

Bridge to Guidance

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Study given by W. D. Frazee—April 14,

While I was in Mexico I was much impressed with the fact that God wants us here in our training program to learn some very simple and practical lessons in order that we may meet the needs in various places, and that we may be prepared for the coming crisis. There are two lessons that God had impressed my heart with especially. The first is the lesson of obedience, and the second is the lesson of guidance. What we are going to study tonight is a bridge between the two.

I found a very interesting statement that reads:

"Until you have the resolution to obey God's will you cannot have His guidance" *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, page 511.

So what comes before guidance? Obedience. The lesson of obedience must be learned before we are prepared to enter into the experience of guidance.

That is why before a little child is old enough to reason, he must be taught to obey. If we haven't learned it when we are little, we need to learn it when we are big. If we haven't learned it while we are young, we must learn it when we are old.

It is an essential lesson. And there is so much in it that the Lord has burdened my heart to study this wonderful lesson, this first great lesson of life, more fully. It is the lesson of obedience, or of keeping the law.

"And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord, and great shall be the peace of thy children" Isaiah 54:13.

What kind of peace? Great peace. That is echoing what the Psalmist says:

"Great peace have they that love Thy law, and nothing shall offend them" Psalm 119:165.

We can't love the law and disobey it. And certainly we can't disobey it if we love it. Love and obedience belong together.

The following text is the text that I want to use as a basis:

"For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love" Galatians 5:14.

There is more to the text. There is more to the chapter. But that is enough for now.

All the law is fulfilled in how much? One word. It is wonderful to get all the law boiled down to one word, isn't it? And it isn't a word with seven syllables. It isn't a word that stretches across a column of the dictionary. It is a short word. What is it? Love.

Do you mean, Paul, that if a person loves he has fulfilled the law? Yes. All the law is fulfilled in that one word. That is why he says:

"He that loveth another hath fulfilled the law" Romans 13:8.

"Love is the fulfilling of the law" verse 10.

The whole law is focused on and springs from one word. What is it? Love. We ought not to be afraid of that, should we? Some people are afraid of law. If they understood where law comes from and where it leads to they wouldn't be afraid of it. Law is the expression of love. God's law is the expression of God's love, and all the law is fulfilled in His Word.

What does love seek to do? Love seeks to please. In fact, it not only seeks to please, it does please. I will tell you why. If anyone loves God enough to try to please Him, that very attitude pleases Him. You can't miss.

The poor widow came up to the temple where Jesus was teaching, and all she had was two mites. The two together make less than one of our pennies. That was all she had. Her heart was touched with the love of God, and she put those two mites into the place where they put the offerings. Who was she trying to please? She was trying to please God. Did she succeed? She succeeded wonderfully. In fact, Jesus said she succeeded far more than all the rich men that cast in of their abundance.

Were they trying to please God? No. They were trying to get notoriety and attention. They probably got it. But she was trying to please God, and she succeeded. That's the point. And the smallness of the offering didn't in any way limit her success in pleasing God. She pleased God as much as though she had given a million dollars.

It is a wonderful thing to keep in mind. We had an offering a little while ago. I know that some of us put something in, and I am sure that some of us didn't put anything in. Probably some of us here tonight didn't have anything to put in. But can we please God by just wanting to do the thing that He asks us to do, even if we don't have the wherewithal to do it? Yes.

You say, Prove that Brother Frazee.

I will:

"For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath and not according to that he hath not"
2 Corinthians 8:12.

Isn't that nice? Do you want to please God? Then you are pleasing Him if you want to please Him. And the more you want to please Him the more you are pleasing Him. That's what love is. Love is the great desire to please. Love seeks to please. Love does please.

When I was a boy I used to love to sit in camp meeting and in other meetings and hear dear old Elder Luther Warren preach. He was a dear man of God. One of his texts was Ephesians 5:10 in the twentieth century translation. You might like to write it down if you haven't heard it before.

"Always be trying to find out what best pleases the Lord"
Ephesians 5:

Why would anyone do that? There is no secret to it. If there is, the secret is simply that they love Him. And if you love someone, you are trying to find out what pleases them.

