

L E C T U R E

"LOOK NOW TOWARD HEAVEN"

-by-

MR. CHARLES FILLMORE

-at-

U N I T Y A U D I T O R I U M

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It is necessary that we train ourselves, that is, our minds, to a conscious faith in our ideals. We are confronted by two realms - the mental and the physical. One seems to us very real; the other, unreal; but we are told, "Judge not according to appearances". This that seems real, upon thorough investigation, is found to be unreal, and that which seems so unreal, is found to be the real.

Paul says, the things which appear are made from the things which do not appear; that is, the manifest world comes from the unmanifest; but the mind must be made to look upon that unmanifest until it realizes that there is the real Source; that those ideas which seem so unreal, are, in reality, real. That word, "real" is a good word.

Now, we will take, as our prayer and affirmation, this statement: "I believe in the reality and power of my ideals. I believe in the reality and power of my ideals". Make that your strong affirmation. Enter into it, and see if you don't get a consciousness of greater mental and spiritual power: "I believe in the reality and power of my ideals". Let everybody enter into that prayer.

(S i l e n c e).

Remember that Abram represents Faith. When you read the name "Abram", think of your own growing, expanding Faith. Abram is Faith in its abstract, before you get the manifestation, before you see any of the visible effects, while Abraham is the Faith of the multitude. "Abram" means exalted Faith, the Absolute One, but "Abraham", after the name is changed, is that Faith

in its activity. You begin to get the fruits of your exalted Faith
in the visible manifestation.

(Responsive Reading).

Christian people have been taught that Abraham received from God certain promises; that God made a covenant or contract with him. Paul especially calls our attention to the fulfillment in Christ of the promises made to Abraham.

It has been a little difficult for people who do not enter into what is called the Christian's faith, believe in the Scripture, and asking a more practical, reasonable explanation of things - I say, it has been a little difficult for that class of mind to accept fully all that is taught by Paul and the Scriptures; but a fuller and broader understanding of the meaning of these Scriptures, that they are allegorical, that they refer to the activities of Spirit, Mind, in every man, we begin to act upon what seems to us a real condition in every Christian man and woman. I mean by the

term "Christian", those who believe in the doctrine and enter the way of Jesus Christ.

Abraham is in every man and every woman who has cultivated that absolute unquestioning Faith in God. When you have made a covenant with the Great Omnipresent one; when you have, in the secret of your own soul, agreed to follow the leading of the Spirit, there is a setting up of the tabernacle in you of the Abraham Mind. You have entered into that Father or Faith state of consciousness.

Now, the word "Father" and the word "Faith" are closely related in the Hebrew. Abraham, in his original inception in the mind is Faith in the absolute sense. Then, when that Faith becomes more active in you; when you can, without relation to reason or

logic, get the result of your Faith and see it as others may not discern it, then you change your attitude; you become Faith expansive, faith active, faith tangible. Then your name is Abraham. You begin to set free these back conditions which had surrounded you, to work in the environment.

It is sometimes said that Abraham Lincoln was well named; that he was Divinely named, because he set free, through the stroke of his pen, millions of people.

So man, in his own inner consciousness can, through the word of Faith, if he places that Faith in the right place - that is, in the right mental attitude; if he holds his Faith in the High Absolute - he can set free all of the conditions that bind him; he can become one with the Great Universal. And this is the special

teaching of this lesson. That is what Paul meant when he referred to Abraham as the "One who fulfilled the God Idea".

Now, the greatest promise that God made to Abraham was that "his seed should be blessed in all mankind"; that mankind should reap the reward of his fealty, his believing in the Invisible. You will find it a difficult matter, when you begin this process of mentally holding to the intangible and unreal, apparently, as real. Why, some people think that it is foolishness; that we are a deluded people; that we are being led off by the vagaries of an imagination, when we talk about the power of ideals; when we believe that God is here present, as a real active force in our lives. The average mind won't accept that. Why? Because all cultivation of man; all his work is in the realm of matter. He be-

comes a fixture in the furniture of the universe, instead of in the mind of the Maker.

So, you can see that we have to change our whole view-point. There must be a complete reversal. We separate ourselves from Lot, the sense consciousness. It is content to go down into Sodom and Gomorrah, which means mere sensuality. But the Faith, the Abraham man, the man of God, rises superior to all this. He is told by that exalted consciousness that is innate in man, to look up toward heaven. Now, that seems a very simple admonition, "to look up toward heaven", but how many of us look up toward heaven? even in its outward expression? How many of you study the heavens? It is said that Astronomers grow large in their minds through studying the wonderful wonders of the heavens. This, then,

is used as an example by this Scripture writer, of that expansive mind in man which is the result of looking up, looking toward heaven.

Where is heaven? Why, it is the free, unlimited consciousness in every man. It is that which gives you the presence of an idea in its every side, in all of its attributes, in all of its largeness, its breadth, its thickness, its depth. You can't limit the great expanse of heaven. No man has ever counted the stars, and they are all striving to get telescopes that will reveal more and more of the multitudes of planets, the multitude of stars which are disclosed in the study of the heavens.

