

Work of Saving Souls

#1010

Study given by W.D. Frazee—January 6, 1967

[Singing.]

Is that really true, friends? Is there somebody waiting for you? Is there somebody's heart that's like a lock that takes your key to fit it? Is that really true? Now, that can be a very solemn thought—it *is* a solemn thought—but can you think of any more joyous thought than that? Isn't it wonderful to think that *your* life is important enough that it can make the difference in the *eternal* life of some other soul? Isn't that wonderful? I repeat, it's a solemn thought, but oh, what a wonderful, glorious, inspiring thought. Friends, it's the truth—it's the truth.

In the *Review and Herald* that came today—the issue of January 5—there is a personal message from our general conference president. I shall not read all of it. I hope you will, but I would like to read a few sentences from it:

“Dear Fellow Believers Around the World: I wish I could sit down and have an earnest visit with you...sharing the burden that is on my heart. Since this is not possible, I must write a letter. If I were writing to each of you individually my message could not be more personal or more important”
Review and Herald, January 5, 1967.

Then, he speaks about the hour we've come to in human history—the last hour. Everything in the world shows us that we're near the coming of our Lord.

“When I read the letters that come to my desk and recall the unnumbered personal expressions from our workers and members since the General Conference session in Detroit, it makes me tremble. Thousands are praying for a great revival in the church—one that will bring the outpouring of the latter rain in our day” *Review and Herald*, January 5, 1967.

Do you agree with that? Is that what you want? All right.

“Why should not their expectations be realized? Why should not the Lord lead all of us into just such an experience? Surely it is God's will. The stage is set, both inside and outside the church. The hour is long overdue. We are weary of this world of sin and suffering. Ought not our first desire and determination be to live and pray and work toward the glorious consummation *in our day*” *Review and Herald*, January 5, 1967.

Then he says, If the Lord brings something to our minds that needs to be made right in our lives, let's do it before another day goes by. Do you agree with that—that's the first work—to clear the king's highway?

"The hour is too serious for us to permit barriers of sin and misunderstanding to remain between us and God, or those around us" *Review and Herald*, January 5, 1967.

Will those things have to be taken out of the way before the Holy Spirit can come in latter rain power? Oh, yes.

Then, he says, as we do this:

"...there will be a mighty surge forward of God's work, in every department and in every institution" *Review and Herald*, January 5, 1967

Then he quotes from the Spirit of Prophecy:

"The leaders in God's cause, as wise generals, are to lay plans for advance moves all along the line" *Gospel Workers*, page 351.

"We are altogether too narrow in our plans...We must get away from our smallness and make larger plans" *Evangelism*, page 46.

And then he comments:

"These are not my words. These are the words of our God through His messenger. As members and workers in this last hour, we must give careful heed to them. We must do something about them in our churches and in our institutions. This is the hour not only for Pentecostal living but for Pentecostal undertakings.

"Let the word go around the world...that Seventh-Day Adventists have not lost their evangelistic fervor, their sense of mission, that we truly believe the end is near and that we are going to do something greater than ever before about it. Let us hasten to our action stations. With God's help, let us electrify our communities with well-thought-out and well-prayed-over soul-winning programs" *Review and Herald*, January 5, 1967.

In a few weeks, we will be presenting to you a brand new tract or leaflet or brochure—whatever it might be called—in color, entitled, *Wake Up, America*. I've seen an advance copy of that, and it is outstanding.

One of our general brethren, the other day, who had an advance copy—a few of them—he was taking a trip in the airplane, and he thought he would just see what the reaction would be, and he gave one of these to someone sitting next to him and another one to another one nearby, and he watched to see their reaction. One was a young person, and one was an older person.

They both told him, each not hearing what the other said, after they'd finished the flight and were getting off the plane—they said, Everybody in America ought to read this, and everybody in America ought to.

Here in the Southern Union, two and a half million of them have been ordered, but doubtless more than that will be used. That's doubtless just the first order. We'll be telling you more about that. But now, back to Elder Pierson's message:

“With God's help let us electrify our communities with well-thought-out and well-prayed-over soul-winning programs. Every department of the church should be mobilized for a great forward thrust in soul conquest. Let us sound the battle cry for coordinated evangelism with every department working hand in glove with one another and with our pastors and evangelists” *Review and Herald*, January 5, 1967..

I'm glad to see that coming in, friends. It's a joy to me when I see our home missionary department, our Sabbath school department, our young people's department, and all the other departments—and I'm seeing it—I'm witnessing it—I love to watch it—where each one is helping the other. There's no trying to exalt one department at the expense of another. It's all pulling together to win souls.

