

Spirit of Prophecy 4 of 4

#0004

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—January 4, 1997

My text is in 1 Corinthians 1:4–8. This is one of my favorite texts in all Bible, and oh, I'm just so glad that we can study it tonight. Paul was writing to the church at Corinth. But as often happens in these inspired writings, the mind of the prophet was led to take in also the people of God down near the end of time. And we see that, and it mentions in the seventh verse that he's speaking to those who are waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Is anybody here tonight waiting for the coming of Jesus? Well, here's a message from the inspired prophet and apostle Paul for *you*:

"I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; That in every thing ye are enriched by Him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ" 1 Corinthians 1:4–8.

So this evening, let us take this as a personal message from Jesus through Paul for us. Now, what does he say? Paul says, "I thank God every time I think of you because you're so rich." Now maybe you know you are rich, and maybe you haven't heard it. There *is* such a thing, you know, as being rich and not knowing it.

Years ago, there was a man in Pennsylvania that got the desire to go out West and find his fortune in the gold rush in California. The thing that finally caused him to decide to sell the old farm in Pennsylvania was there was a scum on the water there where the cows were trying to graze, and there was scum on the pond. He said, "This isn't the place for me. I'm going west."

Well, he never found the gold out there. But the man that bought his place found oil. That's where the great oil wells of Pennsylvania started. So I say, it's possible to be rich and not know it.

And I wonder if there's anybody here tonight that's rich and doesn't know it. Well, we're going to see what Paul's talking about tonight:

"I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; That in *everything* ye are enriched by him" 1 Corinthians 1:4–5.

"You're rich in *everything*," he says.

“In all utterance and in all knowledge” 1 Corinthians 1:5.

But, now notice the modifying clause, the limiting expression, the thing which defines and compounds this statement about being rich:

“Even as the testimony of Christ was *confirmed* in you”

1 Corinthians 1:6.

“You are rich,” he says, “*just* to the extent, *just* to the proportion that the testimony of Christ is confirmed in you. And if the testimony of Christ is confirmed in you then he says, “You’re rich. Rich in everything.” And we wait for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with confidence and courage, and as this gift is confirmed in you, you will come behind in no gift. You will be blameless when Jesus comes.

Our richness then, as Paul looks down the stream of time and sees us in this remnant church, our *richness* depends upon this point: Is the testimony of Christ confirmed in us?

Now, what did we read last night and again today? What is the testimony of Jesus Christ? The spirit of prophecy. Who said that? Why, the angel Gabriel said it, Revelation 19:10. *It’s* there in the Bible.

“The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy”

Revelation 19:10.

Let’s say it together:

“The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy”

Revelation 19:10.

Now Paul says, “If this gift, this spirit of prophecy, the testimony of Christ is *confirmed* in you, then you are rich in everything. Rich in everything! But it must be confirmed in you.”

Let me illustrate it. Here’s a five-dollar bill. Am I rich? Well, I’m at least *five* dollars rich. All right. But suppose I go down to the bank and I give them this five-dollar bill and I say, “Would you give me five ones.” Will they do it? Yes. But suppose as the teller is about to hand it to me, they notice that there’s something peculiar about this bill. The teller hands it back to me and says, “Sorry, Mr. Frazee. That’s a counterfeit. We can only give you two dollars for it instead of five.”

Or is that what they’d say? What? You mean I couldn’t even get two dollars for it? It says it’s worth five dollars. Even if it’s a counterfeit, it ought to be worth something, shouldn’t it? It’s not worth the paper it’s written on if it’s a counterfeit. Am I correct?

Now suppose, folks, that I don’t know whether this is a counterfeit or not. But I’m carrying it around in my pocket. How would you feel if you were carrying around a five-dollar bill or a hundred dollar bill, and you weren’t sure whether it is genuine or counterfeit? You might look at it sometimes and say, “My, wouldn’t it be nice to have

all that money.” And then you’d think, “But wait a minute. I, I don’t know. Somebody told me they thought that was a counterfeit. Now I’ve got to take it down and see. So I don’t know whether I’m rich or not.”

Remember folks, it would be better to have a *five*-dollar bill that's genuine than a *thousand* dollar bill that's counterfeit. Are you with me? But listen, wouldn't it be better to have a genuine *thousand* dollar bill than a counterfeit five-dollar bill? Wouldn't it? And this is what we're dealing with, friends. But my point is, we don't get that feeling of riches, we don't get that joy of being wealthy, unless we *know* that it's genuine. Do you see?

