

Steer By the Stars You Know

#0693

Study given by W.D. Frazee—February 14, 1964

I am so glad we can all study together and get God's message. The things I want to share with you tonight are from my own heart. They are some things God has given me in trying to help others. I find things which help me help others, and things that help individuals help congregations.

“Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that brings out their host by number: He calls them all by names by the greatness of His might, for that He is strong in power; not one fails” Isaiah 40:26.

When we lift up our eyes we see the stars. You have to look up to see them. They are there whether we look up or not. But the reason Jesus invites us to lift up our eyes is that we may see the stars.

In life we more or less see what we look for. I remember years ago when I first began to learn a little about the stars. One night after I had learned a few of the stars from the star charts, and read a bit about them, it was my privilege to spend the night on the desert. You know how clear the sky is out there. I unrolled my blankets, and about sunset I lay down and looked at the sky. I began to look at the places in the sky where these few stars I had become acquainted were supposed to come out.

With great fascination I watched, and pretty soon there was Arcturus blazing away. I saw Vega overhead, right where it belonged. It is a thrill when for the first time you look where a star is supposed to be, and there it comes with the deepening twilight.

There are some precious things God would like to teach us as we lift up our eyes and look at the stars. He says that as we look up we are to remember that He is strong in power, and not one fails. Not a single time has an astronomer turned his telescope on the appointed place that the looked for star has failed to appear.

Tonight here and there over the surface of the planet men are turning those great eyes heavenward. They are focusing on a certain places to take pictures. Not once are they ever disappointed. The star is always there, exactly where and when it is supposed to be.

Aren't you glad for a God who is that dependable? As we lift up our eyes and look we can receive the strength that comes from a sense of His almighty power. We need it in hours of test, in moments of emergency.

This same prophet tells us what is the result of looking in the other direction. Talking about the very time in which we live, he says:

“And they shall look unto the earth; and behold trouble and darkness, dimness of anguish; and they shall be driven to darkness” Isaiah 8:22.

Everybody in this world will soon be looking around them and be driven to darkness, for that is all there is. Or else they will be looking upward to where the stars are. Which way are you looking? Which way have you been looking this week?

Somebody says, I just had so much trouble and so many problems this week that I haven't had time to look up.

Bless you heart, friend, that is the hour of all hours to look up. You remember that wonderful picture in *Great Controversy* of the coming time of trouble when in the midst of that greatest of all troubles a voice is heard speaking to the people of God, “Look up.” And among the wondrous things to those who have learned to look up will be the revelation of a star whose brilliancy is increased fourfold in contrast to the dark and angry firmament about it. I believe that tonight if we look in the right place we will see that star.

Looking down to our time, Jesus foretold some things about this last generation as Luke tells it:

“And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken” Luke 21:25-26.

That is what is making men's hearts fail today. They are looking around them, when they might be looking up and seeing the stars. So after telling what the people of the world will be doing, Jesus says:

“And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh” Luke 21:28.

When the sun, moon, and stars tell of the signs of His soon return, and when on earth men are being driven to fear and perplexity by looking at the darkness around them, then look up.

The servant of God says we are to learn to look upward:

“The third angel closes his message thus: ‘Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.’ As he repeated these words, he pointed to the heavenly sanctuary” *Early Writings*, page 254.

Which way is that? Is it in Rome? No. Not in New York either. The hope of this world does not lie in the United Nations, or in any of the religious systems who are looking to human mediators—priests, Popes, or whoever. The hope of this world lies up in the most holy place.

“The minds of all who embrace this message are directed to the most holy place, where Jesus stands before the ark” *Ibid.*

Are we looking there? That is our privilege. That is where we will gather hope and comfort.

Several years ago it was my privilege to spend a few weeks down in Mexico and Guatemala. That is much further south than I had ever been before. I saw some stars I had not seen before. Some of you who have traveled across the equator have seen those and some more, because you went further south than I did.

I didn't know what some of those stars I looked at down there were, but in my heart was kindled a desire to know. Dr. Allen Harmer is something of an amateur astronomer, and he had some star charts. I had the privilege of finding out I was looking at the Southern Cross. That is something like what the North Star and the Dipper is to us folks up here.

Some mornings later we started on a very early trip in the dark to go down to Guatemala. You may be sure I watched various stars there in the southern sky, getting help from my brother as to just what those stars were. I got a real thrill of joy.

God has told us that if we will study our chart we will see some more things. Day by day and year by year we are to study the Bible with the wonderful telescope God has given us through the Spirit of Prophecy, and discern that which will enable us to know where we are.

The stars have many purposes. Through centuries and millenniums past one of the greatest blessings to the human family has been to provide the mariners something to steer by. Many a sailor has fixed his eyes upward when the sun has gone down at night, and through the long weary hours of darkness guided his bark by the stars. That is especially what I would like to have us think about. If you get this, you will get the heart of my message.