Elder Pierson says:

“I call upon our laymen, our church officers, our youth, our Sabbath school members, our literature evangelists, our teachers, our doctors, our nurses and technicians, our office workers, our publishing house workers, our departmental secretaries, our administrators, to one great obsession—soul winning” *Review and Herald*, January 5, 1967.

And now comes the paragraph that I know is of great importance, and I'm so thankful that the Lord impressed our dear Brother Pierson to put it in this appeal:

“This must not be a wild rush for the baptismal font. This must not be a program to hurry people into baptism. Let this be made crystal clear, far and wide. This must be a crusade to bring men and women into the kingdom through the doors of true conversion, and after thorough instruction” *Review and Herald*, January 5, 1967.

Yes, I was glad to hear that chorus today made. You know, Elder Pierson has just spent a number of years in Africa, as the leader of that great world division, and

over in Africa, when one of those natives out there in the jungles decides that he wants to respond to the message, he goes into a hearer's class, doesn't he.

And after he's been in that a while, he goes into a baptismal class. What? A year in each class—a year in each class. And then, he's examined, and if he's ready, he's baptized, and if he isn't, he goes back in the class again. And so, I say, in spite of that, or should I say because of that, God has brought in thousands—tens of thousands—of souls over there.

Now, of course, somebody might say, Well, over there in Africa, of course, those people are ignorant savages, and they *have* to have a long time of instruction, and I suppose that we would agree that that's true with many of them.

But, brethren and sisters, when I see the paganism of America, when I recognize that there are millions of people in America that are almost as unacquainted with the Gospel as those dear people there, I recognize that we're up against a great problem in really instructing people and bringing them to that point where they're ready to become members of the church.

And so, while we pray for Pentecostal power, and while we engage in, as he says, well-thought-through and well-prayed-over soul-winning programs, let's remember that a vital part of this is thorough preparation of baptismal candidates. Let's enter our work expecting that, planning for it, praying for it, and I know that God will bless.

Back to Elder Pierson's article:

“We must not fail God or the thousands of our dear people who are expecting so much of us. Let us pray for, and with, one another. Let us move forward on our knees to a finished work—in our lives, in our church, and in the world in our generation” *Review and Herald*, January 5, 1967.

What do you say? The Lord grant it—the Lord grant it. And so, I'd like to have us think about it a little tonight—this wonderful work of soul winning—how you and I can fit into it.

There are two important things in this. One is for each one of us to have our ears open, our hearts open, toward heaven, asking God to guide us to those that we can help. The other is to have our hearts open to those that God has placed in responsibility of leadership so that we can help work out the general plan.

I'm so glad for the organization that you and I have a part in, from the general conference right down to the local church, and then in the local church on out through the Sabbath school classes and various home missionary activities. Each one of us has a part, or do we? Do we?

Well, as I told you last Friday night, if there are any of you don't know exactly where you fit in, come and talk with us about it. I'm so glad that several responded.

They took me seriously last Friday night, and I had some wonderful visits within a few hours after our last Friday night meeting, with individuals who wanted to find how they could fit into God's purpose for soul winning in 1967. That makes me very happy, and I pray that one of the great things that's accomplished in these Friday night vesper services is to help you and me learn to be better soul winners. What do you say? Find our place and then fill it.

In the 5th chapter of Mark, we have the interesting story of a man that was possessed of devils, and you remember that Jesus met him, as Christ and His disciples came from their boat there on the Sea of Galilee. This man came running out of the rocks and the tombs up above the rocks, ran down to meet Christ, possessed of this devil, and you remember Christ delivered him and he was so glad to be in his right mind. The 15th verse pictures him sitting there with Jesus clothed and in his right mind.

Now, you remember that the people that were there were distressed because the swine had been taken over by the devils and destroyed, so they asked Jesus to leave—17th verse.

The 18th verse, as this man that had just been healed saw Christ about to depart, what did he want to do? He wanted to go with Him. The 19th verse says:

“...Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him...” Mark 5:19.

What?

“...Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee” Mark 5:19.

Now, this man had been with Jesus less than a day, but he was given a commission to do what? Go home and what? Tell what great things the Lord had done for him.

And so, in the 20th verse, it says he did it:

“And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis...”
Mark 5:20.

That means 10 cities.

“...how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel” Mark 5:20.

They knew him, you see, and whereas before he had been the terror of the country, now he was the wonder of the country, and who got the glory? Jesus did. My dear friends, I call your attention to this fact. Oh, ponder it. *He* could reach some people in that area that Jesus himself could not reach.

