James - Commentaries by Gordon Henry Hayhoe

Toronto Conference: 1962, Joy in the Midst of Trial

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Address—G.H. Hayhoe

Like to turn to the book of James, the 1St chapter of the book of James. 1St chapter and the first verse. James, thy servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. To the 12 tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting my brethren, count it all joy when you fall into divers temptations. The 16th verse. Do not earn, my beloved brethren, every good gift, and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of Light, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of His own will begat He us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruit of His creatures. Now the 4th chapter and the 10th verse. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up. Speak not evil 1 of another, brethren, he that seeketh the evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh the evil of the law, and judgeth the law. But if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge. There is one lawgiver who is able to save and to destroy. Who art thou, the judgest and others. Go to now, ye that say today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell and get gains, whereas ye know not what shall be on the Morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanisheth away. Quality ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live and do this or that. But now you rejoice in your boasting. All such rejoicing is evil. Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin. I read the opening 2 verses of this little epistle because it brings before us to. The epistle is addressed to. It's addressed to the 12 tribes that were scattered abroad. And, as we know, it was because of the failure of the tribes that God had allowed them to be scattered. They might have been greatly cast down and discouraged, because their own failure as a nation had led to them being scattered abroad. But it seems to me in this epistle, that the apostle would bring before them the blessed fact that alone they had failed. And now they had been guilty of even crucified. Their Messiah, that's still the heart of God, was toward them and desiring their blessings. Thought says every good gift, and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of Light, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. We often sing heat, we change, He changes not. And know how good it is, dear young people, to have this blessed confidence. We may have got into certain situations, perhaps even through our own failure, but isn't it a lovely thing to be able to look up this afternoon and to know that the heart of God is toward us with a desire for our blessings? And that's what was on my heart in reading these passages and seeking to speak of them this afternoon. It is that we might lay hold of these precious things. And I believe if we do. It will encourage us in our pathways and it will also give us to seek the mind and will of God in every step that we take. I remember hearing of a dear lady who used to work at washing in many rich homes, and someone said to her, she worked in these beautiful homes, the homes of millionaires, so lovely and such fine furniture. And someone said to her one day, don't you wish that you were a millionaire too? Oh, she said, I'd much rather have a father who was a millionaire.

Caring for my needs. She said if I had a million it would be a source of trouble. How to handle it and look after it? But I have a father who knows all my needs and his wealth is unlimited. Oh, what a sweet answer. And dear young people, isn't that the answer that we need for our souls too? Ambition is so liable to fill our thoughts and our minds, to get along in this world, to obtain a place and to have something that the world has to offer. And that's the natural ambition of the human heart, and especially while we're young. But isn't it a lovely thing to be able to look up and to know that God our Father is unlimited in his riches, in his wealth and in his love? And his care for us. And I was very much struck in reading that second verse. In the first verse he says the 12 tribes which are scattered abroad, What a sad picture of the nation presented at this time because of their failure, they had been scattered abroad. A little remnant of the two tribes that's been brought back. But they now had been guilty of crucifying their Messiah. Was it all over with them? Oh, isn't this lovely? This second verse, my brethren, counted all joy when he fall into divers temptations. That is, God uses the circumstances through which we pass. To enable us to realize that which is our real wealth and our real joy and our real happiness. As a brother mentioned the other day, they speak of real estate and they think of that which is. Houses and lands in this world. But what is real to the Christians? Nothing here, because it all passes away. But that which we have up there, that's real to us, it's sure to us. And Martin Rust can't corrupt, neither can thieves, breakthrough and steal. And it's all been purchased for us by the work of the Lord Jesus. Upon the cross. And so this verse says, my brethren. Count it all joy when you fall into divers temptations. Those of the nations who had placed their faith in the Lord Jesus found themselves in a very difficult and trying position. It was not easy. It cost them something to be faithful. Could they be happy in the midst of such circumstances? He said. Count it all joy when you fall into divers temptations. I've often said someday I expect to meet Abram. Meat shade draped Meshach and Abednego in heaven. And I'd like to say to them, isn't it too bad that Nebuchadnezzar ever made the decree that you had to fall down and worship that image? Oh, I believe their faces will brighten and they'll say no. We see that God allowed that, and that was the most wonderful experience of our lives. The Lord was with us in the midst of the burning, fiery furnace. I would speak to Job and say, Job, isn't it too bad that you had those three friends that spoke so unkindly to you? Oh, he said, the Lord used those friends to bring me to self judgment. I was a pretty proud man before that. And God used those friends to help you bring me down. Ah, dear young people, the circumstances of our lives. The people we meet with, the assembly where we're gathered and all that we have. Contact in our daily life is ordered of the Lord. Can we actually have joy in divers temptations? Can we actually find happiness when everything is against us? Yes, we can. And I was looking over the dear young people who were present. I have this thought that some of them were going to go home feeling quite happy because some of the desires that they had when they came here had been granted to them and friendships and things that they had enjoyed together. They were going to go home with sort of happy and light hearted. But I thought there might be others who might be going home a little bit discouraged. A little disappointed, Perhaps the friends didn't speak to them, didn't treat them just the way they had hoped, and they're going home a little bit disappointed. Isn't this a nice verse for you, my brethren? Count it all joy when you fall into divers temptations. How can you you say when things that you want don't come your way, and when your plans seem to?

Frustrated. Can you really be happy then? Yes, if we believe that the heart of God is the source of our blessing, if we really believe what this 17th verse says, then we know that that which God our Father allows and that which He sends is intended for our blessings. Now you see. But it was my own thought, perhaps. And can I still be happy? Well, it was the failure of the 12 tribes that caused them to be scattered till the

heart of God was toward them in grace. And isn't it a lovely thing? Can I read this second verse? Here, young people, instead of my brethren here, young people, count it all joy when you fall into divers temptations, and then connect that with the seven. The 16th verse. Do not err, my beloved young people. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above. All we need for our pathway. Where does it come from? I didn't read the intervening verses. But it speaks to the things that we lust after and desire and lust isn't always in a bad sense, you know, It's just wanting something of our own will. In this grand disease that if we look up and see that one whose heart is toward us, we can go home from these three days meeting happy and rejoicing. Nothing has changed our portion in Him, and I trust the meetings. I believe they have brought before our hearts in a new and fresh way the preciousness of the portion that lies ahead of us where we're going to spend eternity with the Lord Jesus up there in the glory. Oh, how blessed to have that before us. And so it says, every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of Light. Why is it called the Father of Life? While we don't always see what's best, we look at things as it were in the dark sometimes. But the Father of Light, he knows everything. He sees ahead, and I don't. He knows what's in the future for me. He knows all about me, my makeup, everything. It's all known to him. And so it says from the Father of Life, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning, not a shadow of turning. That is not the slightest bit of change or turning. Is there because he knows. And he never makes a mistake, as a brother often remarks. He's too wise to earth and too loving to be unkind. Isn't this blessed? May this truth of this 17th verse he brought home to each of our souls. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above. Let us learn to take then all of God our Father's sin as from the One who looked down upon us in love and in perfect wisdom and orders according to that which He sees as best. And the 18th verse of his own will begat he uses with the word of truth. I read that verse to show that the very fact that we were children of God did not originate in our own will. No, of our own wills, we would never have received Christ. There's not one of you, dear young people who are saved here this afternoon. Who could say, Well, it was because of my own will that I accepted Christ, Not without the will of God. Would we have ever chosen him? No. Of our own wills we rejected him. But He played with us in His grace. He drew us and brought us to Himself, and saw of His own will begat He us. Well, if we didn't have one thought toward Him, and He looked upon us, and picked us out, and drew us to Himself and purposes for eternal glory. Can we not then commit the few short years of our lives down here into the hand of the One who of His own will begat He us with a word of.