Well now, these ideas that cluster about man in his spiritual consciousness, are compared to the multitude of stars. The

one who believes in the power of the Invisible, the potentiality of ideas, the necessary aliveness and strength and goodness of this Invisible realm, that one begins to express and throw into his mind a great starry firmament. He becomes the fulfillment of God's idea in the expansion of his mind, his intellect - even his body. But, in the beginning, as I say, we have periods of darkness.

Abraham was told that the race would go down into darkness for four hundred years. Well, historically that is compared to the four hundred and thirty years of captivity in Babylon of the Jewish race. But it has a closer meaning, and that is, to every one of us there are periods of darkness. We can't always see the way; we can't see how these ideas that we lay hold of with our minds are going to work out in our environment. We have Faith that in some

way God will bring it about, but the way is not made clear. Now, this is represented as a period of darkness. But while you are in that darkness, remember that the light of heaven shines about you; that God's promises can not fail; and when you understand the relation of the idea to its manifestation; when you have studied mental Science, and you know that every idea that enters your mind works itself out, be sure to fruit, why, you can see why these promises are made; you can see why the whole human family are blessed; why all of your family and all of your thoughts; all of your cells that enter, we will say, into the most physical part of your organism, are blessed, are increased, are lifted up, through the high ideals that you hold.

Then, isn't this a practical lesson? Doesn't it give

us a certain surety of the fulfillment of our high aspirations? Now, when you link yourself with the Divine Mind, and believe in the power of that Mind to manifest in you, you are beginning the Faith way, and, in due season, you will get the understanding.

The Christian people, up to the past few years, have really been in this way of believing with the understanding, because the law of the mind, in its development, has been darkness to them. They have lived, and yet believed and worked in a certain light, but that light has not been steady, because the mind has not understood.

Now, understanding, added to Faith, makes the whole man. You can, if you believe in the power of God as the Source of your Life, the Source of your strength, the Source of your health, the

Source of your Intelligence; the Source of everything that you are - if you believe that, it will increase in your consciousness; it will grow, and a great multitude will be helped through your simple Faith.

Why, who can tell or place a limit upon the word of Truth as it goes forth from one who has faith in the Power of Spirit? There, you can see, is no limit. Just think of the multitude of ideas that come from one true idea. The word of Faith in God that you have spoken - where is its limit? It has increased and, like the stars of heaven, it has unlimited capacity. But you must look up; look up toward heaven.

I remember a man once who had a patient, and that patient had a great many ills, and the healer seemed never to reach him

entirely. One day the patient came in to the healing room, and the healer noticed that he always looked down, like that (indicating); looked at his feet; and the healer said to him, "Why, did you ever get anything by studying your feet?", and the man said "No."

He (the healer) says, "Look up; look away from your feet. Throw your eyes towards the heavens", and he said from that time the man began to gain. That man's eyes - he was following the bent of his eyes. He was looking down all the time, looking toward the earth. Some people are continually looking down, digging into the earth. They expect through the earth, through this material consciousness they are going to solve the problems of life. I tell you the great problems of life are solved by the idealist, and those who look up. If you are in the habit of looking down, studying

this body, and studying these environments of limitations. Practice looking up; look towards the heavens. Get out, if necessary, into the sunshine, into the star-light, into the Moon-light; but look up, enlarge your capacity, if you can't do it any other way.

But there is a better way, and that is to think about the unlimited ideas of Divine Mind. Every idea that is in your mind can be linked to the great Mind of the Universe, the Great Spiritual Mind, and you can make it increase and multiply and strengthen until it becomes a power in your life.

This is the beauty of this Christian religion - that man is absolutely unlimited. "Ask whatsoever you will in the name of that high Christ Mind, and it shall be done unto you". Where is there failure; where is there cause for discouragement;

where can a Christian be downcast? Never. The Christian that gets discouraged, that has depression, that is not filled with the Isaac and Jacob state of mind, has not looked up; he has not looked toward heaven.

Isaac, you know, means joy, laughter - that inner, inward joy which comes to every true Christian; and Jacob means the onward, progressive power of the soul, going right forward. These are all in the man, and they are fulfilled in those who truly believe.

Are you a believer? Yes - of course, we all believe; but have you that inner consciousness of the word translated "belief" in the Hebrew? Do you know what that word is? It can not be translated, we are told. It is more than "belief" - it is Faith, and Faith piled high with energy, strength, capacity, power. The

faith of the English word "belief", does not comprehend, doesn't express; but you will know it when you feel it. When you enter into the Faith of the Spirit, you feel your ideas expanding; you feel that Substance coming into your mind. You will know what the Abraham state is. Then, what you do will be done in a great multitude of ways. You will find that avenues will open to you; capacity that you never dreamed of will begin to express itself, and you will see at once what this seed of Abraham ^{the} mind means; how it throws itself out into every avenue of man's world, and bring forth a great crop - a great result comes from the looking to heaven, giving yourself the broad fullness of the ideal world, as a real world, as a world in which you can bring forth all of that which you have dreamed of; all of that which you have aspired to. And

remember, that this is fulfilled in Christ Jesus. All the promises are fulfilled in that one Supreme perfection, that demonstration of God.

11:14 A. M.

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