

I Will Guide Thee

#0612

Study given by W.D. Frazee—September 30, 1968

I direct you to the Psalms, one of David's wonderful songs that is particularly a medical missionary song.

"God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause His face to shine upon us; That Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy saving health among all nations" Psalms 67:1-2.

God has a way of life and health for all people, and He desires through His people to make that way of health and healing known. It is interesting to me that the second verse of the 67th Psalm is used as the introductory text in the book, *Ministry of Healing*, which we all appreciate very much. We are told by inspiration it contains the wisdom of the Great Physician.

David Livingstone once said that God had only one Son, and He made Him a medical missionary. This is true. It indicates both the need of this planet, and an ideal way to meet that need as heaven has designed the plan. I am happy to meet people who in one way or another are interested in having a part in God's wonderful plan of solving the problems of men. That is what the medical missionary is. He is a problem solver. In *Councils on Health*, is this significant sentence:

"The work of the true medical missionary is largely a spiritual work" *Counsels on Health*, page 540.

Why? We will look at some of the reasons.

The physical problems of men are caused largely by spiritual problems. What percentage?

"Sickness of the mind prevails everywhere. Nine tenths of the diseases from which men suffer have their foundation here" *Ibid*, page 324.

This inspired statement is not telling us that nine tenths of the diseases people have are all in their heads. No. They may be very much in the liver, the stomach, the joints, and the lungs. But the foundation of nine tenths of the diseases from which men suffer have their origin in the mind. If this is true, and it is, it is apparent that if we are going to deal with the physical problems of men we need to be qualified to help them with their mental problems. Jesus, the great Physician, is the one who has the answer.

Take the problem of guilt. Obviously the Gospel is the only answer to that problem. Any attempt to lessen the sense of guilt from the standpoint of human

reasoning, or to dull it by some chemical or physiological approach, is missing the point. Guilt comes from sin. Sin is the transgression of the law. Jesus was manifested to take away our sins. When He takes away sin, the guilt problem is solved. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission. It takes the blood of Jesus to cleanse from sin. We see from this standpoint one of the reasons why the work of the true medical missionary is largely a spiritual work.

Dr. Swaim, for many years connected with the Harvard medical school studying the problem of arthritis and **kindred** diseases, has come to the conclusion that many of the cases he meets in his practice must have spiritual help in order for an arthritis condition to be affected.

Dr. Swaim is not a member of the church you and I are, but he has found in the Bible the means to help many of his patients to get away from their anxiety, their guilt, and their other emotions. When he has helped them by reading the Bible with them, and helped them solve their personal spiritual problems, he finds in many cases some changes. Sometimes very spectacular changes in the actual condition of the joints. That is interesting, isn't it?

The research that has been done in the last several decades in what has been called psychosomatic medicine helps us to understand some of the reasons for this. There are probably other reasons.

My point is: the work of the true medical missionary is largely a spiritual work. The one who has one hand on God and one hand on those who need help can act as the connecting link between the need and the One who fills the need, between the one who needs salvation and the Savior. This is the high privilege of every medical missionary.

There is another reason why the work of the true medical missionary is largely a spiritual work. Even when we come to problems which are entirely physical, we often must have spiritual help or the problem cannot be solved. As one outstanding example, take the problem of tobacco. This habit is largely responsible for lung cancer, ulcers of the stomach, coronary heart attacks, and other conditions. Does mere knowledge of these facts enable people to break with the tobacco habit? We know it doesn't.

Only this week a friend of mine was telling me about an experience in a large medical center where one of our young physicians was taking his residency in surgery. The particular surgeon he was working with at the time was going over a number of cases where they had done stomach surgery. In the course of the analysis of these cases the information came out that tobacco had quite a bit to do with a number of them. The surgeon himself was a tobacco user. Our young resident asked him about it, and he said, "I would rather give up my stomach than give up my tobacco." This is an educated man, a top flight surgeon.

Even in those areas where the cause of disease is what we might call physical rather than spiritual, we still need a spiritual motivation in order to change the physical habit which is producing the pathology. Without that, we only spread a lot of information.

We may be like the Surgeon General of the United States who a few years ago called a press conference and gave out startling information that sent tobacco stocks down. He announced that the United States government, after a study of the available information, had decided that there was sufficient information to make a definite connection between tobacco and lung cancer. And he stood there puffing away while he made the announcement.

