

Trusting God

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Study Given by W.D. Frazee—January 24,

Is it really true, dear friends, is somebody waiting for me? Well, just as soon as I can get my problem solved I will be there. But that may take some time, so probably somebody else better look after that somebody that is waiting for me. My dear friends, I hope he doesn't die while we are getting ready. What do you say?

The text is 1 Corinthians 16:9. There were some problems before the twentieth century. Paul says:

“For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries” 1 Corinthians 16:9.

You notice he didn't say, “a great door and effectual is opened unto me, *but* there are many adversaries.” I wonder why? Oh, there is a world of difference between saying “*and* there are adversaries” and “*but* there are adversaries.” Do you know what the *but* means? It means “well, I would like to do something, there is a glorious opportunity, but there are so many lions in the way, sorry, nothing I can do much about them.”

He didn't say that.

“A great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries” 1 Corinthians 16:9.

Well, Paul, what did you do about it? He took them both. He took the adversaries and the opportunities. Didn't he? Yes. He writes to the Corinthians about it, we won't go into that tonight, but you remember he was shipwrecked, he was beaten, he was imprisoned, he was left for dead, “But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course.” Acts 20:24. He kept at his work.

Of course, if Paul had the problems that you and I do, he would understand what it means to have to stop, but he didn't have that kind of problems. His were all little ones, weren't they? It would be interesting to compare notes after we get to the other side. It will be interesting to see what he overcame and what stopped us.

I am thinking of two things, friends, I am thinking not only tonight of how to get the work done, I am thinking of how to get our problems solved—my problems and your problems. There is something about this that is a paradox. You will see it as we proceed.

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” Matthew 6:33.

What things? Why, any and everything that you need.

“My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus” Philippians 4:19.

God has a divine order of action, and He wants us to learn. I was interested in what Kettering, the great inventor, said about these inventors. He said sometimes people think that a scientist is a great man that gets nature do things. He says nature won't do anything more for the greatest scientists than nature will for anybody else. All an inventor does is try this and try that and try the other thing until he finds out the way nature works, and takes advantage of and goes along with it.

That is good sense. Isn't it, friends? And the same laws, we are told, run in the spiritual world as well as in the natural world. (See *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, page 395.) This is one of the great laws:

“Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” Matthew 6:33.

Now we recognize that principle when we pay tithe. We pay tithe, and we pay which tenth as tithe? The first. If I have a dollar the first dime out of it is tithe. Is that right? Yes.

Somebody says, “I don't see what difference it makes.” Well, if you ever try it both ways, you will understand what difference it makes. The person who waits to pay tithe until he has paid all the other things that are pressing has a very difficult job in doing what? Not only in paying tithe, but in handling the rest. Doesn't he? Sure. Why? For the simple reason that it is not according to the scientific law that God has established.

“Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” Matthew 6:33.

If you want the blessing of tithe paying, pay tithe first. Let God then take on the problem of how to spread the nine-tenths over the rest of the problems. He will do it. You see, you obligate Him when you accept His plan. But if you say, “Oh Lord, I don't know whether I am going to have enough to pay tithe or not, I have got to pay the rent, and I have got to pay the grocery bill, and I have got to get my teeth fixed, etc” then all that God can do in many cases is to say, “Well poor souls, he has got his own ideas of how to run that and he will just have to learn by sad experiences.”

“Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” Matthew 6:33.

You remember that widow that Elijah visited, it tells about it over here in 1 Kings 17. Imagine of all people to send a prophet to to be fed, a widow, and in a time of famine too. You remember the story. Now why would God send a prophet to a widow of all people and in a time of famine of all times? For that very reason, friends, the widow needed the prophet far more than the prophet needed the widow. If she had carried out her plan she would have been dead, she and her son within a comparatively short time. She expected that. All that she had was enough meal and oil to eat one more meal. Do you remember that?

But right at that time who should come? The prophet. And he said, “Can I have a drink of water?” Sure. She went to get the drink of water. But as she was going to get the drink of water what did he say, “Well, would you bring something to eat too?”