They had asked Jesus to do what? To depart. And He did it. Christ is very courteous. He didn't urge His presence. But here is a man that they would listen to. They *knew* him.

And he said, I've got to go. These people want me to go. Oh, I want to go with you. Jesus says, I have something I want you to do for me. You go right here, where these people know you, and simply tell them how great things God has done for you, and he did it.

Friends, when Jesus came back some time later, they were all so glad to see Him. This man had broken down prejudice, won favor, reached hearts, by the simple testimony of his experience.

Our sister sang for us a few moment ago, *Someone Is Waiting For You*. Someone is waiting for your word of witness, your testimony, of what Jesus means to you, what He is to you.

And my dear friends, Jesus will use anybody, provided He has his heart. The amount of your training may bear upon some things, but it does not weaken this fact—that God has a work for you to do right now. You may need to get some more training in order to accomplish certain things, but you must never think—oh, please—you must never think that your witness must be silent until that training is completed. That's utterly foreign to the basic principle of Christian education.

Christian education means, as fast as you learn something, impart it. As fast as you experience something, witness about it. As fast as God does something for you, tell others how great things God has done for you.

I want to tell you about an experience that shows all in this one story several things about God's work of soul winning. As you will see, it shows that God may work in most unlikely ways, and it shows that God will use anybody in any condition, provided, as I say, the individual is willing to be used.

Over in Europe, in one of the countries over there, a Seventh-Day Adventist became sick—in fact, he became mentally sick—and he was taken to the home for those who were mentally sick—the insane asylum—and he was so out of his mind, as we say, that nothing he said made any sense, except when he began to talk about this message.

And there was an orderly in this mental institution that had the care of this man, and as he ministered to him from day to day, he noticed how incoherent and meaningless and out of his mind his conversation was, but he noticed that when he was talking about the Bible, it seemed to him that it sounded all right, and this orderly—that attracted his attention, and he made a note of some of the texts that this man spoke of and he went home and looked them up in his Bible, and sure enough there they were, like this man said.

And that kept on, my friend, day after day, week after week, until this man had learned all the points of our faith. And then, he looked up a Seventh-Day Adventist

minister, and he said, What do I need to do in order to join your church. Well, he said, what do you know about it, anyway? Well, he said, examine me and see.

And so the minister began to ask him questions, and as the questions were asked, he could give the Bible answers, one after the other. And, my dear friends, it might make you smile when I tell you the pastor's question and his answer, but I tell it to you, not to make you smile. I want you to think of the purpose of it and of the purpose of God in it.

The pastor asked him, after he finished his examination—he says, Well, where did you learn all this? He said, From a crazy Seventh-Day Adventist. Now, as I say, a lot of people—if they'd hear that, they'd just smile, wouldn't they. But he didn't mean it in a foolish way. That was the truth. Wasn't it? But, my friends, why did God use that?

Well, I would give you two reasons, friends. In the first place, maybe—maybe all the people that were in their right minds were too busy or too selfish or too something to reach that man that God saw was a likely candidate to be a member of this church. And the second thing is, friends, God was using that dear man that was sick, and in the kingdom he'll have a star in his crown that he'll probably never know about in this world.

Oh, friends, we have a wonderful God. What do you say? And if God can use a man in that condition, don't you think he could use *you*? Don't you think He could? Oh, yes. Someone is waiting for you—someone is waiting for you.

You know, as Elder Pierson says, we're in the time when God is waiting to do great things for His church. He's promised it. We've been looking for it for some time, and in some parts of the world field, there seems to be a breakthrough that is really cause for rejoicing.

Some of you are acquainted with the fact that in Korea in recent years things have just been multiplying, multiplying, multiplying. The Spirit of God has come upon the laymen along with the workers, and companies are just developing.

But just this week, I learned that in quite a number of our churches in Korea the work is growing so rapidly and hearers are coming in such great numbers that they have to have three, four and five meetings on Sabbath, each with a different audience, in order to get the people in the church.

Now, we think it's something because we're having to move from this chapel to a larger one because we're crowding things in and occasionally somebody has to stand, but what would it mean, dear friends, if we had to hold four meetings here to get everybody in—hold a meeting and dismiss, and then another meeting, and dismiss that, and another meeting and dismiss that, and another one, sometimes even a fifth one. Isn't that something to thank the Lord for.

And in some places in Korea, they even have to ask some of our older church members to stay home from Sabbath school and church so there'll be seats for these new people that want to come and worship God and hear the message.

