, like Jacob, has just received spiritual eyesight and blindness is removed from his soul. Nathanael understands clearly that Jesus is the One and Only LADDER (or way to Heaven). Jesus is the dream of Jacob's come true. He is the One who has come to unite two worlds together, Heaven and earth. He has come to reconcile us back to God and restore the lost Paradise.

Jesus shows this mystery to Nathanael first by saying: "Verily, verily". Jesus uses this word in pairs in the *Gospel of John* about 25 times. However, in the *Gospel of Matthew*, the *Gospel of Mark*, and the *Gospel of Luke*, Jesus says "Verily" singularly, never twice at a time. It is a great discovery to find that such pairs of the same words are important because great truth is being stressed or being called to attention.

Jesus says: "***You shall see greater things than these***". What could be greater than the miracle of opening blind eyes, stopping devils from destroying peoples' souls, opening deaf ears, raising the dead, or walking on water? Also, creating money in the mouth of a fish to pay Peter and His taxes, stilling the storm, cleansing the lepers? The greatest miracle is THE LADDER SENT DOWN FROM HEAVEN.

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John 1:50: Jesus answered and said unto him,

“Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? Thou shalt see greater things than these”.

What is a Ladder composed of? It is a connecting link of step upon step that leads upward. A ladder is made for people to climb up and reach the unreachable. Do you know the steps to Heaven? Christ has marked out the steps for us very clearly.

1 Peter 2:21: For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps.

John 8:12: Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the Light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the Light of Life.

Jesus did not just tell us how to go; He will lead the way. We will never go astray for He said:



***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.

How do you climb a LADDER? The way is to take one step at a time. The way to Heaven is to follow Jesus one step at a time. We have His example. We are to follow in His steps.

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.

Going step by step means we are carefully taking the God-made plan of salvation, just like the Lord laid it down in the Word of God. Take notice of these steps that Jesus made plain to us in His Holy Word.

1) The first step up this ladder is inscribed: REPENTANCE.

Jesus said:

Luke 13:5: I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Matthew 9:13: But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Mark 1:15: And saying the time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the Gospel.

Luke 15:7: I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in Heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

Luke 24:47: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His Name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

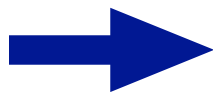
The Apostles preached the same way:

Acts 2:38: Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 3:19: Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the Presence of the Lord.

Acts 17:30: And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent.

Acts 20:21: Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and Faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.



Carefully notice that the repentance we are supposed to do is to ask God for His forgiveness for breaking His laws and commandments.

2) Then, we come to the second step in this JESUS LADDER which is FAITH (Belief). It is included in the verse shown above (*repentance toward God, and Faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ*). Have FAITH toward our Lord Jesus Christ. Believing and accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Savior is the only way to get to Heaven. Another verse explaining this FAITH, (the supreme test of all Scripture is):

John 3:16: For God so loved the world, that He gave His Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have Everlasting Life.

Everything depends on what you do with Jesus Christ. He is the only door to the Heavenly City, as we are told in:

John 10:9: I am the Door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be Saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

This tells me that Jesus, whom Jacob saw at the top of the LADDER that reached to Heaven, cannot be by-passed in order to get into God's Heavenly and Eternal Home.

There is climbing to do, but it will always have to be on the one and only stairway: Jesus Christ Himself. Here is what Jesus says in the Scripture :

John 10:1: Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that entereth not by the Door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

This tells me that Jesus, whom Jacob saw at the top of the LADDER that reached to Heaven, cannot be by-passed in order to get into God's Heavenly and Eternal Home.

When the apostle Paul answered a lost soul's question on "What must I do to be saved?" he answered with these words: "***Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be Saved.***" It is life by believing. That is it, simply and plainly. Not by works, or joining anything as so many tell you to do today.

John 3:36: He that believeth on the Son hath Everlasting Life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

3) The third step on the spiritual mystery LADDER to Heaven is RECEIVING the Lord Jesus Christ into your heart to be your only Savior.

John 1:12: But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name.

In these next two verses, Jesus said:

Mark 9:37: Whosoever shall receive one of such children in My Name, receiveth Me: and whosoever shall receive Me, receiveth not Me, but Him Who sent Me.

John 5:43-44:

43 I am come in My Father's Name, and ye receive Me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.

44 How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?



There is no hope of eternal happiness apart from receiving Jesus into your heart, just like it reads in:

Revelations 3:20: Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I WILL COME IN to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

This 'coming in' of Jesus gives you eternal life.