Oh she said, “I don’t have a thing in the house.” We have heard that one before, haven’t we? But she said, “In fact, while I don’t have anything prepared, all there is just a little flour and a little oil and we are going to bake that into a little cake and my son and I are going to eat that and then we are going to starve.”

Now Elijah said, “Now don’t be afraid. You go do just what you said. Take your two sticks and make your fire and put the flour and oil together and make the cake, and when you get it made, bring me some of it first.”

Why, the selfish man. Take the very bread out of a widows mouth, and the child’s mouth. Just like some preachers, isn’t it? So some people would say. But who was back of the prophet, back of the preacher? God. Who told him to do that? God told him to do it. And remember, friends, it was for the widow’s sake. And he said, “Listen, if you will do what I tell you, the Word of God says that you are going to have enough to eat all the way through.”

She was foolish enough to believe him and listen. She solved the prophet’s problem before she solved her own problem. Would you have faith enough to do that? Or would you say, “Well, now listen, when I can get my affairs arranged so that my boy and I are comfortably fixed and we have a good home and good furniture and food in the deep freeze and a bank account, then if you will come around we will see if there isn’t something we can do.”

Do you see, friends? Out of her poverty, her extreme poverty, she took on the problems of God. And who took on her problem? God took on her problem. And she, and the boy, and the prophet, they ate many days, a full year. You can read that in 1 Kings 17:8-16. It is a wonderful story.

Oh course, God wouldn’t do like that to anybody today, would He? Do you think He would? Well, I will tell you, folks, if He doesn’t do that way for some of us, we are going to have the experience that the widow would have had if God hadn’t

worked for her. Won't we? Yes. In other words, we are going to starve to death right here in this world after we have done all we can to take care of ourselves. Are there going to be millions of people that go through that? Look at the destruction of Jerusalem and remember that the One who knows says that the whole world today is going to be involved in ruin more terrible than that which came upon Jerusalem of old.

But there is a promise for somebody.

"He shall dwell on high: his place of defense *shall be* the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters *shall be sure*" Isaiah 33:16.

I want that promise. Don't you? Who is it to?

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" Matthew 6:33.

Let's go to Luke the ninth chapter, verses 57-62. Notice how Jesus tried to teach this lesson. It is so simple, friends. The trouble is it takes faith and the natural heart doesn't have very much faith. But if we will exercise what faith God has given us, every one of us, it will grow and pretty soon we will have more, and then we can deal with the larger problem.

"And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain *man* said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air *have* nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay *his* head" Luke 9:57-58.

Friends, I don't want to be misunderstood. God knows I don't. I hate to be misunderstood. But I am going to run the risk of being misunderstood. I want to tell you, every now and then I hear of people who are willing to go here or go there provided there is a house all ready for them to move into with everything all ready.

Why you say, "Oh course, everybody has to have a house." Oh? Is that so? What did I just read here? Why, Jesus plainly told this man that wanted to join His company "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air *have* nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay *his* head." *Ibid*.

Let me tell you, friends, no matter how well our brethren provide for us today, if we follow Jesus very far we are going to be beyond the houses as well as the horses in that vision. Do you remember? They had to leave the wagons and horses and go on foot. Oh, that God will help us to learn now when it is fairly easy to make God's work first! Leave with God to work out how well we are taken care of.

Now as I say, I run the risk of being misunderstood, but oh, I just hope that somebody gets the joy of learning this natural law in the spiritual world. There are some things that must be first. Faith must be first.

Let's read on.

"And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father" Luke 9:59.

Now his father wasn't dead, you understand. He wanted to go home until his father did die and bury him, take care of all that, and then he would come and go with Jesus in the work.

"Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God" Luke 9:60.

What was he to make first? The kingdom. The kingdom. I don't know what this man did, but I know this, friends, if he insisted on making his family first, he probably never got into the work of God. If he went home to stay until his father died, I think his father lived a long time. And probably he had a long series of problems and said to himself, "It is a good thing I stayed home. Just think of what would have happened if I hadn't been here." The Devil saw to it that he had enough problems to justify the choice that he had made. Don't forget it, friends.

"And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" Luke 9:61-62.