Every once in a while I hear a person inquiring around about what kind of flowers someone likes, or what color someone likes, or what someone might happen to like in the way of a book. They are thinking about making a present. Why do they care whether it is pink or blue or green or whatever? Because they want to please that person. Why do they want to please them? Because they love them. And if you and I love God, friends, it will be our supreme endeavour to find out what best pleases Him.

On the other side of that question, did you ever hear of anyone finding out how little they could give up and still go to heaven? Did you ever hear people discussing whether doing something would keep them out of heaven or not? What's the matter? Their eyes are on getting into heaven rather than pleasing God. If the only idea is to get into heaven, and there is any way to get a bargain ticket, even if there was some space trip that could take them up there and they could get inside the walls, they wouldn't be in heaven.

Lucifer and a third of the angels were outside of heaven in their hearts before their bodies were cast out. What happened? They lost this love. And when they lost this love they lost heaven. Getting their bodies out was simply putting them outside of heaven and away from God where their hearts already were. Watch it. They lost the desire to please God. And whenever you and I have lost the supreme desire to please God, then we don't love Him in the true sense, and we have lost heaven.

There is only one way to get it back, and it is to have that love put back into the soul, that desire put in the heart so that we want to please Him. Then we are trying to find out what best pleases Him. That makes such a difference in the way we read the Bible and the way we read the *Testimonies*. If I really want to please my Lord, I will be searching His Word, not to get some kind of credit or an honor or a

certificate. I am not complaining about certificates, but you see what I mean, don't you? We will be reading to find out what best pleases Him.

Can I find it out in the Bible? Certainly. And allow me to say there is not much on TV or radio that will help me find out how to best please God. Not very much. Occasionally there is something, but it is like digging through the garbage to find one banana. But here in this Word, thank God, every page tells me how to please Him. No wonder Jeremiah says:

"Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart" Jeremiah 15:16.

He wanted to please God, and he found it out by searching the Word. That made him happy. Does it make you happy? Well it does if you have love, and love is the fulfilling of the law.

Take the *Testimonies*. There are hundreds and thousands of pages of inspired writing that we call the testimony of Jesus. Why do we call them the testimony of Jesus? That's what the Bible calls it (Revelation 19:10). The testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy. What is Jesus testifying here? He is telling us what will please Him.

Suppose I want to know what will please Him in what I put on the table. Can I find it in here? Yes. And if my endeavor is to please Him, every time I find some new thing that will please Him in diet, I will feel how? You can see then I wouldn't be drawing down my face in a long sad gloomy look and say, Oh my, they tell me there is one more thing I have got to give up. I have given up so much already it doesn't seem like there is much left to eat.

I am not sure people get very much good out of giving things up on that basis. What do you think? They might get some physical good if what they gave up was poison, but as far as the joy and satisfaction of pleasing God and getting any comfort out of it themselves, they wouldn't get much. But when we are trying to please God, you see the difference, don't you? That's the thing.

Suppose it is the dress question, and I really want to please God. What a joy it is to search these books to find out how to dress to please Jesus. It would be a practical thing when we are going to town to buy a pair of shoes or a dress or a hat to first kneel down in the secret place of prayer all alone with God and say, Lord, help me to get something that will please You. Do you think that would be practical? Well, I am sure if we would do that, there are some things we would never come back with. What do you think?

I don't mean by that to start any of us judging one another, but Achan wasn't the only one that came home with a Babylonian garment. There are plenty of them in circulation today. And if health reform and dress reform and all these other reforms are a yoke of bondage to us, then naturally we will try to avoid them all we can. Personally, I don't blame people for trying to avoid a yoke of bondage. Who wants one? But if all these reforms, thank God, are ways to please the One we want to please the most and best, then there is no yoke of bondage to it. Is there? Why

no. It is love. And love is what? The fulfilling of the law. He that loves has fulfilled the law.

You can see that if we get that point of view we will never try to crowd people on standards and reforms. We will never crowd people to keep the Sabbath or pay tithe. Why should we? If there be first a willing mind, it is accepted.

The converse of that is if there is not first a willing mind, then it is not accepted. We can never please God with any outward act. We can never please God with tithe paying, Sabbath keeping, health reform, dress reform, or any or all of it. We can never please Him unless the whole thing from start to finish springs from love. That's the way to be happy. That's the way to make others happy. Love is the fulfilling of the law.

When Jesus was here He had this experience in our human flesh. He says:

"He that sent Me is with Me: the Father hath not left Me alone;
for I do always those things that please Him" John 8:29.