Truth And that brings in another point, and that is He has given us His Word, and it's His word that He used to our salvation. How is it that we know we're saved? Is it some feeling we depend upon? No, we rest upon His precious, unchanging words. And if there's anyone here who's unsaved, let me speak to you, dear young person. God wants to bless you. He wants to save you. He wants to draw you to Himself. He wants you to know what's in His heart towards you, so you may long have rebelled against His grace. And it's His word that He uses to this end. And so this brings before us the importance of this blessed book. It's used to our salvation and then to it's what's necessary for direction in our whole pathway. Now let us turn over to this 4th chapter which we read in the 10th verse. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord. I didn't take time to lead. Some thoughts in the intervening chapters, but I might say that in the first part of this 4th chapter it says that we ask, and we ask amiss, that we may consume it on our lust. Isn't it often true that when we ask for something, it's what we think is best? But perhaps it isn't, and that's why we ought to always say, if it be thy will, if it be thy will. And so, if God is not granted to us something that we desired, let us take the place humbly before Him. Of bowing to his will and accepting the circumstance from the Lord. Lord, and what will happen? He'll lift us up. He'll lift us up. And I believe if we lay hold of these things, dear young people, every one of us will go away from these meetings happy, every one of us. Because if we learn this blessed fact for our souls that God purposed us for eternal blessings, and that He is ordering the circumstances of our lives. Then we'll count it all joy when we fall into divers temptations. And the reason we're told to humble ourselves is because the natural heart resists the will of God. My heart, your heart here, young person, it resists the will of God. We find it's very hard to submit, don't we? We'd like to cast our cares upon the Lord, but the real reason that we can't cast our cares upon the Lord is because we have some desire and we feel we can't be happy unless that. Fire is granted, but we can be happy, and the only real place of happiness is in submission to the will of God. And we can only submit when we know with assurance that his heart is toward us in goodness and grace. His heart is toward us enriches goodness and grace, I say. So it says in the 11TH verse, Speak not evil 1 Of another brethren, he that speaketh evil of his brother, and judges his brothers. Speak of evil of the law, and judges the law. Why does this come in here? Well, I'm sure that whenever things don't workout the way we had hoped they worked would work out, we try to find somebody to blame. We try to find some person who is at fault, and we look around. It's that person. It's the other person. If that person hadn't done this, if the other person hadn't done that, things would have worked out differently. And so the next thing is we don't submit to the will of God, and we begin to speak evil. I know how many sorrows. We saw among ourselves dear young people, by speaking evil 1 of another.

Father, when we get up there to glory and we look back on our lives down here and we do as it says, we remember all the way the Lord our God LED us through this wilderness scene. Do you think we all speak evil one another there? You think there's one of us in that bright home above that will look at the other person and say, Oh, he did me so much harm. We'll all praise the Lord together, and we'll see how He was using even the mistakes and even the unkind things and all took place to accomplish that which He desired in us, that we might lean on one arm alone, on the mighty arm of that precious Savior who loved us and gave Himself for us as we sang in the little hymns. The hand our many sins had pierced is now our guard and guide. And then in the other verse. That Jesus the advocates. Nor can that hand be stretched in vain for us to supplicate. And so if we have any bad thought in our mind toward any person, let us judge it right now. Let us get before the Lord about. Because if we don't, we're speaking evil of the law and judging the law. Because the Word tells us that all things work together for good to them that love God to them, that are the called according to His purpose. If we believe that by then we wouldn't speak the way we do very often of others. We would take the circumstances from the hand of God our Father. And so it says that when we speak evil of another. We're speaking evil of the law and judging the law. And I might say that the law here is in a very broad sense, Perhaps we could turn just for a moment to the 19th Psalm, because I think there's a very. Precious portion there about this. Psalm 19. Verse 7. The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul. The testimony of the Lord is sure making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are race rejoicing the heart. The fear and the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes, the fear of the Lord is clean, and during forever the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous. Altogether more to be desired. Are they in gold? Yeah, than much fine gold. Sweeter also than honey, and the honey corn. Oh, isn't this lovely? What a what a wonderful book this is. Dear young people, the older I get, the more I value this precious book. And all its instructions, it first showed us our need of sinners. It showed us God's grace in providing A Savior for us. And now, the little time that remains to us, it's written so that we might have all things that pertain unto life and godliness. And there isn't a question in your life or mine that we will not find in this blessed book, the wisdom and the instruction that we need. For our whole pathway. And so let us read this precious book, let us meditate upon it. And when circumstances arise that seem difficult and that make us uneasy, let us look up and say, well, God's word says all things work together for good to them that love God. Let us also look up and say every good gift and every perfect gift. Is from above. It all comes down from His heart to us for our good and for our blessings. Though the 12TH verse, there is one Lawgiver

who is able to save and destroy. Who art thou, the judgeth and others. Oh, this is a very solemn verse, and I'd like to speak to anyone here who's unsaved. Remember, you must have to do with this precious savior. As a savior or as a judge, you must have to do with them. He's able to say He's able to save who, no matter who you are or what you have done.

There's power in the precious blood of Christ to cleanse you from all sin. I say He's able to save, but remember he's able to destroy too. And I trust there won't be one person in this company. Who will be sent to a lost eternity if you reject the Lord Jesus as your Savior, If you reject that heart that is towards you in grace, why you will go to a lost eternity? But dear young people, you who are believers, isn't it a strange thing that we can actually believe that God loves us so much that He saved us from hell, and doubt that He would be able to work things out in our lives for our good and for our blessing? Isn't it a strange thing? And yet it's so with everyone of us that we know He saved us for eternal glory, and yet we find ourselves doubting as to the path in which He leads us. Now in this 13th verse, I wanted to point out six things in this verse. We often say that the great and important decisions are made in use. And truth is that the most important decisions of our whole life are made while we're young. Most of those decisions, I suppose we could say before were 25 years of age. We make these decisions. And all, how needful, how very needful now that we should turn to the Lord. And I want to impress upon you those words in that 15th verse if. The Lord will, if the Lord will. And may you write that across every plan in your life. May I write it across every plan in my life if the Lord will. Because if it's not His will, there can be no real lasting blessing in it. And so that's the seventh thing. But in this 13th verse, there are 6 things. And I'd like to call attention to them. First is today, today. Here I'll read the verse. So you get the thought. Go to now ye that say today or tomorrow we will go into such a city and continue their year and buy and sell and get gains. Now here are the six points. I'll just mention them. Today that's the present plan. Tomorrow, that's for the future. And then in such a city, the place where you in the city where you intend to live. And continue there. The residents you take up in that city and then buy and sell that your occupation and get gain that your income, isn't that what concerns most young people? Isn't that the great thing that concerns dear young people when they're starting out in life? The plans for today, what are they? All have you written across the plan for today? If the Lord will, If the Lord will, then I'm sure you can say. And that you can count it all joy if you fall into divers temptations, because if it's the will of God that you should be cast into prison like Paul and Silas, you can sing in the prison, because that was the will of the Lord for them and all. How lovely it is. Oh, I say it for my own soul. I know I fail in this, but all I say it for my own soul. This is the secret of happiness. In the 13th verse, then, we have those six things. The planning of the human and when we come to the 15th verse, why we have bringing the Lord into the plans that makes the 7th the man of sin. His number is 666. That is 6 is man's number. It's what man figures he can do at his very best. But when we bring the Lord in, we have perfection. We have Him working things out. And so again I say today, today, let us begin today. I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable or intelligent service. Paul, let's begin the day. Don't say I intend when I get through school, they set out to follow the Lord. Today if the Lord will, today if the Lord will, and then tomorrow. Well, that's the future, isn't it? What's going to happen tomorrow? Well, we don't know what's going to happen tomorrow, but the Lord does. The Lord does known unto God.