Whatever the problem, friends, whether it is a financial problem, a person problem, a problem of convenience, a social problem, there is no first except God's first for the Christian. Nothing else can be first.

Now it is put so beautifully on this handbook of how to live, *Ministry of Healing*, that I want to share it with you.

"Our heavenly Father has a thousand ways to provide for us of which we know nothing. Those who accept the one principle of making the service of God supreme, will find perplexities vanish and a plain path before their feet"
Ministry of Healing, page 481.

There it is, friends, all in one statement. It is beautiful.

Now how many ways does God have? A thousand. That is He has a thousand of which we know nothing. Sometimes we know one or two ways to solve our problems, or think we do, but no matter how many ways we know, or don't know, beside what we know there are what? A thousand ways to provide for us.

Who has them? God has them.

Well, why doesn't He tell us? Why doesn't He show us? Why doesn't He open up those ways? He will. Not all thousand. We don't need a thousand. We only need how many? One. That is all. But He has a thousand. Just like going in a great big walk in cold room and there is food, food, food, food, food, just take your pick. But who is doing the picking? God is. I am hungry. Will He feed me? Yes. What will He feed me? Manna? Maybe. Figs? Maybe. Bread? Maybe. Something. He will feed me.

But there is something that I am to accept first. The one principle. I am glad He said one. Just one. That is simple as can be. The principle is the principle of doing what? Making the service of God supreme.

What is another word for supreme? First. That is what we are studying.

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness"
Matthew 6:33.

Make the service of God supreme. Make it first. Give the prophet the little cake first. Pay your tithe first. Do the work for God first. Make God's problem first.

"Oh, but my problems are so big."

The bigger your problem, friends, the more you need God. And you know the person I feel sorry for? It is the one who doesn't get in on this secret. It is the one that turns away to solve his own problem his own way hoping that some day he will get his problem solved so he can do the work of God.

"Those who accept the one principle of making the service of God supreme, will find perplexities vanish and a plain path before their feet" *Ministry of Healing*, page 481.

I got hold of a statement this week to put with that. I suppose I had seen it before, but it never impressed me as it did this work.

"Man's way is to devise and scheme; God implants a principle" *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, page 420-421.

What is man's way? Devise and scheme. Why we say, "Sure, a man ought to devise." There are some things man ought to devise.

"Man's way is to devise and scheme; God implants a principle. Man is striving to make duty soft and accommodating to his own natural character; but life is a battlefield" *Ibid*.

I saw an add in a national magazine and I clipped it for my family. It was a picture of a man sitting in a easy chair, sort of a lounge, out on the front porch or lawn of his home. And there was a lawnmower running along the lawn and tripping

the hedge. And he held in his hand a little device by which he controlled it as people do this TVS by remote control.

That is the dream of the future. It is not very far in the future. "Oh papa, buy me one." I suppose there is many a boy who would like something like that.

"Man is striving to make duty soft and accommodating to his own natural character; but life is a battlefield" *Ibid*.

If you were a captain out on the battlefield there in Korea during the late war there, if you knew that a battle was about to begin, would you send work back to the general, "Would you please hold just a few days until I can get my special quarters built? Why I need this, this, this, this, this, this, in order to be fit. And I need my men all quartered so and so and so and so, so please hold up that battle about a week and I think we can get all those problems solved, and then we will have the battle."

How about that? The enemy doesn't always wait while we get our quarters up to the standard of conveniences in the good old USA. Does he? No. Friends, we are going into the loud cry, into the greatest battle of all the ages, and I am not sure that God is going to give us New Deal and Social Security standards of living as we go for missionaries for God all over the world from now until the cloud appears in the east. I am not sure of it. In fact, I am sure He won't.

He hasn't done it for His missionaries in the past. But sometimes we act as if the golden age could be ours if we could just get all our personal problems solved. With some of us it isn't a matter of conveniences. Some of us would be glad to live in a tent if we could just get some other problems solved that we have. Maybe it is a health problem. Maybe it is a problem of getting along with people.

I don't know what your problem is tonight, friends. I know you have got some problems. If you ask me how did I know, I will tell you. But friends, I want you to get your problems solved. And I know there is a way to do it.

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" Matthew 6:33.