We steer by the stars we know, not by the ones we don't know. One night God took Abraham out under the Syrian sky and directed his eyes upward and said, “Look now toward heaven and tell the stars if thou be able to number them.”

Could Abraham count them? No. There is nobody here who knows the names of all the stars you even see. You look up at the heavens and say, “There is the North Star. I know that one. There is Arcturus. I know that one. There is little Pleiades twinkling away like diamonds.” Somebody says, “What is that star over there? I don't know that one. What is that group yonder? I don't know that one.”

Well, you don't know very much, do you? No, I don't know very much. But I could tell which way is north by looking at the stars.

The thing I am glad for tonight is that none of us has to be a professional astronomer, or even a good amateur astronomer to know a few things about the stars, and from those few things know our directions. So in the spiritual life. This is what we are interested in. Thank the Lord, there are great settled truths which blaze like the North Star, like Vega, like Arcturus, and like these other landmarks.

If we will acquaint ourselves with those great landmarks of truth, the fact that there are many other things we might like to know yet do not know need not hinder us, make us doubt, make us worried, or confuse us. In other words, look at the stars you know, and steer by them. Let not the things you do not know divert you from the things you do know.

I find young people are sometimes troubled with doubts. Older ones too, for that matter. Are any of you ever troubled with doubts? Yes. Some of you are. Listen. Don't believe your doubts until you doubt your beliefs. Don't fix your eyes on those things that are confusing and uncertain. Fix your eyes on the stars that you know and steer by them. If you learn about some more stars, if you can get some more things settled, fine. But wouldn't it be too bad to let what you don't know spoil what you do know?

Thousands are doing this. They are letting what is uncertain keep them from getting the benefits of what is certain. What is certain may not be the same in every heart, in every mind. Some people know more stars than others. Everybody who makes a successful voyage across life's ocean will have to know a few, or else he will get lost. But you don't have to know them all. You don't have to know everything in the Bible. You certainly don't have to know everything in the fifty volumes of the Spirit of Prophecy. You don't have to understand it all. Steer by the stars you know. Cling to the truths that are settled.

I would like to review some of the things that are fixed stars to me, and I trust to you. Write them down if you will. Check them. See if they are settled in your thinking. See if they are fixed stars in your firmament. If they are, you are rich.

As I go through this list, if there is a single one of them that is not crystal clear in your mind, if I were you I would not rest until I got that fact settled; until I got that question answered. There are a thousand questions about the Bible that can wait until we get to the New Jerusalem. But there are some things which cannot wait until we get there. So let's look at the precious, fixed stars. What a glorious constellation they make.

First, God is. He lives and reigns. I know that God is. I know He lives and reigns. Comprehend Him? No. I can't even comprehend the stars which are dust at His feet.

I can't imagine a sun which is 90 million miles from this earth pouring forth light and heat and energy that this planet and others depend upon for life. I can't imagine another sun so large that our sun and all the distance between our earth

and our sun could be put into it. Antaries is the sun I am talking about. I couldn't comprehend it even if the angel would tell me. A sun that big? No. I don't comprehend it.

But friends, I believe that God is the one who made all these stars and put them into their places, and as our texts says, He upholds them by His mighty power so that not one fails. Yes, I know that God is.

There are people who have doubts about that. I trust that with all of you it is a settled conclusion that you know God is, He lives and reigns. Do you? Well, then you have a star, a glorious star to look at.

The Bible is His word. The Bible is a letter from the great God who made the heavens and the earth, who made all these stars. He is the one who inspired this Book.

It has been my privilege to sit down with more than one infidel or achiest and go through the proof, and draw from his lips that here is evidence that ought to appeal to any fair-minded jury. Plain, straight evidence.

Do you see it shining in the sky? Do you know that the Bible is God's word? Are you settled in that? Well friends, then you can see two great stars, and you know their names. You know that God is. He lives and reigns. You know that the Bible is God's word. Aren't those two beautiful, glorious stars?

This Book brings to view the star that shall arise out of Jacob, the long promised Messiah. You remember the wise men followed the star to Bethlehem and found the Savior. Yes, Jesus is the bright and morning star. Is He shining in your sky? Do you know that Jesus is the Son of God?

You might turn to Daniel 9 and trace down that wonderful prophecy of the sixty-nine weeks. You could put your finger on it and say, "There is the evidence." And it is. Or it may be you say, "I know He lives because He lives in my heart." Either way, or both, if you know that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, you have indeed a glorious star shining in the firmament.

God is. He lives and reigns. The Bible is His word. Jesus, His Son, is my Savior. He came to this world to live for me, to die for me, to rise for me, to ascend for me, to be my Priest in the heavenly sanctuary. And I know that is so. There is no question about it.