Are all his works from eternity? Men don't know the future, they can't tell. What's going to happen? But we have a father who does, and he loves us, and he gave his Son to die for us. And there's no variableness, neither shadow of turning with him. And so tomorrow, What about tomorrow? Well, it's in the hands of God, my Father. How lovely the words. Let him. Our times are in my hand. Father, we wish them there. Oh, isn't that the way for us here, young? Oh, oh, what peace it gives to us all. What a grand thing to walk out of this assembly hall and be able to say tomorrow if the Lord will, tomorrow if the Lord will, whatever he planned for me. Pleasing or painful, dark or bright as best may seem to be. And then go into such a city, I've heard many discussions, people, I've heard young and old say, oh, I like that city, it's such a pretty city. And others say there's lots of opportunities in that city. And we hear lots of comments about different cities. Some that are considered pleasant to dwell in. Some that are considered not so pleasant to dwell in. Well, such a city, if the Lord will, if the Lord will, and it'll be a pleasant place. If the Lord guides you to that place. If the Lord guides you to that place. Paul and Silas were in prison in Philippi. Paul Silas had bleeding backs. And Philippi. But I'm going to meet them in heaven someday. And I'm going to say, what about Philippi? Was it a nice city? Was it a nice city? I think they'll say, oh, we had a wonderful experience there, why we met the household of Lydia and that jailer got saved that night and that assembly went on so happily. It was one of the brightest gems of all our service for the Lord because the epistle to the Philippians was written to those who lived in Philippi, the place where they spent the night in the prison with a bleeding back, such a city, such. City a happy place, though, wasn't it? A mere young people, That little city and that town and that assembly where you are can be a happy place for you if it's the will of God that you're there. And so let us, in choosing the place where we want to live, remember. That nothing can be right, no matter how nice the city is. Jericho was a far nicer city than some of the others. But you're a Jericho fell under the judgment of God. And we might go to the finest city we could choose in the whole of the United States and Canada and have no end of sorrow in that place, but to be in the place where the Lord wants us to be. Whether it's in this land or whether it's in. Some other continents, wherever it may be, such a city, if the Lord will, if the Lord will, isn't that lovely? And then continue there. Oh, you might say, I'd like to visit the city. I don't mind going around and seeing the sights, but I wouldn't want to live there. Heard people say that I wouldn't want to live there. Well, continue there. How long while? However long, the Lord says. However long the Lord says, some of the places where Paul visited, he continued there for a few days. A few weeks. Others beyond the year, the year and six months. Why continued there and is not lovely. Oh, I hear, I've heard people say to use a kind of an expression. Well, I couldn't stick it there. I couldn't stick it out Well, continue there if the Lord will, for he'll give you the strength for it. He'll give you the grace for it. Isn't that lovely? Continue there. And then what kind of an occupation? Oh, I hear so often. Oh, it's hard that you choose as much. I feel sorry for you, dear young people. I know it's not easy to choose the occupation that you would follow in life. There's so many problems. It's not an easy decision. There are many things to consider, but I'll consider it well.

Consider it well that occupation that you have. Can you write over it, if the Lord will? Is there something connected with it? Is there some union or something that you have to get mixed up into to fulfill that occupation? And you can't right over it if the Lord will. Because if the Lord will, you'd like to be out of that thing. And so there you are, all. You see how lovely it is while you're young. Oh, I'm so happy to look into your faces here, young people, before you get into something. Where you find that you can't. And honor the Lord as you wish to. How lovely to consider this in your planning, in looking forward to the future to say. And. Continue there a year and buy and sell, buy and sell, whatever the occupation is and you're right across it if the Lord will. And then the neck. The biggest one of all I suppose to young people get game, watch the salary. How much you're going to be paid? How much is the salary per year? What benefits are there? Well get gains if the Lord will. If the Lord will. Better to be content with less and be able to honor the Lord, and to get a fine salary and not be able to write across your paycheck if the Lord will. Oh how lovely. Then in all our planning, in all that we seek to do. And we must look forward. If the Lord doesn't come, we're looking for Him to come. But if He leaves us here, it's not wrong to look forward providing those 4 words or written across every plan in our

lives. If the Lord will, we shall live and do this or that. What a happy thing it is, and so it says. But now you rejoice in your boasting. If we rejoice in anything that we can't right across those 4 words, by its evil, it's evil. It's all going to pass away. And if it doesn't pass away in this life, it'll pass away when it's manifested the judgment seat of Christ, and it's all consumed in the flames. For only that which is of Christ in obedience to his Word, is going to abide only that which is for him. It says the world passeth away, and the lust thereof, but he that doeth the will of God. Abideth forever. Oh what a privilege. Then while you're young all to your young people, I say to you again, I know your faceless situations that some of us who are older haven't had to meet. I realize that it's not easy for you. And we all enter into in some measure the disappointment when some plan is frustrated. But all may those words he brought home to each heart count it all joy when you fall into divers temptations. And to write across every plan. If the Lord will, and so it says here in this last verse. Therefore to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not to him and his sin. If we know and many things were ignorant, we make mistakes. All of us the speakers made many mistakes. But if we know the will of God. If we're seeking His will, if we're reading His word for our pathway, He's promised. If any man will don't do his well, he shall know. He shall know. How May God grant them that each one of us may consider these things in connection with our choices in life, and that we may go away from this conference happy because it's the will of God. I'd just like to quote the last verse of the 19th Psalm in closing. He says that the words of my. Mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer. So we sing #15. The last verse of #15 All that we are as Saints on earth, All that we hope to be when Jesus comes and glory dawns, we owe it all to thee. 15 The last verse.

Come that long.

Montreal Conference: 1966, God-The Source of all Our Blessing

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

Now I'd like to turn to the first chapter of James. James Chapter 1. And the 12TH verse. James One, verse 12. Blessed is the man that endureth temptation, for when he has tried, he shall receive the crown of life which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God, for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man, but every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived it, bringeth forth sin, and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren, every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of Light, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we. Should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath. For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. Now I'd like to turn back also to Genesis chapter 2. Genesis chapter 2. And verse 16. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat. But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it, for in the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die. And the Lord God said, It is not good that man should be alone. I will make and help me for him. Now shall we turn over also to Ephesians chapter 1? Ephesians chapter 1. And the third verse. Ephesians One, verse 3. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ, according as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him. In love. And in Romans chapter 8. Romans, chapter 8. And beginning at the 28th verse. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called, according to his purpose, For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first born among many brethren. Moreover, whom he did predestinate them He also called, and whom he called. He also justified, and whom He justified them He also glorified. What shall we then say to these things? If God before us, who can be against us? He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Just one more passage in Jeremiah chapter 2. Jeremiah chapter 2. And verse 13. For my people have committed 2 evils. They have forsaken me, the Fountain of Living waters, and Hughes them out cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water. Well dear young people, that has often been sad about the heart of God is the source of all our blessings and I believe that these scriptures that we have read this afternoon bring this wonderful point before us. How did God delights in the blessing of man?