Can you say that? Someone says, I hate to say that because I don't. Well friends, I will tell you how to say it. Make that your intention, your resolution, your determination right now. Then you can say it along with Jesus. And the best news I know is that when we accept Jesus on that basis, He puts His loving obedience, His pleasing of the Father to our account, and it is reckoned on the books of heaven as though we had always pleased God all our life. Isn't that wonderful?

That's why the dove came at Jesus' baptism. That's why the Father spoke from heaven as His Son knelt there on the banks of Jordan and said:

"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased"
Matthew 3:17.

That was the Father testifying that Christ was pleasing the Father. We are told that God spoke to Jesus as our representative. When we accept Jesus we are accepted in the beloved, and God looks at us and says of each one of us, This is My beloved child in whom I am well pleased.

Friends, are you succeeding in pleasing your Father? If you have given your heart and life to Him, and you are taking the love that He has put into your hearts and focusing it on Him, and trying to find out what pleases Him, thank God you are pleasing Him. He says so. This is my beloved child in whom I am well pleased. Don't stop to listen to the Devil's accusations. No. Look up to the open heavens. See the dove descend. Listen as the Father speaks to you through Christ.

If there is anything that pleases the one that is trying to please, it is to know that he is pleasing. If you are trying to please someone, the thing that will make you happy is to see their smile of gratitude, their word of approbation. Oh, let us look up to heaven and get that from God. What do you say? "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." And the reason the Father was pleased with the Son was because the Son was seeking to please Him. Notice:

"I seek not Mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent Me" John 5:30.

Jesus was seeking the will of His Father. He wanted to please His Father. That didn't leave Him much time to please Himself.

"For even Christ pleased not Himself" Romans 15:3.

How could He be happy then? People aren't happy unless they please themselves, are they? Why friends, the way to be unhappy is to try to please yourself. Don't you know that? Some have found it out. To try to please yourself is the way to be unhappy. Let me read that from the *Testimonies*:

"Those who seek happiness by gratifying themselves and looking out mainly for their own interests are on the wrong track to secure happiness even upon earth"
Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 4, page 186.

When will they get there, then, if they are on the wrong track? They will never arrive at that station. So anyone who is seeking happiness, trying to gratify himself and serve his own interest, and get what he wants, never arrives at happiness. That is why there are so many miserable people in the world. So many unhappy people! They have accepted the lie of the Devil that the thing to do is try to please self.

I want to tell you a little secret. There is no way to please someone without displeasing someone. That's right. Every time you please God you displease the Devil. Here in this world, every time you please the righteous, you displease the wicked. Every time you please those that you ought to please, you displease somebody else. I hope all the children and young people, and parents too, will listen carefully, because right here is where some people need help. They are afraid to displease someone.

You say, Brother Frazee, I thought you have just been telling us that we ought to please people.

Yes. But here in this world of sin it is utterly impossible to please someone without displeasing someone else.

What are you going to do about it? God didn't make it that way, but the Devil did. It isn't going to be that way through eternity, but it is that way now, and there is nothing that you or I can do that will change that fact. It will be true as long as sin exists and the Devil is here. You cannot please someone without displeasing someone else. Sad as that fact is, once you meet it and recognize it for what it is, it takes the great load of trying to please everyone off your mind. That load drives some people to distraction. Just let go. God never gave it to you to carry. Every time you face a decision simply ask yourself, "Who am I trying to please?" Who should I try to please? The one I love best. I love Jesus the best, so I will try to please Him.

Here is a child in the home. Do you think that child should be more interested in pleasing the neighbor down the street or pleasing father and mother? What do you think?

Children, who are you most interested in pleasing, father and mother or some neighbor down the street? Let me ask you another question children. Who do you want to please the most, your parents or your playmates? It would be a good thing to face that question in the self-examining room with Jesus' help.

Another way to ask that question is, Who do I love most? Do I love father and mother most, or do I love my playmates most? Now, I want to tell you something boys and girls. There are many times if you please father and mother you will have to displease your playmates. There are no two ways about that. If you please your playmates you will displease father and mother. No way to get out of it. You have to choose which one you are going to please and which one you are not going to displease.