I know that on October 22, 1844 that same dear Savior who died upon the cross and went to heaven closed the door of the holy and opened the door of the most holy place, and began His ministry at the mercy seat to make an end of sin. That to me is just as settled as these other things. It is a glorious, brilliant, beautiful star. John speaks of it:

"And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in His temple the ark of His testament"
Revelation 11:19.

I look in and I see Jesus in that closing work. What a star of hope that is.

Around practically every star in the sky with which I am acquainted there are many lesser, little stars that I couldn't tell you their names for the life of me. But I don't intend to let the stars I don't know divert me from the ones I do know. It is the ones I do know that I steer by. The things that are important about the sanctuary God has made as clear as Arcturus on a dark night, as brilliant as Vega shining there in the arch of the heavens. Let's lift up our eyes on high and behold that which is clear and settled and eternal as the stars. What do you say?

Don't misunderstand me. There is nothing wrong with anyone increasing his knowledge of the constellations, is there? No. "The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever" Deuteronomy 29:29.

I can tell you, no new discovery of some astronomer is going to change the fact that when I am out on the ocean, the North Star can guide my unaided eye, and help me know my directions. So it is in the world of theology and prophecy. Let us steer by the stars we know.

There is another star that is shining in the heaven. God has sent a message to this world through the three angels of Revelation 14, directing the attention of men to that closing work in the heavenly sanctuary, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. I know that. There is no question about it. The message of Revelation 14 is God's message for this last hour.

There is another star I rejoice over. God has raised up a people to carry that message to the world. I know that His church, the Seventh-day Adventist church, is pointed out in Revelation 14:12. I know they are pointed out in Revelation 12:17. That to me is no guess work. It is just as clear and settled as any star in the sky.

There are a lot of things I wish were different in the church and in my own poor heart. But the church, enfeebled and defective though it is, needing constantly to be reproved, is nevertheless the one object on earth on which Christ bestows His supreme regard, and through the church will eventually be made manifest the love of God, the glory of God in the latter rain and the loud cry. I want a part in it. That to me is settled. It is just as settled as the stars.

Another star I see is that God has given us in these latter days these wonderful books of the Spirit of Prophecy. The *Testimonies to the Church*, the *Conflict of the Ages* series, and the many other precious volumes. I know these are inspired. I am just as certain of that as that I live. There is not a doubt in my mind about it.

Do I understand everything in it? No. Can I make plain some apparent difficulties? Maybe I can with some. I am sure I can't with others. What do I do then? I steer by the stars I see, and I refuse to allow my attention to be diverted from that which is certain to that which is perplexing. That is what I do when I study the Bible. That is what I do when I study the Spirit of Prophecy. I suggest you do it.

I feel so sorry when I see the minds of individuals diverted from the great truths which are as settled as the stars, picking up some question somebody has suggested to their minds. Oh, do not let the things that are not clear divert you from those things that are clear. Do not let the things that are perplexing get your mind off the things that are settled and sure.

There is another star that shines up there. It is that all we have looked at is for me. God is for me. The Bible is for me. This Word is His letter to me.

Jesus is for me. He is my Savior. His cross is for me. He died for me. His resurrection was for me. He lives for me. His priestly work in the most holy place is for me.

The third angel's message is for me. It is for me that the angel has come down from heaven with the everlasting Gospel.

God's church is for me. It is the ark over which I am to ride these stormy billows in this closing hour.

The Spirit of Prophecy message is for me. When I open these pages and read a letter, I know that my name is there. Again and again as I open *The Desire of Ages* or *Ministry of Healing* or *Steps to Christ* I find the thing that speaks to my heart, and I know that the Holy Spirit, in inspiring those precious words, was thinking of me. It is all for me.

Do you know it? You can know it. It is all for you. My dear children, youth, and older ones. Our God is so great and wonderful that He can give all He has and all He is to each one of you. That is what infinity can do. He has poured out all heaven in one gift and put it down in front of you. Shall we miss the wonderful blessing through being diverted? God forbid.

I come now to a very important point. I hope nobody will miss it.

“Disguise it as they may, the real cause of doubt and skepticism, in most cases, is the love of sin...

“Christ has said, ‘If any man wills to do His will, he shall know of the teaching.’ Instead of questioning and caviling concerning that which you do not understand, give heed to the light that already shines upon you, and you will receive greater light. By the grace of Christ, perform every duty that has been made plain to your understanding, and you will be enabled to understand and perform those of which you are now in doubt” *Steps to Christ*, page 111.

I will be very practical. Here is a person who is attending some meetings. He is hearing the message of God preached in a tent or a tabernacle or a hall. He hears about the Sabbath. All his life he has kept Sunday. It bothers him. It troubles him.