And we trace it right back to the Garden of Eden. We see it even now in this Christian dispensation. But we see the constant tendency of our hearts to turn away from the Lord and to try and find our portion apart from His will, apart from obedience to His Word, in a path of our own choosing. And not only are we the losers, but God who delights in our blessing is the loser too. Those of us who are parents here this afternoon know that when we ever have to deprive our children of anything, we feel the loss as keenly or more keenly than they do. We want to do all we possibly can for them, and if for any reason whatever we have to deprive them, it hurts us. It grieves us. I believe it grieves us more than it grieves them. And you know when you are not in the enjoyment of the Lord. Matter what you have in Him, you're not only the loser yourself, but you're grieving the heart of One who loves you with an infinite love, who loves you with a proven love, a love that was displayed in all its blessed fullness at the Cross of Calvary. And James takes up this and his epistle to show that the desire to have something apart from the Father of Light, apart from the one whose heart is full of such goodness, is what leads to sin, is what takes the heart away from him and brings on sorrow instead of that which is in the purposes of God. And that's why I read in the book of Genesis, to show that when God made this world and placed man at the head of creation, what was His purpose? His purpose was to bless man. Not to bless him independently of himself, but to bless him through him, through himself, so to speak. And if God had given him everything without any recognition of his responsibility to God or in his dependence on him, then he could not really have found happiness. And so that one command was given to show and to constantly remind Adam and Eve that they were dependent upon God for all. They received. It was a simple command. It was one in which there was no problem about understanding what was meant, no difficulty really in fulfilling it, because they had everything in the garden their heart could desire. No need of that one tree that was forbidden at all. It wasn't for their good, but it did. It did test them as to their. Confidence in the heart of God it did acknowledge their dependence upon. God and while they enjoyed all the rest of the good things in the garden, it was a constant reminder to them of the source from which those blessings came. But along came another into the garden. Satan came into the Garden of Eden, and he came in with the suggestion that God was really not quite as good as they thought he was, and that he was actually holding back something from them and that tree instead of being. Reminder of the fact that he was the source of goodness to them was really the fact that he was holding back some goodness from them. And he suggested that if they would just take of that tree, their happiness would be complete. Oh, an attempter. What a why from the very one who is called in the Bible the father of wise. But Adam and Eve listened to the voice of Satan. They followed his suggestion. They questioned the facts. God was so good and they

believed that Satan was late after all, that there was something to be had by reaching out an independence of God and fulfilling their own desires. And so we know a sad story of how they looked at the trees and those 3 lusts, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life overcame them completely. They yielded to the temptation, and what did they find? They found out that what God had said was true. They found out that they had robbed themselves. And if one might speak so, they had robbed the heart of God too, because He came down that very evening to walk in the garden. And instead of enjoying communion with God, they hid from Him behind the trees of the garden. Now their hearts, instead of being happy and joyful in His presence, instead of.

Able to enjoy the other good things, provided their hearts were full of sadness. Now they went to work to cover their nakedness, but in vain. They couldn't be happy in the presence of God. They couldn't be happy among themselves, and the sense of death hungover them. And why? They had doubted God's goodness. They had yielded to the tempter. They had sinned, and sin brought misery to them, and into this world, and all the awful results of that one sin that entered. But why did it enter? It entered through independence of God, through forgetting the fact that God's heart was full of goodness and blessing toward them and all we know the sad story of the results of. That's been what I want to call attention particularly to the reason that sin came in, because it is the root cause of all sin. It is now which leaves every young person and every old person into something. That brings misery and sorrow upon us. It's because we act in independence of God. We follow our own wills instead of following the direction of God, whose heart is full of love and blessing has given to us in His precious word. But did God give up man? Did He say what I'm through with man who has sinned like that? O brethren, dear young people, know when will God give you up? Because you have. Against it failed and sinned against him. Oh no, He still loves you with an over abounding love. Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound. And so we find that God's love is always that which can abound over man's sin. And he didn't drive Adam and Eve out of the garden until He had first shown them that He could make a provision for them in their sin. And so. It tells us that He clothed them through the death of the substitute, and they went out from the garden clothed. They went out from the garden, reminded that although they had sinned, that God's heart was still toward them in goodness, and that He had provided a covering in his presence. But the cough was tremendous. And then there was the promise of the coming Redeemer. Here's the. Promise that there was one who would come and who would undo the works of the devil, who would bring blessing where sin had come in. Well, all through the Old Testament we see over and over again this same fact coming up continually. We see God's people forgetting the fact that that God in his goodness wanted to bless them. And God allowed them to be put to various tests. Through the Old Testament past as to whether they they believed that his heart was toward them in goodness or whether they were yielding to the tempter and to his lies. And I believe that we see in the trials that God allowed his people to pass through in the Old Testament and that God was teaching them these lessons. Take the case of Abraham. God called him out from Earl to Chaldees, and promised him that good. Lamb, a lamb flowing with milk and honey. But then God put him to the test. Did he really believe that God had purposes of blessing toward him? He allowed a famine to come in the land. He is a grievous famine that says. And for what did Abraham do? Well, he decided the best way was to get away from this family. And the best way was to go out of the land that God had promised to give him, and so himself will he goes down into Egypt. Has there a famine come in your life, dear young person? Is there have you set out to follow the Lord? And when you set out to follow him, it just seemed that everything went wrong instead of right. It just seemed that the things you thought were going to work out didn't work out. And you say, well, I, I'm sure that I've come to that point in my life too. I thought that when I came out to follow him that everything was going to work out smoothly and happily. But it hasn't been that way. And it's hard for me to believe that God is. Thinking to bless me when things don't work out, as I had hoped, all you say. And I tried to please him, So had Abraham. Abraham had tried to please him. Abraham had left her with the Chaldees. He left his country, he left his kindred. He had even had the grace, when his father died, to leave Heron.

And come all the way and he had his tent and he had his altar, hadn't he responded. The goodness of God. Then why was it that God allowed this grievous famine to come? Well, God would have Abraham to know about His blessing didn't consist in things, but it consisted in the enjoyment of his presence, confidence in his heart. And you know, if you only love a friend because of what you're getting from that friend, I say it's not true love. I say it's only you love the things they give you. You love the good time they give you, but you don't really love them unless you love them. When things go wrong, when things get upset, when things don't go the way they should. Abraham was tested about that. And so when the famine came, he went down. Into the land of Egypt. Well, what did he get there? Prosperity. Oh yes, the world will always open its arms. It welcomes the Christian that's leaving the path of following the Lord. They just hold their arms to you when you turn your back on the Lord, and it just tells you all it will do for you. And it can fulfill in a certain measure its promises too. And so Abraham was rich in silver and gold. He had men servants and maid servants. But he lost in his soul. He lost the most important thing that he possessed in Canaan, communion with God, the sense of His presence and of His goodness in his soul. This is all God. He didn't enjoy that in Egypt. He couldn't. Dear young Christian, if you turned your back and are going on carelessly and getting away from the Lord, I know that this has taken place in your life too. You don't have discovered. That you may prosper, but there's an empty spot in your heart, a spot that only Christ can fill. And he can fill it just as well in adversity as in prosperity. Just as well. And adversity is in prosperity because he has more than all the prosperity in the world. He's everything to the believer. He's that which fills and satisfies the heart and soul. Abraham had to learn this lesson. Well, he was tested again later in his life. God gave him a son, and then God said Abraham. I want you to go and OfferUp that son. Oh, what a test. Was he willing to take his Son and offer him up at the command of God? Did God require such a sacrifice from him? He didn't question if God said it. That was enough. Did he understand it? I don't believe he did. I don't believe he knew why God asked him to do such a thing. And sometimes the word of God comes to us. And we don't know just why, but it says the secret things belong unto the Lord or our God. But those things that are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever. Perhaps humor had some verse of the Bible and you've said, and why should I do that? Why does the Lord ask me to do that? Abraham didn't stop to question that. Abraham knew that if God asked him to do that, that was the path of blessing. He had learned that down in Egypt. And so now how lovely to see that faith that. And acts and obedience that recognizes that all goodness flows from the heart of God. And it tells us in Hebrews that he accounted that God was able even to reign his son from the dead. Yes, he didn't sing any obstacle to God's goodness. Now he said everything looks uncertain and black, but he said I can't question God's goodness now. And he took his son out to do as God had said. And what was the result? Oh, the Lord made him. The Lord showed that he valued that obedience, that he valued that and something wonderful. Must have been or will be revealed to Abraham. Won't it be a marvel to him for all eternity to know that thousands of Christians have led that little story about him offering up to his son and been blessed by it and received in its instruction about the love that was in the heart of God giving his son? Abraham didn't understand that at the time.