"Those who accept the one principle of making the service of God supreme, will find perplexities vanish and a plain path before their feet" Ministry of Healing, page 481.

That is it. That is God's way. That is heaven's program. Thank God there are men and women here tonight that can testify that it works over and over and over again. But do you know, even those of us that have tried and tested these promises for forty years, we are tempted over and over again to suppose that this time we had better stop the work, leave the work, halt the work, delay the work while we get our personal problems solved.

We would like to get out there and stop the advance on the enemy while we take care of some little matter.

But somebody says, "Brother Frazee, this is not a little matter. This is a big matter." That is what Paul says:

"A great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries" 1 Corinthians 16:9.

But what did he do? He went right ahead. That was the lesson that God tried to teach the children of Israel as soon as they got out of Egypt. You remember they were marching toward Canaan, and if you study the map you will find that God deliberately led them out of their way and down by the Red Sea. They didn't have to cross the Red Sea. The way they were started they never would have come near the Red Sea as far as it being in their way. But God deliberately led them by that cloud around and back and there they were with that Red Sea before them.

Poor planning, wasn't it? No. It was good planning. God wanted to teach them what? Faith. He wanted to teach them this lesson that nothing was to stop the onward progress of the work of God. Not even an arm of the ocean. And so you remember they murmured and complained, but finally Moses got them still and God told him what to do. He said, Go forward, and they went right through the Red Sea, God opening the way as they advanced.

Well, they had a wonderful song of praise on the other side, and then year after year they went through the wilderness, and forty years later, they came to where? Jordan.

Now there is something very interesting about that to me. Just as God led them to the Red Sea when they didn't have to go that way, He led them to Jordan at the worst time of the year, when Jordan was overflowing all its banks, the Bible says. See Joshua 3:15. There are times when the Jordan river is small and narrow. But this time of year it was big and broad. And if they got across it, there had to be a what? A miracle.

I thought about it, friends, it was as if God said, "Forty years ago I tried to get this people to come to the Red Sea and not murmur and complain. Let's see if they can come up to a big body of water and not start murmuring and complaining." So far as we have the record, friends, nobody raised any complaints. Apparently they had learned their lesson. And that is to teach you and me, friends, that God leads us over the ground again and again.

Do you see? Again and again. And if you have had some problems and you have murmured and complained, don't let it discourage you, but remember, there is only one answer, you will have to have some more, something like the one you had. Don't let it worry you. Just take it. It is part of the course. God wants you to graduate.

Why, a teacher would have to do that. Wouldn't he? Suppose you had a period test. The teacher knows the final examination is coming. Suppose you fail on a special point. Will the teacher see to it that never again will you get any problem like that? Why no. That is the very problem he is going to see that you get, again and again. Why? He knows you have got to face the final examination.

Isn't God good, friends, to bring us again and again? And when I look at these things I am sorry I have ever murmured or complained. Aren't you? And I am sorry I have ever hesitated.

"Go forward," the Lord says, "I will send you help. Those who are watching for your failure shall yet see My word triumph glorious."

"Those who accept the one principle of making the service of God supreme, will find perplexities vanish and a plain path before their feet" *Ministry of Healing*, page 481.

Patriarchs and Prophets, page 437. Speaking of the battles that Israel had with Og and Sihon there on the borders of Canaan.

"In their contest with Og and Sihon the people were brought to the same test beneath which their fathers had so signally failed. But the trial was now far more severe than when God had commanded Israel to go forward. The difficulties in their way had greatly increased since they refused to advance when bidden to do so in the name of the Lord. It is thus that God still tests His people" *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 437.

Is He still working this way? Yes.

"If they fail to endure the trial, He brings them again to the same point, and the second time the trial will come closer, and be more severe than the preceding" *Ibid*.

Then if you got out of some trial by making your problem first, instead of God's work first, don't pat yourself on the back and congratulate yourself for showing good sense. Ahead of you, if you ever have any success in God's work, is the same trial, only what? Greater.

"This is continued until they bear the test, or, if they are still rebellious, God withdraws His light from them and leaves them in darkness... if we obey His requirements He will work for us in as signal a manner as He did for His ancient people. Everyone who seeks to follow the path of duty will at times be assailed by doubt and unbelief" *Ibid*.

