

Shining Soul Winners

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Study given by W. D. Frazee—March 20, 1981

[Prayer spoken by a brother] “We thank Thee for Thine only begotten Son who has become our Brother. Let us remember that wonderful family that has life eternal awaiting all of those who respond to the invitation to come. This sweet Sabbath evening, as the hours of holy time have come, we thank Thee that Thou hast made provision for a *special* gift, even Thy Holy Spirit. And dear Father, this gift we need most of all because it’s the only thing that can change fleshly tablets and take away carnal nature and replace it with Divine nature. And Father, we need this so very much. This is what this meeting is for this evening, to help us to press close to Thee and to one another. May we feel Thy presence. Some way, give each of us a little special hug and press to Thy bosom that we may feel Thy throbbing heart and know how anxious Thou art to bring us home. Help us get just as anxious to get home and to grow up to full stature, to obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride and all of its subtle manifestations, and selfishness, and love of the world, and over every wrong word and action. So let that glorious Power be felt here this evening. Bless Thy servant, our brother, and shower us for Jesus’ sake, Amen.

Elder Frazee: There are three parts to the Word of God: the written word, the book of nature, and the book of experience in God’s dealing with human lives. I was listening to a tape and I heard a very interesting experience that Brother Kendall Harris was involved in, illustrating how God uses the life of one of His children to influence others, and I asked Brother Harris if he would share this with us. Brother Harris is one of our sanitarium staff here, and the Lord has blessed his ministry to many people and I know we all are going to enjoy this recital of God’s using His witness.

Brother Harris: It gives me pleasure to share this because you like to share happy moments. About a year and a half ago, I had one of the most thrilling days of my entire life. I wasn’t getting married, but I have to admit that it, in some ways, compared with the great excitement of a marriage almost. Brother Vital called me on an early Sabbath morning, and I guess he had a sense of humor like all of us and wanted to see if I could *guess* what he had up his sleeve. He asked me if I could guess who was at home with him and of course, I didn’t have any idea. He said that there was a person that wanted to talk to me on the phone but I needed to guess first, and he stalled me for just a moment.

Well, I’d really rather go back to the beginning. The beginning of the story is about 11 years prior to that, or about 12 ½ years ago from now. I was just entering a new profession, a public health sanitarium, and that involves inspecting restaurants and doing miscellaneous group of things that the Health Department is assigned to do—a

lot of troubleshooting and working out problems that people present to the Health Department. You don't go to college and learn all of that so I was being trained on the job and I happened to have been assigned to a man that was a sincere Christian but not of our faith, a man named Fred Newman. Fred was just a few years older than me, and we went out day after day inspecting restaurants and checking home septic tanks and *all kinds* of public health problems. And as we rode from one job to the next we had plenty of time to talk. To my delight, Fred enjoyed talking about the Bible, so I began just spontaneously sharing my faith with him. I didn't have to squirm too much to figure out how to work in a remark about my faith because Fred was quite happy to talk about it too. Fred was a member of another church and apparently was not sure that he had all the answers so he was asking questions and doing a lot of reading.

As time went on, our friendship developed and we had some meetings by a local pastor, so naturally I asked Fred if he'd enjoy coming to some of them. He did go to several and seemed to enjoy them. He found that the rest of his family wasn't as interested as he was, so he didn't make it to very many meetings. He chose not to upset the home situation too much at the time.

And as time went on, I felt like I was not in my chosen field, or I was not too happy with that type of work and the opportunity came up to go into canvassing work in a faraway conference. This was down in south Florida so far, but I got a call to go out to Kansas and do some preaching in some of the rural churches and canvassing to support myself. So I did go out there and that was the last that I saw of Fred for couple of years. Before I went, I did talk up a certain set of books. I noticed that the "Conflict of the Ages" was starting to come out in a nice white paper cover that was very inexpensive so I talked to him about that set of books and he was ready to buy. So I did get the books and leave the books with him as my going away present, not as gratis, but he insisted on paying for them.

And after I was out in Kansas, I was interested in how Fred's interest was pursuing and I did take time to write him just a couple of times. And then I sort of lost track of him. I was involved with another move, and finally I moved back to Florida after a couple years and not in the same area where Fred was, but he lived close to where my parents lived so I did look him up and I found that he was about where I had left him. I couldn't see that he was much closer to becoming an Adventist.

I've lived in a lot of different places. I was not in Florida more than about three years teaching church school several places and then I went off to Ohio. I didn't see any more of Fred then for a *long* time. In fact, I didn't see him until, well, it was about a year and a half ago when Brother Vital phoned me and said somebody wanted to talk to me and it was Fred Newman. Well, I just couldn't understand what Fred would be doing *here*. How would he hear about Wildwood?