It was all a puzzle to him, I'm sure, but oh, how different. When we act in obedience, blessing always comes and God is glorified. And after you've done it, the Lord called Abraham out of heaven and said, Abraham, Abraham, because thou hast done this thing, surely in blessing I will bless thee. Oh yes, there was an added blessing as a result of that confidence in God. And so I say, has a problem come up in your life and

you know what the word of God says and you can't just understand why he asks you to do that thing. Act of obedience, count upon him. Don't question his goodness. He will never ask you to do anything that isn't for His own glory and for your ultimate blessing. Abraham learned this, He proved it and all what a happy lesson it was to. Thor as he proved the goodness of God. But oh, how often these these cases arose through the Old Testament. And take the case of David. I'd like to turn to this in Second Samuel. Second Samuel, chapter 12. And verse 7. And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. The And thus sails the Lord God of Israel. I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul, and I gave thee thy masters house, and thy masters wives into thy bosom, and gave the House of Israel thee the House of Israel and of Judah. And if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things. Why hast thou despised the commandment of the Lord to do evil in his sight? Thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword. Thou hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hath slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon. To me this is a very remarkable rebuke, brought home in all its clearness and force to the heart of David. Why should David not have done this thing? Well, it's certainly because it was a sin against God. But the manner in which the prophet brings it before him is to show him that he had no reason to have done that because God had blessed him, and that if he hadn't blessed him enough. He was willing to bless him still more, and he didn't need to step out of the path of obedience for anything. Step out of the path of obedience for anything. And dear young people, this is the point that with the Lord's help, I want to bring home your soul into my own, that we don't have to step out of the path of obedience to get anything. Anything that's good will come to us in the path of obedience. And even if it may seem like adversity. The ultimate purpose of it is blessing, because all things. Work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. And we all know the sad story of poor David and how he was attracted by the beauty of this girl who finally led his heart astray, and all what sorrow he brought. Well, you say he was restored afterwards. Yes, he was, He was restored. Because there's grace and goodness in the heart of God. To restore us, no matter how far away we have got from him, but in spite of the fact that God restores for. Poor David had to Wraith in the government of God for that. And I speak these words to you, dear young people in love. As I look into your young faces and life lies before you. How easy it is to take some false steps. That may perhaps ruin your whole life, may ruin your whole testimony when God wants to bless you so abundantly. Or you say, but when I see nice things, I want them. I can't seem to do without them. Or remember, if God doesn't give them to you in the path of obedience, they're not worthwhile. They bring no ultimate happiness. The pleasures of sin are for.

There's pleasure in the act, but there is no pleasure afterwards. And so David, when Nathan speaks to him, he points them out. He says thou art the man. And then he goes back and he says, why the Lord's been so good to you, David, He's been so good to you. And if you didn't think he have done enough for you, he would have done more. Oh, young person, isn't that touching? I don't think I would have spoken to David at that time. Put your way, I would have just fooled in the full force of it, laid it on his conscience, but whole how gracious the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance, and to see the prophet saying to David. How God wanted to bless him, how he had blessed him. And if there's something lacking in your life, remember the Lord will give you such and such things. Yes, He wants to bless you. He knows just exactly what's needed for you. And that's the meaning of that expression, that every good gift and every perfect gift cometh down from above, from the Father of Light. That is the expression the Father of Light means that God knows exactly what is best. We sometimes give our children things, and then afterwards we realize that the things were not for their good. We didn't see far enough ahead. We made a mistake, and then we wish we had done differently. We didn't have full knowledge. But oh God, my Father is the Father of light. He sees your whole pathway. He knows everybody that's going to cross your pathway from this day to the day you lead the world. He knows that girlfriend and that boyfriend. And everybody that's going to pass across your path in life, he sees it as it says, thou understandest my thought afar off, he sees it all. He knows what's coming, He knows the plan, he knows everything, dear young person. And if you and I would only have confidence in his guiding hands, oh, let me say again, his heart is the source of all goodness and blessing to you. And David was reminded. That even in the moment of his failure, now that God had blessed him and wanted to bless him more than he had. If David had only believed that. But all poor David. And don't we do the same thing ourselves? So often we think we must have something through our own self will, through our own evil ways. We try to get it. Well, perhaps some young person might say. But why doesn't God allow our path to be smooth and then we would love Him and serve Him well? Let's turn to Deuteronomy chapter 32 and we'll see if this is so. Deuteronomy chapter 32 and verse 13. He made him ride on the high places of the earth. That he might eat the increase of the field, he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flimsy rock, butter of pine and milk of sheep with fat of lambs and Rams of the breed of basham, and goats with the fat of kidneys and sweets. And thou didst drink the pure blood of the grapes, but Jeshurum waxed fat and kicked. Thou art wax and fat. Thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness. Then he forsook God, which made him, and lightly esteemed the rock of his salvation. When God did make the way so easy and so happy and pleasant for His people, Israel in the land, did they respond to it? Oh no, it tells the fear that when they had all these good things they waxed fat and kicked, and lately esteemed the God of their salvation. I suppose we've all had this thought. I've had it. I suppose you young people have had it. Why, if God just would remove all these difficulties, and would just give me the things I desire, then I'd praise Him. Then I'd live for Him. But I don't know why He allows these difficulties and troubles to come. Well. We have found here in Deuteronomy that God did remove the obstacles and difficulties. He gave the people the land. He poured them blessings such as a nation had never known before. And did it make them follow Him? No. They enjoyed the blessings and they forgot the blessing. They forgot the blesser, as it says in Jeremiah 22.

It says, I speak unto thee in my. Prosperity. And thou said thy will not hear. This hath been thy manner from thy youth. O dear young person, don't think for a moment that if God gave you everything that you desired, that you'd follow him better. He knows what's best. All things work together for good to them that love God. And again I say, He wants you not only to have his blessing, but He wants you to enjoy the company of the blesser. He wants you to enjoy his company. For the Lord Jesus died not only to save our souls from hell. But that we might enjoy his company and that he might enjoy ours. For all eternity, the great triumphant voice of Revelation 21, which describes the eternal state, is Behold, the Tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and God himself shall be with them and be their God. Yes, He, His heart is full of blessing. But oh, how we learn in these lessons of the Old Testament that God. Seeks to teach us this great. Lesson that he knows what is best and that his heart is full of goodness. Well in Ephesians chapter one that we read how lovely those words there it says that he hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. How richly has God blessed us as Christians? Or we can't measure the richness of the blessing? And what's more, they could forfeit and did forfeit the Garden of Eden. But you can't forfeit heaven if you know Christ as your Savior. You can't forfeit it because it's secured to you through the work of Christ. But what can we forfeit them? We can forfeit the enjoyment of himself here and now. Here and now, and dear young people, I say again, for this is the burden that's on my heart, that if you only see that following the Lord in the path of obedience to His Word is the path of happiness and the path of blessings, then you have learned a great lesson because God wants to bless you. Here and now, in this life, and it isn't always in. The happiest people have not been the people that have possessed the most of things down here, but it's to have the confidence of God's goodness. When Paul was in prison, he sang what made him happy in prison. He enjoyed the Lord's company. When he was when John was in the Isle of Patmos, he was talking

about that glorious future that is ahead for the believer. What was it that filled his heart? Certainly not his surroundings, no, but it was the enjoyment of the one who loved him and gave himself for him. And he wants to bless you too. Let us turn back now for a moment to this in James one which we. Together James chapter one verse 12. Blessed is the man that endures temptation, for when he has tried, he shall receive the crown of life which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Life is made-up of temptation. We have to face them continually. We have to meet them in life. We've been speaking about how David was tempted. We've been speaking about the difference. Situations that are met by the people of God in the pathway of life. And we would say, well, I wish I didn't have to meet those things, but God says blessed is the man that endureth temptation. Blessed is the man you will never know what's in his heart. You will never know His grace and prove how He is sufficient for you until you find yourself in a position. Where there seems no outlet and then he himself. Proves his sufficiency to undertake for you, to meet you and all. Some of the happiest people that I have met have not been the ones who had the most in this life, or who had the most pleasant circumstances. But they had learned this lesson, that to enjoy the Lord's company in the path of obedience was the path of real.