1 John 5:12: He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

4) The fourth step to know you are reaching in the right direction is to recognize we must CONVERT to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Matthew 18:3: And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

This is the same truth as being born again. No one can enter the Kingdom of Heaven without taking this step of being converted. This means changed on the inside into a

new creature in Christ, where old things are passed away and behold, all things become new.

There is no way to enter into Heaven in our natural state for we are sinful, lost, separated from God and are no more fit for Heaven than a pig is for a parlor. We had to be born by a physical birth to enter into the world, and we must be born again, Jesus said, to enter into the Kingdom of God. There is no other way for us to enter into this physical world but by a birth; in the same manner, there is no way into the Christian life except by experiencing the spiritual birth.

John 3:7: Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

We can be born of the Spirit, like Jesus said, by yielding our hearts over to the Spirit of God who comes to convict us of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment to come.

John 16:8: And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

We can be born of the Spirit, like Jesus said, by yielding our hearts over to the Spirit of God who comes to convict us of sin, of righteousness and of judgment to come.

He produces a sense of the shamefulfulness of our sins and helps produce a sorrow for our past wrong doings. He helps us to make up our minds to turn from our sins, confess them, and then He helps us to believe and receive Christ as our only Lord and Savior. Then, Jesus, by the Spirit, comes in and indwells our heart and now we know we are saved.

I know there are many deceivers in the world who will try to steer you away from the Jesus LADDER. They are saying today that there are many roads leading to Rome, so there are many ways that lead to Heaven. Yet, I would rather believe Jesus who said,

John 14:6: I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by Me.



Jesus is God's only appointed and authorized Way to Heaven. If you want to go, the sure and tried one way is the Jesus way. There is no other way.

5) The fifth step up the LADDER to Heaven is WATER BAPTISM. Jesus said:

Matthew 3:15: And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

Think of it! Jesus is being baptized? Yes, even though He never sinned, He is baptized and tells us why: To fulfill all righteousness. Jesus commands us to be baptized and to preach and teach it to others.

Matthew 28:19-20:

¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

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.

Mark 16:15-16:

¹⁵ And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

¹⁶ He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.



Jesus said to Nicodemus, “Except a man be born of the water and of the Spirit, he cannot see the Kingdom of God”.

John 3:5: Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Jesus told the Pharisees that God had given Him a commandment on what He should say and speak.

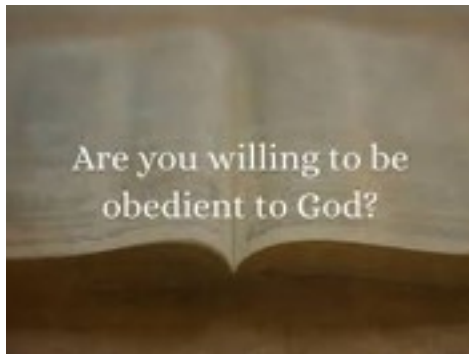
John 12:49: For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.

What is the purpose of baptism? It is a burial service identifying us with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. Only those who truly have been born again, who have died to sin that is buried in the watery grave, and who testify to the world that they have died to the old life and rise to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus, are to be baptized.

The apostles commanded all their converts to be baptized. Peter said, “*Repent and be baptized, every one of you in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost*”.

Acts 2:38: Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

6) The sixth step on the spiritual LADDER to Heaven is OBEDIENCE TO THE WORD OF GOD. Jesus said:



Matthew 7:24-26:

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

²⁵ And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

²⁶ And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand.

Matthew 12:50: For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

John 15:10: If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

James 1:22-24:

²² But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

²³ For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

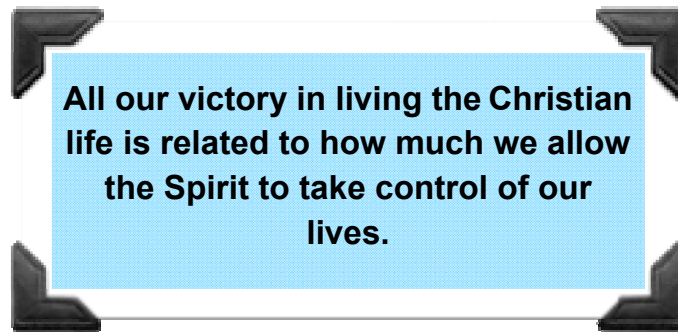
²⁴ For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

Revelation 22:14: Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

7) **The seventh step up the Spiritual LADDER to Heaven is OBEDIENCE TO THE HOLY SPIRIT.** The Holy Spirit is given to those that obey Him.

Romans 8:14: For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Galatians 5:18: But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.