Well, in the meantime, they had had worship together, and Fred was invited in Mission Manor that morning and they had invited Fred to tell how he became an Adventist. And Fred, sure enough, was an Adventist and when he told about how he

became an Adventist, why, he thought that I had played a part. I really don't feel that I played as big of a part as he thought I did, but anyway, he said there was a man that had given him literature and taken him to meetings and a man who seemed to be living a consistent Christian life, I would have to say very humbly. I'm sure he saw some shortcomings in my life but he nevertheless felt like I was sincere in my faith. So Fred hesitated to even mention who had had a part because he had lost track of where I was and had no idea that I was here at Wildwood. And someone prodded him to just go ahead and mention the person, there's always the chance that you'll run across individuals. So when he mentioned my name, of course people began grinning and Fred wondered what was going on and they told him that I was right here at Wildwood.

So that was a thrilling day when Fred and I got together, years after having seen each other without realizing we were both in the same church now. So, as I look back on it, I can see that I really didn't do anything *spectacular*, nothing that any one of *you* couldn't do. I didn't even give him some organized Bible studies. I simply spontaneously talked to him about the things I believed and prayed for him, took him to meetings when meetings arose, and shared our literature. And look what the Lord did. I'm sure that we all are in for some wonderful surprises sooner or later if we just sow the seed.

Elder Frazee: Thank you, my brother. That's a little foretaste of heaven. Every one of us is going to have experiences like that when we get under the Tree of Life, aren't we? Thank God we can have a foretaste here. Now, we have another very interesting report tonight from New York City. Mary Flemming is here who's manager of our restaurant up there, real close to the New York Stock Exchange. Shall we have the pictures first or Larry first? [Audience calls out one or the other.] He says if you'll show the pictures, then he'll know what not to tell about. All right.

[Larry shares slides and his testimony.]

Elder Frazee: I just want to say this: Would you like to know *why* this is going on there? Because 80 years ago, through the Spirit of Prophecy, God gave a revelation to His servant and said that we should make special efforts to reach the men in the business offices of New York City. That's why this is happening. Another interesting comment from the same source. The Spirit of Prophecy says that when the poor have done all they can, God will bring in riches from the outside world. (See *Gospel Workers*, page 298.) So let's continue to do all that we can. What do you say? [Audience responds: Amen.]

Are we ready for an offering? [Light laughter from the audience.]

All right. We have two texts to begin our study tonight: 1 Peter 2:9 and Daniel 12:3. And when you look at these two texts, you'll see why I'm calling this study tonight, "Shining Soul Winners." One text from the New Testament and one from the Old. They tell the same story in different words. Peter and Daniel, God's prophets and apostles

with the testimony of Jesus on this wonderful subject of shining soul winners. Now you've all found the one in Peter, haven't you? Will you read it with me:

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" 1 Peter 2:9.

Isn't it wonderful to know, my dear friend, that God planned your life *long before* you were born? In fact, before He made this world, He made this world with *you* in mind. Paul tells us in Ephesians 1:

"...He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world..." Ephesians 1:4.

But what for?

"...That ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light" *Ibid.*

Oh friends, the world is dark! *Somebody's* got light. Have *you* gotten the light? Are *you* in the light? Has it made you happy? Then God has chosen *you* to show forth the praises of Him who hath called you *out* of darkness *into* His marvelous light.

And then Daniel 12:3:

"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever" Daniel 12:3

Are you one of God's stars, shining for Him? If you are a soul winner, you are. You see, it's this way, friends. God's stars, God's soul winners, shine because they're soul winners, but they're soul winners because they shine with reflected light. He is the Sun of Righteousness. You notice Peter says "...He has called us out of darkness into *His* marvelous light." You and I don't originate any light. We try to; it's just sparks of our own kindling and they don't last very long. But oh, if you and I have followed *His leading* and have beheld *His glory*, then He is counting on us to *reflect* that glory. I like the way Jesus puts it in John 8:12. Let's turn and take a look at that one. Who's speaking? Jesus. What does He say?

"...I am the light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" John 8:12.

So as the moon and the stars of the solar system, the planets, shine with the reflected light of the sun, so you and I are privileged as His stars to reflect the light shining from the face of Jesus.