Blessing and happiness. That was the path of real blessing and happiness. And so and James takes up the root cause of sin. He says her loss. Brings forth sin, and sin brings forth death. We want something apart from the will of God. We think we can't live without it. We make up our minds that if we can't find it in the path of obedience, we're going to get it somehow. If you can't get the job you want in the path of obedience, well then try the path of disobedience. That's what Satan says if you can't find a Christian partner who loves the Lord. Then try somebody else. You must have one. You can't go through life without one. This is what Satan says. But God says I can fill your heart. I can give you more than money can give. I can mean more to you than the best of friends. I'll be everything to you. Yes, he wants to be your All in all. And so it says here. Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift Cometh down from above. Cometh down from above. And how is it that we are? We think that we're going to get something good through the activity of our own will. We think that life is going to be a little easier if we sidestep the path of obedience. We think that things are going to be a lot better in this life if we just disobey God a little bit and then we'll find happiness. But this is a mistake. This is Ernie. It's a good gift, the perfect gift. Come down from about. Oh, you say, brother. Hey, who? You don't understand. You don't know what it's like trying to go along. Alone and without the things that you have in life, you don't understand. Well, I'm sure I don't always understand. When God sent Ezekiel to speak to the people, he sat seven days without saying a word and saw what the people were going through. And sometimes we do speak too quickly. We don't understand the situations other people are in. I confess that, but I'm telling you about one that does. Who was in all points tempted like as we are, Who knows exactly where you sit? He sees you by the river Chibar, A captive. He sees the troubles and the sorrows and the disappointments and the frustrations of life. He knows all about it. He's the Father of light. But it hasn't changed his heart. Man's sin didn't change the heart of God. God's grace over abounded man's sin. Your failure hasn't changed the heart of God. God isn't against you, He's for you. He wants to bless you. And He's proven this love in the gift of His beloved Son. And I say now He wants to. And every good gift and every perfect gift cometh down from above. From the Father of Light, with whom is no variable. Neither shadow of turning. Sometimes you have a dear friend, you feel you have his love and his understanding. But he does something. And you say I don't think he thinks as much of me as he used to. He doesn't just seem to have the same feelings. There's a feeling of a shadow of turning. There's a feeling that there's a change. You'll never detect that in God your Father never that love never changes. It's not just a shadow turning. His heart is full of grace towards you. The opening hymn that we spying in our hymn meeting this morning. The Father's face of radiant grace. Shines now in light on me, dear young person. God wants to bless you and He knows just exactly what I need, what you need, what everyone of us need in life. And He is passing us through those situations in life, ups and downs. He knows how to mingle that which seems good and that which seems difficult. Mingling all together because he makes them work together for good. To those that love him. And then to prove it to us, it says of His own will be God, he us. How did we come to be saved in the 1St place? Did this spring from our own will? No, it's frying from His will. His will. He looked down upon us in love, He said, as a little hymn puts it. Thus the eternal counsels ran. Almighty love, arrest that man. I felt the arrows of distress and found I had no hiding place. Yes, it.

His counsel that first saved you, His counsels are towards you in blessing. And let me say as I close you, young person, May God and His grace give you and me too, and each one of us, the confidence of His love and that He knows what he's doing in your life and mind. He makes no mistakes. One dear old sister that I used to go and see in the hospital, she used to say amid her suffering almost every time. I went he can't make a mistake, he can't make a mistake. What was the result? In all her suffering, she was perfectly happy. Why? She trusted God's goodness. May we trust God's goodness too, and walk in obedience to His Word, and will prove that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

If The Lord Will: Address By Gordon Hayhoe, Toronto, ON, April 1962, If the Lord Will

"Our times are in Thy hand" (L.F. #209)

"James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting. My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations" (James 1:1-2).

"Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of His own will begat He us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures" (James 1:16-18).

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up. Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge. There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another? Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, if the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil. Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:10-17).

I read the opening two verses of this little epistle because it brings before us to whom the epistle is addressed. It's addressed to the twelve tribes that were scattered abroad and, as we know, it was because of the failure of the tribes that God had allowed them to be scattered. They might have been greatly cast down and discouraged because their own failure as a nation had led to them being scattered abroad. But it seems to me, in this epistle, that the Apostle would bring before them the blessed fact that, although they had failed and now they had even been guilty of crucifying their Messiah, that still the heart of God was toward them and desiring their blessing. So it says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and cometh down from the Father of Lights with whom is no variableness neither shadow of turning." We often sing, "We change, He changes not"(Little Flock #84). How good it is, dear young people, to have this blessed confidence. We may have gotten into certain situations, perhaps even through our own failure. But isn't it a lovely thing to be able to look up this afternoon, and to know that the heart of God is toward us, with a desire for our blessing. What was on my heart in reading these passages and seeking to speak of them this afternoon is that we might lay hold of these precious things. I believe if we do, it will encourage us in our pathway and it will also give us to seek the mind and will of God in every step that we take. I remember hearing of a dear lady who used to work at washing in many rich homes. She worked in these beautiful homes, these homes of millionaires, so lovely and with such fine furniture. Someone said to her one day, "Don't you wish you were a millionaire too?" "Oh," she said, "I would much rather have a Father who was a millionaire caring for my needs. If I had a million dollars it would be a source of trouble how to handle it and look after it. But I have a Father who knows all my needs and His wealth is unlimited." Oh, what a sweet answer. Dear young people, isn't that the answer that we need for our souls too? Ambition is so liable to fill our thoughts and our minds with getting along in this world, obtaining a place, and having something that the world has to offer. That's the natural ambition of the human heart and especially while we're young. But isn't it a lovely thing to be able to look up and to know that God our Father is unlimited in His riches, in His wealth, in His love, and in His care for us. I was very much struck in reading that second verse. In the first verse he says, "The twelve tribes which are scattered abroad." What a sad picture of the nation presented at this time. Because of their failure they had been scattered abroad. A little remnant of the two tribes had been brought back but they now had been guilty of crucifying their Messiah. Was it all over with them? Oh, isn't this lovely, this second verse? "My brethren count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations." That is, God uses the circumstances through which we pass to enable us to realize that which is our real wealth, and our real joy, and our real happiness. As a brother mentioned the other day, they speak of real estate and they speak of that which is houses and land in this world, but what is real to the Christian? Nothing here, because it all passes away, but that which we have up there, that's real to us. It's sure to us and moth and rust can't corrupt neither can thieves break through and steal and it's all been purchased for us by the work of the Lord Jesus upon the cross. So this verse says, "My brethren count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations." Those of the nation who had placed their faith in the Lord Jesus found themselves in a very difficult and trying position. It was not easy. It cost them something to be faithful. Could they be happy in the midst of such circumstances? He said, "Count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations." I've often said, someday I expect to meet Shadrach, Meschach, and Abednego in heaven and I'd like to say to them, "Isn't it too bad Nebuchadnezzar ever made that decree that you had to fall down and worship that image?" Oh, I believe their faces will brighten and they'll say, "No, we see that God allowed that and that was the most wonderful experience of our lives. The Lord was with us in the midst of the burning fiery furnace." I would speak to Job and say, "Job, isn't it too bad that you had those three friends that spoke so unkindly to you?" "Oh," he would say, "The Lord used those friends to bring me to self judgment. I was a pretty proud man before that and God used those friends to help bring me down." Ah, dear young people, the circumstances of our lives, the people that we meet with, the assembly where we're gathered, and all that we have to contact in our daily lives is ordered of the Lord. Can we actually have joy in divers temptations? Can we actually find happiness when everything is against us? Yes we can.