Friends, I think of that wonderful statement:

“We do not know what the Lord will do for us, if we will come into line” *Our High Calling*, page 335.

Let’s do it. What do you say? Let’s do it.

Some of you have been noting in the *Review* the reports from one of the islands in the Inter-American Division down there in the Caribbean. Elder Cleveland in the general conference has gone down there since general conference and has been holding a meeting, and in that meeting, several thousand people have been attending.

And when he presented the Sabbath and made the call for those that would accept the Sabbath and keep the next Sabbath, over 1,000 people came forward and signed the cards that they would keep the Sabbath, and over 1,000 were *there* the next Sabbath to keep their first Sabbath—1,000.

They’re having baptism after baptism. Already many have been baptized and they expect before the effort is over to have over a thousand people baptized in that effort. God is at work. What do you say? Thank God.

But, my dear friends, all those things begin with little things. The mighty Mississippi begins up here in our hollow with that little spring. Did you know that that was the source of the Mississippi River?

Somebody says, I thought it was way up north in Wisconsin or Minnesota. Well, it is. In fact, there are literally thousands of places where the river begins. Aren’t there? But they flow together and flow together and flow together and flow together, and eventually they form that mighty river.

And so it is, friend, when great revivals take place, when great in-gatherings of souls are witnessed—it’s because of the combining of many, many rivulets of personal endeavor, personal testimony, personal witness, personal prayer, personal individual pleading with God, on the one hand, and pleading with souls on the other. Let’s pay the price and enter in. What do you say, friend?

Do you have a prayer list? I talked with you about that a few weeks ago. I just want to mention it tonight. Do you have a prayer list? Do you have one, two, three or more souls which you’re pleading with God day by day for, down on your knees all alone.

Everybody can do that, can’t you. Oh, yes. Do that, friends. If you do everything else and *don’t* do that, you may not get very many souls. If you don’t know anything else to do *but* that, and *start* that, *that* will be used by God to lead you into the other things that you’ll need to do—that He wants you to do.

Begin to pray for souls, is the inspired instruction. Will you say that with me:

“Begin to pray for souls...” *Messages to Young People*, page 206.

How do I begin? Begin to pray—begin to pray for souls. And if you don’t know anybody to pray for, then begin to pray that God will help you to find somebody to pray and work for. The place to begin is on your knees.

Some of you have come here recently in just the last few weeks, and we welcome each addition to the army. We’re going to need every man, every woman, and every boy and girl. Oh, friends—and believe me, I’m not just talking because it sounds like something to say—I believe that this is the greatest year in soul winning that we have ever seen—1967. You and I, unless we fail to pay the price, unless we fail to enter into our privileges, we are going to see the most precious experiences in soul winning we’ve ever seen.

You know, this morning, I had the privilege of being down and looking at the chapel, meeting with the committee of the brethren that are studying the different details of how to complete it, and oh, I do greatly appreciate the work that Brother Saylor and Brother **Vogel** and all their helpers have done. That’s going to be a beautiful building, friends—a beautiful chapel—an evangelistic center—and it’s well planned, and it’s going to be just what we need as a place where people can come and hear the Word of God.

And then down at Trenton, as you know—we have a lovely little chapel down there, and they’re planning to hold a series of meetings down there beginning in the spring. In other areas of our district here, there’s:

“...the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees...” 2
Samuel 5:24.

And I’m happy to tell you that all over the conference there’s this spirit of evangelism. We want to be praying for souls, not only here in our little area, but throughout the conference, throughout the union, throughout the world field, as Elder Pierson said. Shall we do it? Begin to pray for souls.

Let me tell you another interesting experience of how God can work to reach souls. Some of you remember a number of months ago, that the pope of Rome made a trip over into the holy land. I think they say it’s the first time a pope has been in Jerusalem since Peter was there.

At any rate, the pope was over there in the holy land, and among other places that he visited, he was at the Jordan River. And as he looked at the Jordan River, he made some comment—he said, This is the place where Jesus was baptized, and he mentioned how he was baptized and that was Christian baptism.

At any rate, of course, the TV and the news reporters—they were all there—they were covering every detail of his trip—and that went out all over the world. Well, there was a priest down in South America that saw this, and it got him to studying about baptism, and of course, he recognized as he studied, that Jesus was actually down in the water there in the Jordan River and was immersed and came out again.

And so, he talked to his people about it. He preached about it—the Sunday mass—and they became very much interested in it and they wanted to be baptized, but he said, Well, I don't know how to baptize you.