Turn to 2 Corinthians, the fourth chapter, and the sixth verse. Oh, this is a *beautiful* verse! 2 Corinthians 4:6. Remember what we're studying tonight: shining soul winners, the greatest destiny that any man or woman, any boy or girl, could have, to be one of God's stars—shining soul winners. They shall shine as the stars forever and ever. 2 Corinthians 4:6, all together:

“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ”
2 Corinthians 4:6.

Where is the glory shining? In the *face* of Jesus Christ. Put down in your notes the first chapter of Revelation. We won't turn to it. I want you to look at this text that we're looking at in Corinthians. But in Revelation the first chapter, you remember that the apostle John was visited by Jesus on the Isle of Patmos, and he saw Jesus' face filled with light and glory as the sun, and His eyes as a flame of fire. Now this light of the knowledge of the glory of God seen in the face of Jesus Christ is what you and I are to look at and reflect.

Notice that it's “the light of the *knowledge* of the glory of God.” What's the first four letters of the word ‘knowledge’? K-n-o-w. What's that spell? Do you know something? Do you know something? A person may *think* a lie. He may *believe* a lie. But the only thing a man can *know* is the truth, because the truth is *factual*. And the knowledge of God as seen in the face of Jesus Christ is light, precious light. In a world of confusion and uncertainty, the light of the *knowledge* of God is precious to those who want to know for sure.

Do you know *for sure* that the Bible is God's Word, or do you wonder whether it is or not? Do you know for sure that the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy, or are there some uncertainties in your mind? Do you know for sure that

“...the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light...”
Proverbs 6:23.

Are you certain about Jesus as your Savior? Do you know *Him* Whom to know is life eternal?

Friends, there are many things in this world that people are trying to find out that they *never will find out* in this life. Seek ye *first* the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and everything else we need will be added unto us (Matthew 6:33). Oh, that we may be intent on that light of the knowledge of the glory of God, that He's the truth (John 14:6), and He's love (1 John 4:8,16).

Turn over now to 1 John, the fourth chapter. I want you to see the *confidence* that looking at Him gives. This is a little Bible study tonight, isn't it? Do you know why we're studying the Bible? Because the Bible is God's revelation of His *truth*:

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path”
Psalm 119:105.

So we’re letting the *light* of Jesus shine from the sacred, inspired page that it may illuminate our minds and hearts. 1John 4:16:

“And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment...” 1 John 4:16-17.

I was looking at that and I thought, “Do we know anything about the Day of Judgment? Have we got a message to the world on that?” That word ‘boldness’ there means *confidence*, to *not be afraid*. Are we in the hour of God's judgment? Is that what Revelation 14:6-7 teaches? And the one who is looking in the face of Jesus and beholding the Father's love shining out through the countenance of the Son has *what* in the day of judgment? Boldness, confidence. Isn't that wonderful? Then notice the rest of the verse:

“...Because as He is, so are we in this world” *Ibid*.

[Tape seems to jump here but thought is continuous.]

He says to His church:

“Ye are the light of the world...” Matthew 5:14.

He's the light. *You and I* are to be the light. *He's* the truth. We are to be living epistles, known and read of all men. *He's* love. And “...as He is, so are we in this world.” You and I are to reflect His love and echo His truth.

Are you really *certain* about the truth? Do you want to know how to be *certain* about the Bible? Do you want to know how to be *certain* about the Gift of Prophecy? Here's a recipe. Proverbs, the 22nd chapter, verses 20 and 21. If you and I are to be shining soul winners, we'll have to have a confidence, a boldness, an assurance, that *nothing* can shake, *nothing* can dim. Proverbs 22:20-21:

“Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge, That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth...” Proverbs 22:20-21.

That's not the end of the verse. The purpose of giving us these excellent things in counsels and knowledge is that you and I may know the *certainty* of the words of truth. But what for?

“...That thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee” *Ibid.*

Isn't it wonderful to have an answer? Peter says:

“...Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you...” 1 Peter 3:15.

Now what is it that you and I are to dig into in order to have that certainty? “The excellent things in counsels and knowledge.” From Genesis to Revelation we have counsels and knowledge, counsels and knowledge. And in the modern revelations of the Gift of Prophecy we have *Counsels on Health; Counsels on Diet and Foods; Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students; Counsels on Sabbath School Work...* counsels, counsels, counsels. “Excellent things in counsel and knowledge.” What for? “So that I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth.” *What* will make us certain? Digging into the counsels, my friends.

But let me tell you something, in case you haven't already observed it, either in your own experience or the experience of others: studying objections, studying quibbles, studying doubts, studying error, never leads to certainty about truth. Believe me, this is so important. The Devil is always one jump ahead of you. As fast as you get one objection answered, he's got another one for you. He can keep you busy *all* your life, my dear friend.