This is what Paul is saying:

“I thank my God always on your behalf... That in *everything* ye are enriched by him... Even as the testimony of Christ was *confirmed* in you”
1 Corinthians 1:4–6.

“Confirmed,” what does that mean? Made firm, made certain, made sure; no question about it. No question about it. It is wonderful to be certain about something, friends—especially something like this.

Now the question is this, friends: Has Jesus in these latter days spoken to the remnant church? Has God sent His angel and given to His servant, Ellen White, *these* visions regarding which we've been studying last night, this morning, this afternoon, and tonight? Did that really happen? *Is* God back of it? Are these the messages of Heaven?

My dear friends, if they are, we are rich! But if it isn't so, then all this is a *counterfeit*, a *fraud*, a *pretense*, a *make-believe*, a *fake*! And we are not rich at all. We're poor if we *think* that there's anything to it. Oh friends, I'm so glad that it's possible to taste and see, to test and know that this is indeed the testimony of Christ, the spirit of prophecy.

I thought tonight I'd like to tell you a little of what it has meant to me, personally. You know, nearly seventy years ago my parents heard this message. My mother had been a member of one of the popular churches; my father grew up without belonging to any church—just a man of the world. But about the time they were married, they were studying this message.

And the thing that appealed to them especially about the Seventh-day Adventist message, was its emphasis on prophecy. The book *Daniel and the Revelation* by Uriah Smith made a great impact on them. As they were both interested in history, and they saw how the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation had *foretold* the future.

And then, as they studied deeper into this message, they came in contact with the experiences of Ellen White and the books that she had written. My father told me how he paced the floor, thinking about it. What would he and my mother do about this thing? What would they do about it?

And may I tell you, friends: it was becoming *certain* that the visions and writings of Ellen G. White came from Heaven. This is what caused my parents to decide to be baptized and accept this message. This is the thing that settled them.

So a few months later, I was born into a Seventh-day Adventist home. And I *grew up* in a Seventh-day Adventist home. And I thank the Lord for that heritage—the wonderful heritage. However, as the result of that decision to accept this message, my father lost a good job: a government job that required at least part of the time some duties on Saturday. And so, because of deciding to accept this message, my parents became poor, and I grew up in a poor home. And I'm not sorry about that. That's part of my riches. And if you think that's a paradox, it is. I'm thankful for the providence of God that caused me to grow up in a poor home.

But while we were poor, thank God, we were happy. We had something to live for. From the time I can remember, my parents were putting into the minds of us children the things of God in the Bible and in the Spirit of Prophecy. We were poor and we didn't have all these books. In fact, some of them hadn't been printed yet, but even of those that were available then, we were not rich enough to buy all of them. But thank God! We got a great blessing out of those that we *did* have.

One of the blessings that affected my life directly was this: My father in studying these books, he found that it was recommended by the Spirit of Prophecy, that children should be taught to memorize the Bible. And believing that he should do something about what he read, he started in to have us memorize the Bible—different parts of it. And by the time I was 12 or 13 years old, I had memorized Daniel 1 and 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12, the 22 chapters of Revelation, besides hundreds of other Bible texts.

Of course, the Lord knew that someday I'd be a preacher, but I didn't know it, and my parents didn't know it, but do you think those chapters have come in handy? Do you think those verses have come in handy? But even if I'd never been a minister, friends, they would have been worth a great deal to me.

My parents read in the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy that learning the Bible would develop the memory of those who learned it. And I *know* that this has been a great blessing to me. I thank the Lord for a good memory. And I owe it under God to my parents, who, because they read these *books*, drilled me in learning the Bible.

Now, I ought to tell you this because some of you are parents, and many of you will be getting ideas that you'd like to do this with your children. I recommend it, but I must tell you; it isn't just as easy as I'm telling it to you. Because while sometimes I liked to do it, sometimes I didn't like to do it. Sometimes I went through it with all my heart, and sometimes I had to have help. And I'll not tell you all the ways I got help, but it was very practical help. I wasn't always thankful for it at the time, but I am now. And I have been for fifty years. Oh friends, I thank God that my parents read the Spirit of Prophecy and did what they read in it!