Watch this next sentence. It goes with Paul's statement in our opening text.

“The way will sometimes be so barred by obstacles, apparently insurmountable, as to dishearten those who will yield to discouragement; but God is saying to such, Go forward” *Ibid*.

Will there be obstacles in the way? Yes. And it says some of them will seem so big as to be what? Insurmountable. What does that mean? Can't get over them. But it says apparently insurmountable.

But God says what? Go forward! Go forward!

“Why, don't you see that great big boulder that came down the mountain in a landslide? What can I do if I go ahead?”

Never mind, God says, Go forward. And when I go forward, whose problem is that boulder? God's problem. It becomes His problem as soon as I do what He says. Is that right? Yes. Oh that is the wonderful thing, friends.

“Those who accept the one principle of making the service of God supreme, will find perplexities vanish and a plain path before their feet” *Ministry of Healing*, page 481.

Now what I am saying tonight sounds like nonsense to the man who doesn't know God, and it sounds like extremism and fanaticism to many people who are called Christians. And of course, like any other good thing, it can be made extreme and fanatical. But what we are studying is not extreme, and it is not fanatical. It is the way Moses lived. It is the way Elijah lived. It is the way Jesus lived. And those who learn to sing the song of Moses and the Lamb will learn what we are studying about so they can, I was about to say, say it backwards and forwards.

I know this is so, friends. I know it is so. There is no other way to go through the crisis ahead. This is why God has led us the way He has led us. And let us, oh let us, not chase this will-o'-the-wisp of getting all our problems solved and then working for God. Let's go first to the work of God and let God accept the responsibility of helping to work out our problem.

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” Matthew 6:33.

Now the closing words of *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 437 that I am reading.

“The way will sometimes be so barred by obstacles, apparently insurmountable, as to dishearten those who will yield to discouragement; but God is saying to such, Go forward. Do your duty at any cost. The difficulties that seem so formidable, that fill your soul with dread, will vanish as you move forward in the path of obedience,

humbly trusting in God” Patriarchs *and Prophets*, page 437.

Isn't that wonderful, friends? That is what gives us courage to go out to poor souls that are just covered up with problems, and the world is full of them, and say, "Daughter, be of good comfort. God has help for you. Son, be of good cheer, Jesus will take you through." And we get in there and help them live, just as God helps us live, we will make their problems ours, just as our problems and makes them His, and we find that things begin to open up as we put our feet in the water of the Red Sea. That is faith. Faith. Moving on. Making God's work first, and believing that He will take our problems.

"Those who accept the one principle of making the service of God supreme, will find perplexities vanish and a plain path before their feet" Ministry of *Healing*, page 481.

Now the closing text is Joshua the third chapter. This is what Joshua told the children of Israel just before they went across Jordan where they met the same test that their forefathers, and some of them as children, had met forty years before. I want you to see what Joshua said to those people, and what God is saying to us today.

"Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you" Joshua 3:15.

Did they have to get ready for those miracles to be worked? Yes. God wants us to get ready for the miracles that He is about to do. As I have been thinking friends, of the tremendous program to which you and I are committed in the work here, I recognize that unless God works miracles for us, we are sunk. And I am so glad, friends, I would hate to be in something so little that I could get my hands around it. I would hate to be in something so small that my resources could take care of the problem.

You have heard of people saying, it looked like thirty cents? I would hate to be in a thirty cent thing. I want to be in something that is backed by all that gold that God piles up, not down in Fort Knox, but in the streets of the New Jerusalem. I want to be in something that all the angels of heaven are committed too. Something so important that God would send every angel in heaven rather than allow it to sink.

Friends, I not only want to be in it, bless His name, I am in it. I invite everyone of you just now to examine your heart. Will you make God first? Will you make His work first? Will you make your problems second, third, or fourth wherever they come in? Let them be like the dog's tail, coming along behind. A good dog, you know what his tail is doing? It is wagging in sympathy with the head. It is not making a problem all the time.

Oh, let our problems, friends, come in where they belong. What do you say?

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