You say, “Then how can I be *certain*?”

Study *truth*. Study the divine revelations of the Bible and the Gift of Prophecy. And if you will fill your mind with the *truth*, it will *stabilize* you.

Fifty years ago, I heard an old pastor out in Oakland, or even a little before that. He was exhorting his congregation in the study of the Bible. One man told him, “But Brother, my mind is just like a sieve, just like a sieve; and I read it and it just goes through!”

You know what the old preacher said? He said, “One thing about it: if you run clean water through a sieve, it'll keep the sieve clean.” [Laughter.]

But there's something more than *that*. Did you ever have one of these old wooden barrels? If it's been out in the sun with no water in it, what happens when you put water in it? It leaks out. What's the remedy? Put water in. But if it all leaks out, what do you do? Keep putting *more* water in. What finally happens? Pretty soon it'll hold every drop you put in it.

So, my dear friends, the living water of God's word received into your mind, if it's like a sieve, at least it'll keep it clean. And number two, your mind will begin to retain more and more and more.

This is the way to be *certain*. This is the *law* by which God *makes* people certain. And I repeat: studying objections, listening to tapes, or reading mimeograph materials or books, or listening to sermons that generate doubt; this is the Devil's way to lead you into confusion. What's the Bible name for confusion? [Audience responds: Babylon.] Babylon. And God says to do *what* about Babylon? [Audience responds: Come out of her.] Come out of her.

“...Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues” Revelation 18:4.

The human mind is an interesting instrument. It *receives* the impressions that are made upon it, through the eyes and ears particularly. You can decide whether you are going to believe the truth and reflect God's truth, or whether you are going to reflect the confusion of this world. Oh, I pray that God will help every soul here to say, “God helping me, I want the *truth*. I want the light of God's love. And I'm going to look at the Sun of Righteousness. I'm going to listen to His precious truth.”

And then notice that other point that we were studying there in 1 John—God's love. God's *love* and God's *truth* are closely related. They're two ways of revealing the character of God. All who reflect the light of God's character will be loving. If God so loved *us*, we ought also to love one another. Did you know that's one of the great reasons God gave us medical missionary work, so that we'd have a *practical* way to show people that God loves them? If a man is in pain, he appreciates anything that'll help relieve him. And if his mind is *open*, he appreciates learning how to eat and how to exercise, and how to live so he doesn't get the pain *again*, isn't that right? Health education can be just as much a revelation of love, a manifestation of love, as any *therapy* that may be administered. Yes, medical missionary work, health education—this is all a part of God's *beautiful* plan for shining soul winners.

So, I wish you'd turn now to the 60th chapter of Isaiah, and read one of the most *wonderful* prophecies in *all* the Bible. It's beginning to be fulfilled. It's going to be more and more. Sometime between now and the time when you go to bed tonight, look up there in the east and watch the moon rise over Lookout Mountain. Do you know why the full moon looks so big? Because it's *fully reflecting* the light of the sun. God wants you and me to do this, and so He says:

“Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee” Isaiah 60:1.

You know what happens to the moon when the earth gets between it and the sun? It quits shining. We call that an eclipse. That's what happens to *every* shining

soul winner if he lets the world get between him and the Sun of Righteousness. Oh, friends, let us not allow *the world* to eclipse our view of Jesus.

“Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people...” Isaiah 60:1-2.

Is it dark around? *Dark* with confusion; *dark* with error; *dark* with the drug traffic; *dark* with crime; *dark* with the breakdown of the home, the breakup of society; *dark* with the spirits of devils working miracles—dark in a thousand ways. The *prince of darkness* is having his heyday.

“...But the LORD shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising” Isaiah 60:2-3.

Did we see some of it a little while ago on the screen: see them coming, the Gentiles? Ah, dear ones, if you and I will be willing to be *little*, willing to be *nothing* in order that Jesus may shine out and that *His* name may get the glory, there is *no limit* to what God is waiting to do.

I appreciated so much that experience that Brother Harris shared with us. If you and I, as members of the church, as friends, as those who may not yet have been baptized but who believe this message, if every one of us will just *live* the truth, *live* the love life of Jesus, again, there's *no limit* to what can be done, no limit to what can be done. Reflectful of the light of truth, reflectful of the light of love...

In 2 Corinthians the 3rd chapter and the 18th verse, put it in your notes, it says that as we behold the glory of the Lord, we're *what?* [Audience responds: Changed.] We're changed, changed...