As the result of reading these writings of the Spirit of Prophecy, my father and mother were careful to teach their boys to work. Now, of course, one thing that

aided in this was the fact that we were poor; as I say, it was the result of keeping the Sabbath. From an early age, we had to earn the family income: working in the garden, working in selling the magazines, and even books. I early learned to do colporteur work. Was that good for me? Oh yes. Was the work in the garden good for me? Yes.

I learned to wash dishes. I know what that means, like that one. I know *all* about that kind of experience: in heating dishwater on the stove and carrying it over to wash dishes with. I've washed dishes thousands of times, so I am perfectly at home now in the dishpan and the sink. I don't do it every day, I have other folks to do it. But I get the joy of doing it every now and then.

I know what it means to sweep a house as a boy, from one end to the other, and mop the floor.

Where did my parents get those ideas? Out of these books. Now I hope none of you children are thinking that you hope your father and mother won't get those ideas. These are wonderful ideas. Work is a blessing.

Another precious blessing that came to me is that my father and mother in studying these books came into contact with the messages dealing with the advantages of country life. And so, in my early teens, my parents moved the family out to the country where we could have still more work to do and less contact with the city life, with its artificial civilization.

One of the greatest blessings that have come in my life through this gift is this little book, *Steps to Christ*. I became acquainted with this book when I was a boy. When I was about fourteen, I began to find special joy in it. I used to have a little pocket edition of this that I carried around in my pocket when I went to school. Nobody told me to do that until the Lord lead me to do it. And this book, *Steps to Christ*, had a *great* influence on my life when I was fourteen and through my teens. I still love it.

Recently, I've been listening to a taped, talking edition of *Steps to Christ*. And I love to sit there or lie there and listen while this book is read to me on the talking tape. I feel the presence of Jesus, the voice of my Lord *speaking* to me through these pages, drawing me to Himself.

As I read these books, I became acquainted with some very *strict* principles. And during my teens, several times, I came face to face with some real decisions; as to what I would do with some of the strict principles I'd found in these books. One decision I remember concerned diet. Another one concerned reading. Another one concerned recreation and amusement, another association. In *all* these things, what I read in the books cut across my natural inclinations as a boy. And if I had done what I wanted to do and felt like doing, I would have put the books aside and done as I pleased.

And sometimes, I had quite a tussle. Sometimes, it took me quite a while to make up my mind. But oh, I'm so thankful that *eventually*, in those different tests, God finally was able to get through to me and to help me to do what the books said

instead of what I thought and wished and wanted. And do you know what I found as the years went by? I found that if I would do what the books said, eventually, I would like what the books said.

In other words, God knows better than I do what I want. Did you ever get something you thought you wanted and then find out that you didn't want it at all? I have. I'm sorry I ever learned that by experience. But it's better to learn it by experience than not learn it all, isn't it friends? Yes, it *is*. And so, I thank God for the strict principles in the Spirit of Prophecy that came to me during my teen years. And I'm so glad that along with it, God taught me some things about soul-winning out of these books.

Here in Volume 1 of the *Testimonies*, I found three wonderful chapters. One of them is called "Young Sabbath keepers;" another one, "Dangers of the Young," and another one, "Address to the Young." As a fourteen-year-old boy, I became acquainted with those three chapters. They led me not only to take hold of some strict principles but to get into soul-winning: of young people, by young people, for young people.

A little later, I read over here in *Volume 7*, page 21, a statement that oh I'm so thankful for:

"Why do not two or three meet together and plead with God for the salvation of some special one, and then for still another? ...Let different ones unite in labor as fishers of men" *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 7*, page 21.

This reference, with the Bible promises quoted on the next page, led me to enter in for myself and to help others to enter in to little prayer bands of two or three. When I was in the eighth grade, when I was in the tenth grade, and later in other places, God led me especially through these books, to get into that kind of soul-winning. And friends, as I look back at it now, I can see that God was doing several things in that. He was helping me reach certain other boys my own age, but He was also preparing me for soul-winning in the future. And oh, I'm so glad for these books, because without the books I never would have done it.

As a young man, I became acquainted with this book *Messages to Young People*. It was printed first when I was a young man. And at that time, I was in active young people's work in these soul-winning lines. And how *glad* I was to get hold of this book.

One of the great blessings I got from this book was in the closing section on courtship and marriage. I found in this book *Messages to Young People*, as well as scattered through the nine volumes of the *Testimonies*, precious instruction on the kind of wife a young man should look for. And because of the instruction in these books, the inspired instruction of the Spirit of Prophecy, God led me at the right time to a young woman who entered into my life work of soul-winning, as nobody else in this world could have.