And in the providence of God, just about that time, Seventh-Day Adventists were holding meetings there, and they were going to have a baptism, and the priest announced this in his church—that there was going to be this baptism—and many people came to see it and it was even on TV—this baptism of the Adventists.

And after this, some of these dear people, they came again to the priest and said, Now, you have seen. Now, we want you to baptize us. No, he said, I still don't think I know. He said, If you really want to be baptized, I suggest you go to the Adventists. And so, many of those people are being studied with down there in this place in South America.

My dear friends, if we'll do even a little adding, God will do a great deal multiplying. What do you say?

“...he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness...”
Romans 9:28.

Would any of you like to run into some real miracle in soul winning? Would you like to see something marvelous happen that would just warm the heart and stir the soul? You know, an experience that has happened to me several times this winter in an entirely different area, and I want to share with you.

It's a wonderful thing to me to go up some icy cold day, when the icy colds are hanging from the cliffs, and look around in these canyons and little dells back here and come home with two or three or a half a dozen hepatica—little white flowers. But friends, they have to be sought for, they have to be searched for, but all the searching in the world wouldn't accomplish anything if God hadn't put them there. Right?

I want to read you something from *Desire of Ages*, page 297:

“There are souls perplexed with doubt, burdened with infirmities, weak in faith, and unable to grasp the Unseen; but a friend whom they can see, coming to them in Christ's stead, can be a connecting link to fasten their trembling faith upon Christ” *Desire of Ages*, page 297.

Isn't that wonderful, friend? In other words, someone is waiting for you. There they are—many on the verge of the kingdom, waiting only to be gathered in. Some of them know they're waiting. Some of them—the servant of the Lord in holy vision saw them kneeling down and with tears weeping as they read the Bible and longed for light on it. Wouldn't you long to be the answer to that prayer?

But some of them, friends—they don't know they're waiting. They are so stupefied by the narcotics of Satan—they're waiting, but they don't know it. But oh,

they need you just as much as these who are weeping in the secret places. Whether conscious or unconscious of their need, many are waiting, and someone is waiting for you—someone is waiting for you.

And now, friends, I want to ask you something. We mentioned the fact that that man hadn't been with Jesus very long that was told to go home and tell what the Lord had done for him, but I want to ask you. What kind of a missionary would he have made the day before? Could he have done anything? Why, no. Why, what was the matter? What was the matter with him? He was possessed of what? The Devil.

Let's be sure that Satan has been dethroned and Christ enthroned. What do you say? Let's be sure that, like this man, we are clothed and in our right mind, sitting at the feet of Jesus, that the nakedness of sin—iniquity, self-righteousness—is all covered by the mantle of Christ's righteousness.

And that doesn't mean that our lives, as we look at them, have to be perfect, but it does mean we need to be fully surrendered and conscious that Jesus has forgiven our sins and taken His place on the throne of our hearts. That must be settled.

And *if* that has been settled, we are ready to witness. Am I right? Is it that simple? Thank God—thank God. All right. I want to let *you* witness right now. I want to hear from those whose hearts God impresses that He has a word for you to say of witness tonight.

And by witness, I mean, Has Jesus done something for you and you want to praise him? Has He forgiven your sins? Are you thankful? Has He delivered you? Are you glad? Do you want to encourage others to trust in Him, and do you want to give your life tonight to Jesus to be used by Him in witnessing for others?

Now, I would like to hear, first of all, tonight—we may hear from others later—but I would like to hear, first of all, whether it takes us two or three minutes or several minutes—I'd like to hear, first of all, from those who have either never spoken in this room or who haven't spoken for a number of weeks. We want to give you an opportunity to witness. Stand and witness for Jesus.

[Testimony meeting.]

[Singing.]

[Comments by Elder Frazee during testimony meeting.]

For how long? Twenty years. God give you that soul, brother...

“Through direct contact, through personal ministry, the blessings of the gospel are to be communicated” *Ministry of Healing*, page 147.

Two pages before—145:

“All gospel workers should know how to give the simple treatments...” *Ministry of Healing*, page 145.

What for? That’s what sister is talking about.

Well, we’ll close this part of the service.

Brother Vogel, you know what I wish right now? I wish you folks that are going over to Slygo this year would come up here, and I wish we could have a special prayer for that work over there in Slygo. Would you like that?

Brother Vogel, you and your family come up here, and Brother and Sister **Wah** and their family, and anybody else that’s helping over there in Slygo—come up here. We want to have a special prayer for the work over there in Slygo.

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