Daniel got down in Babylon, and all the other young people were going to eat the king's meat and drink the king's wine. It wouldn't do to offend the king. But Daniel thought about pleasing God. I suppose all his playmates that had grown up with Daniel thought what a fanatic he was. He is going to get into trouble soon. Did Daniel please all those other Seventh-day Adventist young people that were down there with him in that dining hall? I don't think he did. He didn't please some of his friends, but he pleased his best Friend. And that was what counted, wasn't it?

Oh, it is a wonderful thing to be wanting to find out what best pleases our best Friend. But remember, when you do that, you are going to have to displease somebody. It doesn't make any difference if the subject is diet or dress or keeping the Sabbath, or anything else that God has told us.

"I do always those things that please Him," Jesus said. By the way, did Jesus always please His brothers? No. They prosecuted Him at times. He had to disappoint those who were near and dear to Him at times in order to first of all and most of all please His Father. God is going to have some people down here today who will be so anxious to please Him that nothing else will matter. And those who learn to please God first of all here will eventually have the joy of pleasing everybody else in the universe.

Those who go the other way will eventually wind up with the terrible dissatisfaction of finding out that they haven't pleased anyone. That's what those lost souls at Gehenna are weeping and wailing and gnashing their teeth about. They wake up in hell at the judgment to the reality that they haven't pleased anyone, not even themselves.

There is the picture. Eternity with God, pleasing Him forever and pleasing everybody else, or the lost soul utterly dissatisfied, utterly frustrated and lost, like the sands of the sea. Utterly unsuccessful in pleasing anyone. Selfishness can never please.

I come back to the question, who are you trying to please? I will talk to you older ones for a little bit about that. If you are a member of the church, do you love the church? Jesus loved the church (Ephesians 5). If you love the church you will try to please the church. Suppose you love the church twice as much as you did a year ago. What will you be doing twice as much? Trying to please the church. Of course, God comes first. But as we have studied, God is the Father, and the church is our Mother. She is the one object on earth dear to the heart of God.

Is Jesus trying to please His church? Why yes. He is more interested in that than anything else in this world. He loves the church and He is trying to please the church. Oh what a field of thought that will open up.

Suppose God has called us into a certain program for Him, a certain work for Him. Suppose we are connected to some institution that God has commissioned to do a certain work. Do you think God would give me a work to do for Him without giving me a love for it? Do you think God would put me in an institution without giving me a love for it? If I love the institution that God has connected me with, I will try to please.

Let's be very practical about that. Suppose I find that I have a bit of extra time, or for any reason I have more time than someone else does. Right there is a wonderful opportunity for me to find out who I am trying to please. If I am really trying to please God and please His church and please the institution that He has connected me with, might it occur to me to find out what I could do that would please the best? Why sure. As natural as can be. But ah, if there is in my heart the fear that someone might tell me something to do that I didn't want to do, then I need more love.

I think I told you about the little girl who was telling her mother how much she loved her. The mother said, "I am so glad you told me darling because I need your help this morning washing the dishes."

The little girl said, "But mother, I don't love you that way."

It is a wonderful thing when we love the church of God and the institution that God has connected us with in such a way that we want to do the thing that is needed most; the thing that will please the most.

I will tell you a little secret. If God sees that you are moving in this direction, He will give you a lesson in it every once in a while. If you have some plan, some desire of your own, then God will give you a chance to find out that it would be more pleasing to those God has placed in responsibility to do something else. Right then you will get a chance to see who you are trying to please. It is a wonderful thing to have the thrill of satisfaction in knowing that you are right where you belong, doing the thing that is pleasing the most. Pleasing the Christ that died for you, the church that brought you the message, and the home or the institution that you are a part of.

I come back to the children. Dear children, if you want to be happy put aside the thoughts of what you like and what you want. God will take care of that and see that you get pleased in His way. Oh, settle it in your heart that you are going to

please those you love most. You love Jesus who gave His life for you, and next the dear father and mother that God has put in charge of you. You are going to seek to please Jesus first, and you are going to seek to please father and mother. And if in pleasing father and mother you do things that displease your playmates, pray for them and leave them with God. If you see your playmates do things you know would displease father and mother say, No, I am not going to do that. It would grieve father and mother and it would grieve Jesus, and I can't do it.

