

# **Strength at Wit's End**

*Ray Stedman*

## I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Hebrews 4:14-5:10.
- B. The new, radical principle before every Christian is rest—it is not an option.
- C. Rest is ceasing from one's own activities.
- D. This is faith.

## II. Faith is trusting in the work of another person.

- A. Faith takes away from us our favorite excuse for failure.
- B. It proposes to meet every situation with divine wisdom, strength and trust.

## III. The throne of grace.

- A. There is spiritual renewal only when there is a return to Calvary as the only sacrifice, Christ as the only priest and grace as the only confessional.
- B. Throne always refers to power. Grace always refers to sympathy. These two are combined in Jesus Christ.
  - 1. There are no limits to God's power.
  - 2. The throne of grace is in the heart of the believer in which Christ dwells.
  - 3. Christ is fully adequate to meet every problem and is concerned with all of these problems.
  - 4. Consequently, the believer can draw boldly to the throne of grace for all of his needs.

## IV. The qualifications for a high priest.

- A. He must be a man to represent humankind.
- B. He must offer sacrifices to deal with the problem that separates God and man.
- C. He must be beset with weakness and sin in order to relate to man.
- D. He must be appointed by God to make man fit for life.

## V. How Jesus can sympathize with man's sins without being sinless.

- A. The answer is in the Garden of Gethsemane.

B. Jesus experienced the sense of sin there—He felt shame, guilt and despair.

C. Jesus went through a Gethsemane as no one else would—it took Him to the cross so that all that was made available to Him would be made available to believers. (Psalm 107)

**Application questions:**

1. Why is faith the only option for living the Christian life?

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2. How does the throne of grace make Christ approachable? What does this mean?

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3. How would you respond to someone who finds the idea of Jesus uncomfortable? Be specific.

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