If it is true, what he going to do about his job? What is he going to do about the church he has attended and been a member of all his life? But he keeps coming and he studies. The Bible workers study with him. The preacher studies with him. Finally he comes in his own heart to the place where he says, "Yes, the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord."

Meanwhile, some of his friends have said, "You wouldn't think of being a Seventh-day Adventist, would you? Don't you know if you go that way you won't be able to eat any pork? You will have to quit going to certain places of amusement." And on and on. He hasn't studied very much about health reform. He hasn't thought very much about these other things. He can't see that it makes any difference what a man eats. But down in his heart he does know that the seventh day is the Sabbath.

If you were the Devil, what would you do with a man like that? I will tell you what the Devil does. He gets the man in a stew over all the things he doesn't understand and is afraid of, and uses that as a leverage to tell that man he had better not try to keep the Sabbath because look what he would get himself into.

What is the way out of that difficulty? There is only one way out of it. It is for that man to get down on his knees and say, Dear Lord in heaven, I want to do the right thing. I have been in these meetings and there are a lot of things I do not understand. There are new things opened up, and half of it I can't settle for sure. But there is one thing I have to be honest and admit. I see that the seventh day is the Sabbath. Now Lord, by Your grace I am going to start to keep the Sabbath. It is clear. And when other things are clear I will do them. But I don't do them until they are clear. I won't allow the things that are perplexing to keep me from doing the thing that is clear. I will steer by the stars I see.

That is the right answer. There is no other. Do you agree with me? Are you following that way?

You say, "Sure, I am a Sabbath keeper."

Is that the end of the road? Was that the last star. Was that the last step? Where there some more? Are there some more?

You say, "Brother Frazee, I suppose you are hinting about some things in health reform or dress reform or educational reform."

Yes, I am. I am more than hinting about them. I am coming, by the grace of God, right to them. There are beautiful stars, glorious stars, shining in the heavens in the field of diet, on the matter of dress, in matters of education, recreation, association, courtship, marriage, how to keep the Sabbath, tithe paying, and all the other phases of life.

Somebody sees something and says, What about this? I don't see any sense in it. I don't see any need for it.

Very well. If you don't see any need for it, put it to one side. If you don't see any sense in it, leave it alone. But do you see anything in health reform? If you do, follow it. Do you see anything in dress reform?

Somebody says, "Don't talk to me about dress reform. I have seen so many sloppy people."

That is not the way to steer by the stars. We found in Isaiah 8 that happens to people who look unto the earth. They are driven to darkness. The stars are in the heavens, and the light you and I will get on all the reforms doesn't come from criticizing poor human beings who are trying to carry them out. That is not the way light comes. It comes down on our knees studying the testimony of Jesus to find out what Christ has sent His angel from heaven to reveal to us.

You don't have to steer by somebody else's stars, or by the stars they see. If all you see is one star, steer by it. But do not let doubts and perplexities on what to do about this, that, and the other thing keep you from doing the thing that God has made clear to your understanding.

The same in the question of recreation. Somebody says, "What about playing such and such a thing? Do you think it is wrong?"

That isn't the question. Do you think Christian young people should run to the dance and the theater, and a lot of other things I could mention, until somebody makes clear to their understanding all the answers to the question of amusement reform? They will never find the light that way. There is only one way to find the light. It is to do just what I read. Give heed to the light that already shines upon you, and you will receive greater light.

Be very careful, my dear young friends, and older ones, that you do not hide behind the mistakes of others, the failings of others, and your own perplexities, and let it keep you from walking in light that is shining as clear as a star into the brain cells of your head.

So it is in the matter of life's work. So many times people come and counsel with me about what they are going to do about their life's work. The rule is very simple. Be faithful in the work that lies nearest, and do today the thing you know will please the Master. Don't let what you *do* see, be covered up and hidden by what you do not see.

When this night is done and heaven's morning breaks in the morning of eternity, thank God, we will praise our heavenly Father, not only for that which He revealed to us, but for that which He concealed from us. He knew that if we saw everything we would be so amazed and confused we would not know how to find our way. In mercy He gives us light a step at a time. In mercy He reveals to us a few stars. He tells us to steer by those, and eventually we shall have all eternity to explore the infinity of glory.

Precious Jesus, we thank Thee tonight that as we lift up our eyes and look to the heavens, we behold the beautiful stars. We thank Thee for the hand that set

them in their places, and that keeps them from falling. We pray that Thou wilt help us, mariners on the sea of life, to steer by those fixed stars that never change; that we may find our way across life's ocean. Teach us to do that which is clear from day to day, and leave with Thee that which is perplexing and uncertain. We ask it for the sake of the One who died for us. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

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