

had an arrangement that I had never seen before., where you could step down on a step next to the door. The man in front pressed a button but the door didn't open until you stepped down. When you stepped down it opened. One day just before our commencement I was with the man who was then Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Seminary, we'd gone out to dinner together and we came back and it was the first time he'd ever seen a bus like that.

The bus got to our stop and he was just ahead of me. We had pressed the button and the bus stopped. I said, Step down. Step out! He said, The door is shut. Well I said, Step down. He said, The Door is shut. It took me two or three times of trying before I persuaded him to step down. In my talk at the commencement service, it gave me a wonderful illustration of how he did not have faith in me. And when I told him just step down, it was hard to get him to. But when he stepped down it opened.

Abraham's servant said, I being in the way, the Lord led me. When the Lord shows what he wants us to do we don't have to see the complete end of it. He has wisdom and He knows what's ahead. We have simply to take the step that He shows us. The step he desires us to take, and then we can take the next step. And we can trust in the promises of God.

(Seventh). Faith should mean that we have trust in God for peace of mind whatever happens. We are strangers seeking a country. 1 Jn. 5:19 tells us that Satan has the whole world in his control. Of the evil one. Some will tell you Satan is bound now. That does not correspond with the facts that anybody can see. Satan is not bound. He is very active. John tells us he is the prince of this world. We are strangers seeking a country. So if we step out and endeavor to do our utmost for God and things go wrong; if things go wrong in our lives and things don't work out, if we are truly faithfully following Him we can know that God has a plan, that there is something He desires for our good or for the progress of His work, and we don't see the whole thing.

But we can put trust in God for peace of mind. And that's one of the hardest lessons to learn about faith. But I think for a Christian, one of the most important. God wants us to do our utmost to carry out His will, but he wants us to leave the results in His hands and be satisfied with what He gives and to know that He has a good purpose. Things may not go right for us in this life, but we are strangers. We are seeking a country to which God is leading us. We are waiting for that time when our Lord comes back and destroys Satan and when Satan is bound and God establishes that wonderful kingdom of peace and justice on earth. But it's not that way now. But God has his purpose in all that's happening. So we want to learn to trust Him and put our faith in Him and know His will is always best.

Let's pray: Our Father we thank you your word teaches us so clearly that we are strangers and pilgrims on earth and we seek a country and we thank you that that country is one you'll establish in your own way and time and you desire us to have faith in your strength and wisdom that we'll follow as you lead and we'll have confidence that your will is best. Help us to remember what Jesus did for us on the cross. . . . Help us to step out in faith and accomplish what you desire us to do. We ask for Jesus' sake. Amen.