One of the translations puts it, instead of “beholding as in a mirror,” it says “reflecting as in a mirror.” As we *reflect* the glory of God, we ourselves are changed. All unconsciously to ourselves, the transformation goes on. Shining soul winners are not conscious of their *own* glory. They're looking at Jesus all the while and thinking of Him, reflecting Him.

Let me share a beautiful little comment for you in the commentary on Isaiah 60:

“Every shining star which God has placed in the heavens obeys His mandate, and gives its distinctive measure of light to make beautiful the heavens at night...” *Bible Commentary*, Vol. 4, page 1153.

How many stars are out there? Did you ever try to count them? You boys and girls, do some of you sing that little song, “I'm a little star, a happy little star”? How

many of you have heard it? Well, we'll have to get some children to sing it for us! Maybe *I* can try and you who know it help me:

I'm a little star, a happy little star,
I'm a little star for Jesus.
I'm a little star, a happy little star,
I'm a little star for Jesus.

Now try it again. [Audience joins Elder Frazee in singing the song.]

“Every shining star which God has placed in the heavens obeys His mandate, and gives its distinctive measure of light to make beautiful the heavens at night; so let every converted soul show the measure of light committed to him; and as it shines forth the light will increase and grow brighter. Give out your light, ...pour forth your beams mirrored from heaven, O daughter of Zion, ‘Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee’” *Ibid.*

Aren't we are a favored people, dear friends? Now let's think about our two texts:

“Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” 1 Peter 2:9.

Never utter a doubt, friends. If there's a doubt in your mind, get rid of it by looking at the truth and *never* utter a doubt. *Never* pass on quibbles and questions that will awaken doubts in other people's minds. *Souls* are at stake. Certainty is what we need; certainty as we have seen comes from looking to *Jesus* in His life, in His law, in His Word, in His testimony. This is light, light, light, light. *Beholding* the light, we *reflect* the light; *beholding* the light we are *transformed* and become more and more like what we behold.

And then Daniel 12:3, will you say it with me?

“And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever” Daniel 12:3.

God's shining soul winners—what a destiny! Ah friends, I wonder if there's anybody here tonight that God has spoken to personally, has laid His hand, as it were, on your shoulder and said, “Son, daughter, I want you to be a soul winner?”

Is there somebody here that either has never given your heart to Jesus, or you *have* given your heart to Jesus but somehow you've been going along in an ordinary

way as far as life is concerned, but tonight you see there's something *better*, that God wants you to be a soul winner for Him, a shining soul winner? Now, I'm not talking to those, just this moment, who have already been doing that and who are entering into it; I'm talking about somebody that tonight needs to make a decision, that God has called you to put your life into His soul winning service. I wish you'd stand; I want to pray for you. Just remain standing a moment. Just bow your head, forget about us and talk to Jesus. Somebody else? Like Matthew at the tax-collecting booth that Jesus called? Like Peter and Andrew down by the lakeside, that Jesus called? Somebody that Jesus is calling, to put your life *with His* in being a soul winner for Jesus...

You say, "I don't know how."

He'll *teach* you. I *know* He will because He taught *me*. He's *still* teaching me. Somebody else that God is calling? May we bow our heads:

Dear Lord, bless our dear friend as tonight he's looking to You. Oh, I thank Thee that he's heard the call of Jesus and I thank Thee that his heart is responding. God, bless him and fill his soul with the joy and the light of the love and truth of Jesus. Give him a part in reflecting it to others. For Jesus' sake, Amen.

Be seated. Now, I have another question. Who is there here tonight that has already had some taste of what we've been studying about but you want more and more and more? You want the things of this world to get less and less, the things of Jesus and His truth and love to grow more and you want more and more of your time and thought to be used in soul winning, may I see your hands? Thank God for every one. Thank God for every one.

[Elder Frazee begins to sing "My Jesus, I Love Thee" and audience joins him.]

Pastor Findland, would you come up and pray for us as we close the service tonight, and after we've been dismissed if there are those that have some question to ask, either concerning their relationship with Jesus or concerning how to be a better soul winner, several of us are here that'll be glad to help you. Friend, it's the *only* investment that will pay compound interest all through eternity. Let us kneel while Pastor Findland prays.

[Pastor Findland prays.]

Elder Frazee: God bless you all; you're dismissed. Have a wonderful Sabbath.

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W.D. Frazee Sermons
PO Box 129, Wildwood, GA 30757
1-800-WDF-1840 / 706-820-9755
www.WDFsermons.org
support@WDFsermons.org