When I was looking over the dear young people who were present, I had the thought that some of them were going to go home feeling quite happy because some of the desires that they had when they came here had been granted to them, friendships and things that they had enjoyed together. They were going to go home with happy and light hearts. But I thought there might be others who might be going home a little bit discouraged, a little disappointed. Perhaps a friend didn't speak to them, didn't treat them just the way they had hoped, and they're going home a little bit disappointed. Isn't this a nice verse for you, "My brethren count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations." "How can you," you say, "when things that you want don't come your way and when your plans seem to be frustrated, can you really be happy then?" Yes, if we believe that the heart of God is the source of our blessings. If we really believe what this 17th verse says, then we know that that which God our Father allows and that which He sends is intended for our blessing. "Oh," you say, "Even though it was my own fault, perhaps. Can I still be happy?" Well, it was the failure of the twelve tribes that caused them to be scattered. Still the heart of God was toward them in grace. And isn't it a lovely thing? Can I read this second verse, "Dear young people" instead of "My beloved brethren"? "Dear young people, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations," and then connect that with the 16th verse, "Do not err, my dear young people. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above." All we need for our pathway, where does it come from? Oh, isn't this grand to see that if we look up and see that One whose heart is toward us, we can go home from these three days of meetings happy and rejoicing. Nothing has changed our portion in Him and I believe the meetings have brought before our hearts in a new and fresh way the preciousness of the portion that lies ahead of us where we are going to spend eternity with the Lord Jesus up there in the Glory. Oh how blessed to have that before us!

And so it says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and cometh down from the Father of Lights." Why is He called "the Father of Lights"? Well we don't always see what's best. We look at things, as it were, in the dark sometimes. But the Father of Lights, He knows everything. He sees ahead and I don't. He knows what's in the future for me. He knows all about me, my makeup, everything. It's all known to Him. So it says, "From the Father of Lights with whom is no variableness neither shadow of turning." Not a shadow of turning. That is, not the slightest bit of change or turning is there because He knows and He never makes a mistake. As a brother once remarked, "He's too wise to err and too loving to be unkind." Isn't this blessed? May the truth of this 17th verse be brought home to each of our souls. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above." Let us learn to take all that God our Father sends as from the One who looks down upon us in love and perfect wisdom and orders according to that which He sees is best.

Let's read the 18th verse. "Of His own will begat He us with the word of Truth." I read that verse to show that the very fact that we're children of God did not originate in our own wills. No, of our own wills we would never have received Christ. There is not one of you dear young people who are saved here this afternoon who can say, "It was because of my own will that I accepted Christ." No it was of the will of God. Would we have chosen Him? No, of our own wills we rejected Him, but He pled with us in His grace. He drew us and brought us to Himself, and so, "Of His own will begat He us." Well, if we didn't have one thought toward Him and He looked upon us and picked us out and drew us to Himself and purposed us for eternal glory, can we not then commit the few short years of our lives down here into the hand of the One, "Who of His own will begat He us, with the word of Truth"? That brings in another point and that is, He's given us His word. And it's His word that He used to our salvation. How is it that we know we're saved? Is it some feeling we depend upon? No, we rest upon His precious, unchanging Word. If

there's anyone here who's unsaved let me speak to you, dear young person. God wants to bless you. He wants to save you. He wants to draw you to Himself. He wants you to know what's in His heart toward you. Oh, you may long have rebelled against His grace and it's His word that He uses to this end. So this brings before us the importance of this blessed Book. It's used to our salvation, and then too, it's what's necessary for direction for our whole pathway.

Now, let us turn over to the 4th chapter and the 10th verse. "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord and He shall lift you up." "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord." I didn't take time to read some thoughts in the intervening chapters but I might say that in the first part of this fourth chapter it says that "We ask and we ask amiss that we may consume it on our lusts." Isn't it often true that when we ask for something it's what we think is best, but perhaps it isn't. That's why we ought to always say, "If it be Thy will." So if God has not granted to us something that we desired, let us take the place humbly before Him, of bowing to His will and accepting the circumstance from the Lord. What will happen? He'll lift us up. He'll lift us up. I believe if we lay hold of these things, dear young people, every one of us will go away from these meetings happy. Because if we learn the blessed fact for our own souls that God purposed us for eternal blessing and that He is ordering the circumstances of our lives, then we'll count it all joy when we fall into divers temptations. The reason we're told to humble ourselves is because the natural heart resists the will of God. My heart, your heart, dear young person, resists the will of God. We find it very hard to submit, don't we? We'd like to cast our cares upon the Lord. But the real reason we can't cast our cares upon the Lord is because we have some desire and we feel we can't be happy unless that desire is granted. But we can be happy and the only real place of happiness is in submission to the will of God. We can only submit when we know with assurance that His heart is toward us in goodness and grace. His heart is toward us in riches, goodness and grace, I say.

So it says in the 11Th verse, "Speak not evil one of another brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law and judgeth the law." Why does this come in here? Well, I'm sure that whenever things don't work out the way we had hoped they would work out, we try to find somebody to blame. We try to find some person who is at fault. We look around and it's this person and it's that person. If that person hadn't done this, if the other person hadn't done that, things would have worked out differently. So, the next thing is, we don't submit to the will of God and we begin to speak evil. But, oh, how many sorrows we sow among ourselves, dear young people, by speaking evil one of another. When we get up there to glory and we look back on our lives down here and we do as it says, We "remember all the way the Lord our God led us...in the wilderness scene"(Deut. 8:2). Do you think we'll speak evil one of another there? Do you think there's one of us in that bright home above that will look at the other person and say, "Oh, he did me so much harm!" No, we'll all praise the Lord together and we'll see how He was using even the mistakes, even the unkind things, and all that took place to accomplish that which He desired in us. That is, that we might lean on one arm alone, the mighty arm of that precious Savior who loved us and gave Himself for us. As we sang in that little hymn, "The hand our many sins had pierced is now our guard and guide"(L.F. 209). Then in the other verse, "Jesus the Advocate, nor can that hand be stretched in vain for us to supplicate." So, if we have any bad thought in our mind toward any person, let us judge it right now. Let us get before the Lord about it, because if we don't, we're speaking evil of the law and judging the law. The Word tells us, "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose"(Rom. 8:28). If we believed that, we wouldn't speak the way we do very often of others. We would take the circumstances from the hand of God our Father. So, it says that when we speak evil of another, we're speaking evil of the law and judging the law. I might say that the law here is in a very broad sense. Perhaps we could turn, just for a moment to the 19th Psalm because I think there is a very precious portion there about this. "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul. The testimony of the Lord is sure making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb" (Psa. 19:7). Oh isn't this lovely! What a wonderful book this is. Dear young people, the older I get the more I value this precious book and all its instructions. It has first showed us our need as sinners. It showed us God's grace in providing a Savior for us and now the little time that remains to us, it's written so we might have all things that pertain unto life and godliness. There isn't a question in your life or mine that we will not find in this blessed Book, the wisdom and instruction that we need for our whole pathway. So let us read this precious book, let us meditate upon it, and when circumstances arise that seem, difficult and make us uneasy let us look up and say, "Well God's Word says all things work together for good to them that love God." Let us also look up and say, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above." It all comes down from His heart to us for our good and for our blessing.

So the 12Th verse says, "There is one lawgiver who is able to save, and to destroy. Who art thou that judgest another?" Oh, this is a very solemn verse. I'd like to speak to anyone here who is unsaved. Remember, you must have to do with this precious Savior as a savior or as a judge. You must have to do with Him. He is able to save. He is able to save. No matter who you are or what you have done, there is power in the precious blood of Christ to cleanse you from all sin. I say, He is able to save, but remember He's able to destroy too. I trust there won't be one person in this company who will be sent to a lost eternity. If you reject the Lord Jesus as your Savior, if you reject that heart that is toward you in grace, you'll go to a lost eternity. But dear young people, you who are believers, isn't it a strange thing that we can actually believe that God loves us so much that He saved us from Hell and doubt that He would be able to work things out in our lives for our good and for our blessing? Isn't it a strange thing? And yet it's so with every one of us. We know He's saved us for eternal glory and yet we find ourselves doubting as to the path in which He leads us.