What do we need? Apparently we need more than scientific information and professional skill. We need a spiritual motivation. What greater motivation could be supplied than not only the knowledge but the experience of being linked with God in the care of this body temple? To know that the body as well as the soul was formed in the image of God, to know that this body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, to know that we were not only made in God's image but bought with the blood of Calvary enables men and women to break with the tobacco habit, and every other damaging thing. So if we are to help our patients break these habits, what do we need? We need a spiritual experience we may impart to them.

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In a similar setting think of some other problems, like overweight. Is there a relationship between overweight and heart attacks? You know what the statistics are. You know that it relates to not only coronary attacks but quite a number of other conditions. But merely publishing life insurance figures and mortality statistics doesn't accomplish in many individuals a change of weight. We are familiar with the fact that many individuals are gaining weight and loosing it and gaining it and loosing it and gaining it until somebody smiles and says, Yes, he has lost hundreds of pounds over the years.

What do we need? We need more than some statistics. We need more than some nutritional information. We need motivation. Thank God that in the Gospel and the third angel's message there is motivation. The work of the true medical missionary, largely a spiritual work, does more than supply information. Oh, I am thankful for true medical missionary work.

There is another reason why the work of the true medical missionary is largely a spiritual work. I hope you will all think this one through with me. If you love a man enough to try to add ten years to his life by getting out of him the tobacco and the liquor and the other habits that are dragging him down, what would you do to add a million years to his life? Whatever reason we have for trying to add ten years, if we can find some way to add a million years we would certainly jump at the chance. That is exactly what the spiritual work offers.

There is nothing we can do in the hospital from a mechanical or chemical standpoint that will add very many years to a man's life. There is no drug, no surgical procedure, and no change of habits of men that can in itself lengthen life very far. But through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, through this wonderful message God has given us, men are offered the opportunity of living forever.

And this is not merely eternal life in one dimension. It is not merely the extension of existence. That by itself might be a misery rather than a blessing. But it is eternal life in all dimensions. We enter into a width and height and depth and length that is like the life of God. He wants to share His life with us. This is real.

So when we are dealing with the patient and thinking to help him get away from those habits which are making him sick, deep in our hearts is that longing to help that patient get acquainted with Jesus so he cannot only live a little longer here, but live forever in a world without sickness and sin. Isn't that a wonderful privilege friends?

Let's think again of the sentence, "The work of the true medical missionary is largely a spiritual work." Most of the diseases from which men suffer have their origin in the state of mind, and only a spiritual experience can resolve those conflicts. The work of the true medical missionary is largely a spiritual work, because even when diseases are due to physical habits there must be supplied spiritual motivation in order to change those habits. Not only to change them, but get them to stay changed. And the work of the true medical missionary is largely a spiritual work because he has the great privilege of adding not merely 10 years to life, but a million years, and on through the ages of eternity.

Friends, I thank God that He called me early in my life to medical missionary work. It has been my life. It still is. I wouldn't have missed it for anything. I thank God that He is calling each of you in one way or another. There are many ways to do it. I thank God He is calling each of you to have a part in this glorious work. Years ago the Lord's messenger wrote, "We shall see the medical missionary work broadening and deepening at every point of its progress by the end flowing of hundreds and thousands of streams until the whole earth is covered as the waters cover the sea."

Is it going to happen? Yes. This earth is to be lightened with the glory of the Lord. This earth is to be covered with the revelation of God's love, and His purposes through medical ministry, as the waters cover the sea. I thank God for all we see now. I thank God more for what I know we are going to see tomorrow. You and I are called to have a part in it.

Medical missionary work is the most expensive work in the universe. It costs. The one who founded it left a world of ease, comfort, and convenience as well. He came down to this planet that He might give us a true demonstration of true medical missionary work. Christ, the great medical missionary, went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the Devil.

His was largely a spiritual work. Although He spent more of His time healing than He did preaching, every occasion of healing was a time for teaching. Healing, teaching and preaching were to Him three parts of one program; three sides to one operation. I know that the nearer we get to the way He worked the more successful our efforts will be.

Heavenly Father, we thank Thee with all our hearts for the great privilege of having a part in the demonstration of Thy ways, Thy saving health. Give each one here tonight the joy of knowing Thy call. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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