That's the way to live the Christian life. That's the way to be a Christian. And anything less than that is not being a Christian. Coming forward in a meeting and standing up and testifying, reading your Bibles; those things are not the test. The test is when you are alone with other playmates where there are no older people are around. You can't see Jesus. He is invisible. Right then you show who you love the most and want to please the most. Thank God He is able to help little children say, I can't do this because it would grieve Jesus, because it would displease father and grieve mother.

There is a question to parents. I want to read it to you. Any of you parents that have difficulty in teaching these lessons on obedience to your children, hear this question:

"How can they succeed in controlling their children, who follow in their steps and rebel against their authority and all other restraint, even as they themselves rebel against the authority of the church and the institutions with which they are connected?"
Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, page 203.

Dear parents, if you want the joy of seeing your children yielding to the authority of love and responding with the obedience of love, you in turn must show that attitude toward the church of Christ in this world, and toward the institution with which you are connected. That's what this teaches. Take that page and study it. Study the chapter it is found in. It is wonderful.

My closing text is the bridge to guidance:

"If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself" John 7:17.

The Revised Version says,

"If any man willeth to do His will, he shall know the teaching"
John 7:17.

Before we can know for sure all that God wants us to know, we must first reach the point where our surrender is complete, our dedication is without reserve. It comes back to what we read in *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, page 511, that until you have the resolution to obey God's will you cannot have His guidance.

If there is anyone here tonight that is unsettled on any point about what God would have you do, I say to you that is the second step. The first step is in full

surrender at the feet of Jesus say, Lord, not my will but Thine be done. I am ready and willing to accept the will of Christ regardless of whether I know in advance what it is or not.

Here is a person that is studying the Sabbath question. They hear the message. They have kept Sunday all their lives, but they begin to wonder, is the seventh day really the Sabbath, and must I keep Saturday? What is the thing to do? Should they go through long days and weeks of struggle trying to find out whether Saturday is the Sabbath, all the while unsettled whether to obey God or not? No my friends. That's the hardest thing in the world to do.

The thing to do is at once say, Dear Lord, if what you want me to do is keep the Sabbath day, I will do it. I will do it as soon as you make it clear to me what you want me to do. And once that thing is settled, the mind will be enlightened much more rapidly.

It is the same on every other subject. I had a man tell me, and I think he meant it honestly, that he thought tobacco never hurt him any. What is the thing that man ought to do? Wait until science or something else convinces him that tobacco is wrong, and then go through the struggle whether he will surrender to God or not? No. The thing for that man to do is to get down on his knees with his pipe or cigarette and say, Lord, it is on the altar. If you want me to quit this stuff, help me to know it. Lord, I am settling it in advance that if You want me to give it up, it is already given up. Do you see what I mean?

That's the way to do with every subject. If we want God's guidance, first make the surrender. Suppose I am weighing the matter whether this is God's true church or not. I say, It seems like these people keep the commandments of God. They claim they have the testimony of Jesus which is the Spirit of Prophecy. I wonder if this is the true church? Shall I wait until I have weighed all the evidence and then go through the struggle of whether I will identify myself with God's true church or not? No friends, that isn't the way to do it. While I am still in uncertainty over whether this is the true church, let me get down on my knees and say, Dear Lord, I am settled. I will join the church just as soon as you make it plain to me that this is Your true church.

Someone says, Wait a minute. I don't know yet whether it is or not. That's the point. You don't know. And that's where love and faith comes in. If you can trust your heavenly Father, you will say to Him, Lord, I will do anything if it pleases You. That doesn't mean you will jump in the dark. It means you decide in the dark that you will jump when God makes it plain. This cuts short a thousand struggles with our poor selfish hearts.

I thank God that love is fulfilling the law, and that those who decide to do nothing in any line that will displease God will know, after presenting their case before Him, just what course to pursue. I am thankful that he who moves to do the Father's will shall know of the teaching.

Let us take that first step. What do you say? We need to take it over and over again. True, we need to go on, but we need to take that first step with ever

increasing willingness, with ever increasing devotion, with ever increasing love, and say, Lord, all I have, all I am, all is on Thy altar. Not because I want to buy my way into heaven or buy my way out of hell, but because I love You and I want to please You. I want to make You happy. I give You all that I have--my willing heart.

How many would like to send that word to Jesus tonight? Thank God. That makes Him happy.

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