We often say that great and important decisions are made in youth. Most of these decisions, I suppose we could say, are made before we're 25 years of age. Oh, how very needful that we should turn to the Lord for these decisions. I want to impress upon you the words in that 15th verse, "If the Lord will." "If the Lord will." May you write that across every plan in your life. May I write it across every plan in my life. "If the Lord will", because if it's not His will there can be no real lasting blessing in it. There are six things in verse 13 to which I want to call your attention. "Go to ye that say, today or tomorrow we will go into such a city and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain." Now here are the six points, I'll just mention them. "Today", that's the present plan. "Tomorrow", that's the future. "Such a city", that's the place or city where you intend to live. "Continue there", is the residence you take up in that city. "Buy and sell", that's your occupation. "Get gain", that's your income. Isn't that what concerns most young people when they're starting out in life? Your plans for today, what are they? Oh, have you written across the plan for today, "If the Lord will"? That's the seventh thing. If the Lord will, then I'm sure you can say that you can count it all joy to fall into divers temptations. Because if it's the will of God that you be cast into prison like Paul and Silas you can sing in the prison, because that was the will of God for them. Oh, how lovely it is. I know I fail in this, but I say it for my own soul, this is the secret of happiness.

In the 13th verse we have the six things, the planning of the human, and when we come to the 15th verse, we have bringing the Lord into the plan. That makes the seventh. The man of sin, his number is 666. That is, six is man's number. It's what man figures he can do at his very best. But when we bring the Lord in we have perfection. We have Him working things out. So, again, I say, today, today, let us begin today. "I beseech you therefore brethren by the mercies of God that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, wholly acceptable unto God which is your reasonable (or intelligent) service"(Rom. 12:1). Oh let's begin today. Don't say, "I intend, when I get through school, to set out to follow the Lord." Today, if the Lord will. Today, if the Lord will, and then tomorrow. Oh, that's the future isn't it? What's going to happen tomorrow? We don't know what's going to happen tomorrow, but the Lord does, the Lord does. "Known unto God are all His works from the beginning of the world (eternity N.T.)" (Acts 15:28). Men don't know the future. They can't tell what's going to happen, but we have a Father who does. He loves us and He gave His Son to die for us and there's "no variableness neither shadow of turning" with Him. So tomorrow, what about tomorrow? Well, it's in the hands of God my Father. How lovely the words of that hymn, "Our times are in Thy hand, Father we wish them there" (L.F. #209). Oh, isn't that the way for us dear young people? What peace it gives to the soul. What a grand thing to walk out of this assembly hall and be able to say, "Tomorrow, if the Lord will. Tomorrow, if the Lord will." Whatever He plans for me, "Pleasing or painful, dark or bright, as best may seem to Thee."

Then it says, "Go into such a city." I've heard many discussions. I've heard people, young and old, say, "Oh, I like that city. It's such a pretty city." Others say, "There's lots of opportunities in that city." We hear lots of comments about different cities, some that are considered pleasant to dwell in, some that are considered not so pleasant to dwell in. Well, such a city if the Lord will, if the Lord will. It will be a pleasant place if the Lord guides you to that place. Paul and Silas were in prison in Philippi. Paul and Silas had bleeding backs in Philippi. But I'm going to meet them in heaven some day and I'm going to ask, "What about Philippi? Was it a nice city?" Oh, I think they'll say, "We had a wonderful experience there. Why, we met the household of Lydia and that jailer got saved that night and that assembly went on so happily. It was one of the brightest gems for our service for the Lord." The epistle to the Philippians was written to those who lived in Philippi, the place where they spent the night in prison with bleeding backs. "Such a city." Such a city. It was a happy place though, wasn't it? Dear young people, that little city or that town and that assembly where you are can be a happy place for you, if it is the will of God that you are there. So in choosing the place where we want to live, remember that nothing can be right, no matter how nice the city is if it's not the Lord's will. Jericho was a far nicer city than some of the others, but Jericho fell under the judgment of God. We might go to the finest city we could choose in the whole of the United States and Canada and have no end of sorrow in that place. But we should seek to be in the place where the Lord wants us to be, whether it's in this land or whether it's on some other continent. Such a city, if the Lord will. Isn't that lovely?

Then, "Continue there." "Oh," you might say, "I'd like to visit this city. I don't mind going around and seeing the sights, but I wouldn't want to live there." I've heard people say that, "I wouldn't want to live there." Well it says, "Continue there." How long? Well, however long the Lord says. Some of the places where Paul visited he continued there for a few days, some places a few weeks, others beyond a year, a year and six months even. But he continued there, isn't that lovely? I've heard people use a certain kind of expression, "Oh I couldn't stick it out there." Well, "continue there" if the Lord will, for He'll give you the strength for it, He'll give you the grace for it! Isn't that lovely? "Continue there."

Then, what kind of an occupation? Oh, I hear it so often. Oh, it's hard to choose isn't it? I feel sorry for you dear young people. I know it's not easy to choose the occupation that you should follow in life. There are so many problems. It's not an easy decision. There are many things to consider. But, oh, consider it well. That occupation that you have, can you write over it, "If the Lord will"? Is there something connected with it, is there some union or something you have to get mixed up in to fulfill that occupation? Then you can't write over it, "If the Lord will." Because if the Lord will you'd like to be out of that situation. How lovely it is to consider this while you're young, before you get into something where you find that you can't honor the Lord as you wish to. How lovely to consider this in your planning, to look forward to the future and say "if the Lord will." "Continue there a year and buy and sell." Buy and sell. Whatever the occupation is, can you write across it, "if the Lord will"?

Then the next thing, the biggest one of all, I suppose, to young people, "get gain." What's the salary per year? How much are you going to be paid? What benefits are there? Well, "get gain" "if the Lord will", if the Lord will. Better to be content with less and be able to honor the Lord, than to get a fine salary and not be able to write across your paycheck, "if the Lord will." Oh how lovely then, in all our planning, in all we seek to do, and we must look forward if the Lord doesn't come. We're looking for Him to come, but if He leaves us here, it's not wrong to look forward, providing those four words are written across every plan in our lives, "If the Lord will." "If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that." Oh what a happy thing it is.

So it says, "Ye rejoice in your boasting." If we rejoice in anything that we can't write across those four words it's evil. It's evil. It's all going to pass away, and if it doesn't pass away in this life, it'll pass away when it's manifest at the judgment seat of Christ when it's all consumed in the flames. For, only that which is of Christ and in obedience to His Word is going to abide, only that which is for Him. It says, "The world passeth away and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever" (1 John 2:7). Dear young people, I say to you again, I know you are faced with situations that some of us who are older haven't had to meet. I realize that it's not easy for you, and we all enter into, in some measure, the disappointment when some plan is frustrated. But, oh may those words be brought home to each heart, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations." And then to be able to write across every plan, "If the Lord will."

So it says here in this last verse, "To him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin." If we know, in many things we're ignorant, we make mistakes, all of us. The speaker has made many mistakes. But, if we know the will of God, if we're seeking His will, if we're reading His word for our pathway, He has promised, "If any man will to do His will, he shall know" (John 7:17). Oh may God grant, then, that each one of us may consider these things in connection with our choices in life and that we may go away from this conference happy because we know it's the will of God. I'd just like to quote the last verse of the 19th Psalm in closing. It says, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer."

Shall we sing in closing the last verse of Hymn #15. "All that we are as saints on earth, all that we hope to be, when Jesus comes and glory dawns, we owe it all to Thee."

Toronto, Ontario April 1962

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