She, too, had been trained in her youth to value the instruction in these books. And at the right time, the Lord led us together. It will be 40 years now in a few weeks since we were married, and we both can testify to the glory of God that every year has been better than the year before. And sometimes we talk it over, and we say, "Now how can this year be better?" But we know it's going to be because we're both studying these books.

I don't mean, dear friends, that I have been perfect. That isn't what I'm getting at, at all. I've made many mistakes, *all* along the way I can look back and see: "I wish I had done this better. I wish I had done this better." But friends, before anything in this world, to me, this is the providence of God.

Another thing that I'm very thankful for is that in the study of these books, more and more I have been led to find the solution of human problems. More and more, as people talk to me, tell me of this problem or that problem or the other, I find the joy in turning to one of these books and letting them *read* the solution of their problem right here in an inspired message. Don't you know that brings me a lot of satisfaction? And as I see it working.

Let me give you an illustration. In a place nearly two thousand miles from where we're sitting tonight, several years ago, a couple came to me, or the man did. He and his wife were getting separated. They were about to have a divorce. In fact, they'd already been to the lawyer. I sat down and talked with them together. And I said, "Listen, before you do that, (and they had a darling little girl), why don't you give something a chance." And I had not long before that completed a little series of classes, especially for husbands and wives on how to be successful in the home, in the marriage relation as husband and wife and parents.

So I said, "Now listen, before you do this, I want you to sit down and listen to these on tapes, just eight lessons." Well, they did. Well, thank God, friends, it got through to them. And what are those eight lessons? It was what was in these books. (Of course, there is a lot more in the books than the eight lessons.)

But *thank* God, their home was saved! And now, besides the little girl they had when they had that experience, they have another darling little baby. And I call that baby, "my baby." Do you see what I mean? It was these *principles*, these inspired principles of the Spirit of Prophecy that saved that home.

And so friends, back and forth across this continent, I have the joy of seeing men and women, young people, boys and girls find the solution to their problems in these inspired books. Do you think I'm rich? Oh, I am friends. I'm rich. I'm rich.

I used to tell my little girl when she was about so high that her daddy was the richest man in all the world. And she'd look up with her sweet little face and say, "But not in money, Daddy." And that's *right*. You see, dear folks, these riches are not taxable, and nobody can *steal* them from you. Of course, the Devil would like to steal them, but he'll have to have your permission before he does.

If you want to hold onto these riches, you can have them and draw compound interest on them. But there're two things you have to do to keep rich. One is to do

what the book says. Otherwise, it's just like money in the pockets you could never spend. It'd be too bad to be hungry with money in your pocket that you could spend for food, wouldn't it? Yes. If you don't use it, you'll lose it.

So if you want to be rich—shall I say, as rich as I am—oh friends, I wish every one of you to be as rich as I am, but I'll be richer tomorrow than I am tonight. I'll be richer, far richer a year from now because more and more of these books are becoming the joy of my life. As I said, many a time they have cut across my path. Many times, to do what these books say has been to set aside either my reasoning or my wishes. But bless the Lord, I find out by experience that this is the testimony of Jesus, which is the spirit of prophecy.

And now I look ahead, for my riches are not all in the past. These 67 years, thank God, He's done things for me. But friends, my best days are ahead of me. What do I know because of what I read in these books? I know that as long as life shall last, God has a *work* for me in sharing with others these wonderful principles.

Don't you know that makes me happy? And then I know as I read these books, that someday soon, very soon, *there* in the east I'll see that little cloud. There as the cloud draws near, I'll see my Savior, coming with all the angels. I'll hear the trumpet blow. I'll hear the angels sing. I'll see the dead arise. I'll see my loved ones coming from the grave, that *now* are sleeping in Jesus.

I will join in the glad reunion of *all* the good and blessed of the ages; I'll be caught up to meet Jesus in the air. This mortal body will become immortal. And then, and I'm going on a space trip. I won't have to have any oxygen tank; I won't have to have any spacesuit. Seven days ascending with Jesus to the sea of glass. And what a wonderful time I'm going to have on that seven-day trip!

Think of all the people I'm going to meet! As my dear old friend, Elder Luther Warren used to say, "My best friend has made arrangements for me to become *personally* acquainted with everybody that has *ever* lived in this world that's worth knowing."