All our victory in living the Christian life is related to how much we allow the Spirit to take control of our lives. The greatest joys in our service for Christ, in our praying, studying the Word, and witnessing, come when the Spirit is leading. We are commanded to be filled with the Spirit in:

Ephesians 5:18: And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.

He is the secret to our success in living the overcoming life for He gives power over the world, the flesh, and the devil, for these foes are our worst arch enemies to living for Jesus.

ADVICE TO ALL CLIMBERS ON THE JESUS LADDER

1. **Don't look back or down or you will get dizzy. Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, is what the Word admonished us to do.**

Hebrews 12:1: Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.

Luke 9:62: And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

Hebrews 10:38-39:

³⁸ Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draws back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

³⁹ But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

2. Lay firm hold with both hands on your Lord. As Paul said:

1 Timothy 6:12: Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

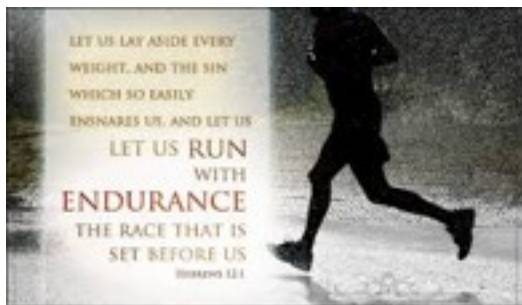
Hebrews 6:18-20:

¹⁸ That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

¹⁹ Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

²⁰ Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

3. Keep going. Run the race which is set before you with patience, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.



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.

John 8:12: Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Philippians 3:14: I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

4. Always remember that we are justified by faith and not by works of righteousness which we have done. Justified simply means to be declared righteous, counted by God as though we have never sinned. The whole record of our past guilt and sinfulness is cleared and cleansed away by the blood of Jesus. This is more than a pardon, for we are not pardoned criminals. We are made righteous by Jesus, and clothed in the righteousness of Jesus, our Lord.

The whole record of our past guilt and sinfulness is cleared and cleansed away by the blood of Jesus.

Jesus is the Heaven-sent proof of God's capacity to forgive and cleanse us for His Name's sake. When Jesus came to take our place and bear our punishment, He cleared us of all the Judgment Sentences. Even our dictionaries have tried to describe and define the meaning of this great act of God in JUSTIFYING THE UNGODLY. We are set free from the power and shackle of sin and satan through Jesus Christ the Lord.

We are, by nature, all sinners, and all are condemned before the Bar of God's Justice. We deserve nothing but judgment. All of us are in the same boat; the pot can't call the kettle black. God, in His great love and mercy, loved us so much that He provided His own Son to be our redeemer and savior to bring us back to Him. If we try to reach God, apart from the Lord Jesus, we are just wasting our time.

All human efforts, apart from the Heaven-sent LADDER, which is Jesus, are doomed to failure and disappointment. Jacob found out the love of God on that night of all nights.



He cried out, "Oh, how dreadful is this place"? It was the House of God and the Gate to Heaven, what was so awful about it?

No one really knows how bad they are until they come into the presence of the Lord. Even Isaiah, the great prophet of Israel, (when he saw a glimpse of the Lord on His Throne), cried out, "Woe is me for I am undone and a man of unclean lips for mine eyes have seen the Lord of Hosts".

We will feel deeply troubled, unclean, undone, or downright awful when we come to church where the Lord is in real presence. This is the way anyone who has sinned should feel coming into the presence of a Holy God. We have broken His laws, trespassed on His commandment and we would never see our need of being saved and cleansed from our unrighteousness without His conviction. God would not allow us

to feel good in His House when we have been living badly. Jacob's conscience began to bother him and he cried out to the Lord.

Romans 3:10: As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.

Romans 3:23: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

We will know how merciful and good God is when we come to Him humbly and ask for forgiveness and pardon. For Jesus came to seek and to save those who were lost.

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Jacob reasoned that no one cared for his soul, or would take pity on him. He felt no one cared if he lived or died, sank or swam. God showed him that He takes knowledge of our state of affairs and came to his location. Jacob said, *"God is in this place and I knew it not"*.

God loves us too, and He knows the load we are carrying. Jacob had a lot of good in him, but all was spoiled by the sin in his heart. And the only answer we need is in Christ.

If we take the Bible as our guide, and search deeply into this experience of Jacob's, we will find the complete fulfillment of our hearts' deepest longing for peace, joy, and hope of Life Eternal. Jesus is the bridge that closes the gap between us and God. Even now, He waits to be our Mediator and Savior.

John 14:6: Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

You can get to God right now, through this miracle LADDER: Jesus is that LADDER. He awaits your calling and coming.

Matthew 11:28: Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavily laden, and I will give you rest.

Romans 10:13: For whosoever shall call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved.

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