Will Adam be there? What a privilege it will be to meet grandfather Adam. He is the grandfather of all of us, isn't he? Yes. And grandmother Eve. What a privilege to sit down and get acquainted personally with Enoch and Methuselah, with David and Jonathan, with Daniel and Shadrach, with Mary of Nazareth and Mary of Bethany, with Martha and Lazarus, with Peter and Paul, with Joseph Bates and Ellen White, James White, Uriah Smith, and all the others down through the ages. Won't that be a privilege, friends?

And then go with Jesus up to Heaven, and then at the right time out with Him on trips all through the universe from world to world and star to star. What a privilege to sit down with Christ Himself! Do you know what He has promised me? I can read it right here in one of these wonderful books, *Ministry of Healing*, page 474. God gave me this page one day when I was crying. I don't mean symbolically; I mean *literally*, tears running down my face. But listen to what I read:

“In the future life, the mysteries that here have annoyed and disappointed us will be made plain. We shall see that our seemingly unanswered prayers and disappointed hopes have been among our greatest blessings” *Ministry of Healing*, page 474.

Is that a thrill? Think of it! Jesus Himself is going to take the book of my life, and page-by-page, He’s going to explain everything that happened to me. Is that a wonderful promise? I can’t miss it. But friends, I’ve saved the best for the last.

Do you know the greatest thing that I have learned from these books? I mentioned it at the beginning of our little study last night. It is this: That while God is my friend and has been from eternity, He wants me as His friend. He loves me not just as a father might love a baby. He wants me as a grown-up man to sit down in counsel with Him, listen while He talks, and talk while He listens. And He wants me to be His *friend* for all eternity.

In fact, He wants me to share His throne with Him. Not so much that He needs me to help rule; He just wants me there with Him. And friends, I’m looking forward to it. And *thank* God, I’m learning more and more that there’s great joy in having that fellowship with Him here and now.

Oh, did you know that you are that valuable to God? Listen, while I pick up this marvelous volume, the *Desire of Ages*, given to us through this prophetic gift and let me read this *amazing* sentence:

“The Lord is disappointed when His people place a low estimate upon themselves. He desires His *chosen* heritage to value themselves according to the price He has placed upon them. God wanted them, else He would not have sent His Son on such an expensive errand to redeem them” *Desire of Ages*, page 668.

Does God want you? Oh yes, He does.

Some months ago down in Venezuela, a 13-year-old boy was kidnapped, and the father, a multimillionaire, had to pay a ransom to get him back, nine hundred thousand dollars. Was the boy worth it? He was to his father, wasn’t he—else the father would never have paid it? Listen, I’m so glad that I’ve found out something about the ransom that was paid for me. When I look at the cross, I see that the One who made the universe values *me* so much, that He will give His life rather than lose me.

Am I that valuable? Yes. I have to say He knows what He’s doing. I wouldn’t have known it if He hadn’t told me. I may value my life and cling to it, but friends, I had no idea that I was worth that much till I found it out from Him. But friends, I accept His evaluation. What do you say?

Are you worth that much? Yes. The good news is—Jesus loves you as He loves me.

Wonderful things in the Bible I see;
This is the dearest that Jesus loves me.

I trust that here this evening hour as we close this little series, that in our hearts, there is a consciousness in each one of us that we are indeed people of destiny. We are rich! You are rich if this gift is confirmed in you. How can it be confirmed in you? Read it, follow it, and you will know just as certain as the sun shines in the heavens that this is indeed the testimony of Jesus, the spirit of prophecy.

Shall we stand?

My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine;
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou;
If ever I love Thee, my Jesus 'tis now.

In connection with a recent birthday, a friend of mine sent me this little message, and the more I've thought of it, the better I like it. God's people never meet for the last time. God's people never meet for the last time. Don't you like that?

Now we're going to say goodbye here in a moment. But listen, that isn't for the last time. It could be the last time in *this* world, but that doesn't make any difference. I can't guarantee that I will see you a year from now, a week from now, or even tomorrow. We might make *plans*. But oh, I can guarantee and you can guarantee that we will meet when Jesus comes. Is that right? Yes.

You say, "Well, how can I be sure?"

Why friends, when you look at Calvary and see the price He's paid, there's no question but that He has chosen you. Will you choose Him? That's all it takes.

How many of us would like to *send* Him the word tonight that we want to make Him happy, by giving Him *all* we have now and forever? May I see your hands? Is that your decision? Thank God. We're all together in it.

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