

# Admit—Submit—Commit

#0011

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—April 3, 1970

In recent weeks, it's been my privilege from time to time to spend several hours with a man that's very dear to me that's soon to leave this world. The doctors have told him after heavy surgery that his life expectancy is very short. He has cancer, and the type of cancer that seems to work quite rapidly. But I want to tell you something, dear friends, as I have entered with this dear friend of mine into a deeper fellowship with Christ, I have found it true again, as I have seen it before, that God is able to make all things work together for good.

Now I don't know when somebody here will be facing some problem like this. Either you will know that you are only going to live a little time, or some member of your family will be given that word. I'll tell you this, dear friends. If we have learned our lessons in the preparatory school, we are ready for the next course.

But it's pretty hard to crowd the work of a lifetime into a few minutes or a few hours. It's true that the thief on the cross repented at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, but as a friend of mine has well put it, "There is one mention of death-bed repentance in the Bible. There is one, that all men may hope. There is only one, that all men may be warned."

And I'm so glad that my friend of whom I have spoken is one that has been getting better acquainted with the Master over a period of time through his past life. And yet, these deepening shadows cause the Star of Hope to shine brighter than ever. He is having an experience with God such as he's not had before.

I was talking with him the other day about this matter of getting through to Heaven as being on a train. On the train, there are coaches where people ride along and look out the windows—perhaps an observation car where they can look way out. And then on some of these trains, there's a Pullman where people go to sleep.

You know, when a man goes to sleep in the Pullman, he expects the porter to call him in the morning—time to get off at his destination. So I said to my friend, "You know, Brother, really it's all in the Lord's hands whether we ride in the observation car or whether we go in the Pullman. We're all going to pull into grand central station together."

"For this, we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself

shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord”  
1 Thessalonians 4:15–17.

Friends, the time to get on the train is now. The time to stay on the train is now. The time to know that our ticket is bought and paid for is now. And whether we live straight through and see all the scenery between now and the coming of the Lord, some of it glorious, some of it ghastly, that's in the Master's hands. If we go to sleep, that's all right, provided we're on the train. What do you say?

This life is really just a school of lower grade in which we are preparing for the higher school. And only the Master knows when we're ready to graduate from our course here to the higher course. And he's so interested in each one of us that He conducts a special school for each student. Isn't that wonderful, friends?

And God knows when you're ready to graduate and go to the higher school. If it be by death, all right. If it be by translation, all right. Only the Master knows when you're ready, just as only the teacher knows when you're ready to graduate from some school in this world. Most of the schools in this world are preparing students to go on to some other school. God's school on earth is preparing every student in it to go on to the higher school.

And as I said to my friend, after we'd had a special prayer and anointing service for him two weeks ago—I said, “You know, Brother, if the Lord raises you up, it may be because he sees that there are some lessons you have yet to learn. And if He lets you go to sleep, you can be assured, as your trust is in Jesus, that He sees that you have learned the lessons that you need to learn in this school of the present to get ready for the school of the hereafter.”

Isn't that a wonderful assurance, friends? God is not going to let death come and catch us unprepared and unready for the entrance requirements of the higher school if we have placed ourselves in His hands.

So this evening I want to study with you three great lessons that God wants you and me to master in this present life, in this present school. And if we learn them, we're ready to graduate from the earth school and enter the school of Heaven. Only the Master knows when we have learned these lessons sufficiently. But I think we need to be working at them, all three of them, day by day.

The first, we shall find presented to us in Proverbs the third chapter and the sixth verse. Proverbs 3, verse 6:

“In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths” Proverbs 3:6.

Acknowledge God. Recognize God. Are there millions on earth today that are going right along as if there were no God? They are acting out the lack of faith, the lack of knowledge. But the Bible says it is the foolish man that has said in his heart there is no God.

Yes, the first great lesson is to recognize God, to acknowledge God, to admit that God lives, God reigns, to acknowledge His sovereignty. Pharaoh never reached that point. That proud monarch said, “Who *is* the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go?” Exodus 5:2. He met his grave in the Red Sea.

Centuries later, there was another monarch that lifted his puny hand against the King of the Universe. But Nebuchadnezzar in seven years of outdoor living away from the pomp and pride and confusion of Babylon learned that:

“...the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will” Daniel 4:32.

It took him seven years to learn it, and that was after a number of lessons that God had given him through Daniel and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. My point is he learned it. If you want to have your heart thrilled, read the fourth chapter of Daniel, which was written by the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, as he publishes to all the world his report on what he learned in school—the school of God.

“...the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will” Daniel 4:32.

He admitted, not only that God lives, but that God reigns. It’s going to be a wonderful thing to see Nebuchadnezzar in Heaven, isn’t it? He learned this first lesson. Admit. Don’t deny. Admit. Own up to it. God lives. God reigns. God is running this universe.

The second lesson we’ll find in James the fourth chapter, the seventh verse. James 4:7.

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” James 4:7.

The first lesson is to admit. The second lesson is to submit. There are those who’ve come to the place where they admit that God lives and that God reigns and God rules, but they don’t like it. They are not ready to submit. But we’re not ready for the school of Heaven, friends, until we submit, surrender, yield, give all.

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” James 4:7.

When I read this verse, I like to think of it this way. It means to say “Yes” to God and “No” to Satan. It’s just that simple. Submit to God. You see, if people get hold of this, friends, no problem about the Sabbath. As soon as they read in the law of God that the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God, they say, “Lord, if that’s what You say, that’s the way it is, and if that’s what You like, that’s what I like. I’m submitting. I’m submitting.”

If a person gets this problem solved, friends, then there’s no difficulty in health reform or dress reform or any of these other reforms. And while I’m mentioning those words, I hope all of you either have read or will read this coming week Elder Pierson’s two wonderful articles, the first on health reform, and the second on dress reform—two weeks ago, the one on health reform, a week ago, the one on dress reform—in the *Review and Herald*. Don’t miss these. They’re tremendous. They’ll thrill your heart, and they’ll help you to realize that those who stand for reform have an earnest leader in the president of the General Conference. This is something to thank the Lord for.

But now my point is, these reforms that are burdensome to many, and a worry to many, they’re no burden and no worry when we have settled the question of submission. Submit to whom? To God. That’s what it says. Submit to God. Nebuchadnezzar, even after he learned that the Most High reigned, he had to reach the place where he was willing to bow before that King and say, “King of the Universe, You’re my King. You’re not only ruling all space, You’re ruling my heart. I yield. I surrender. I give up all.”

You see, this was the lesson that Judas never learned in all his three years with Jesus. He never quite reached the point where he could without reservation submit. Many times when Jesus did something, Judas really thought that he, Judas, knew a better way to do it. He was disappointed when Jesus refused to let the multitude crown Him king. He was grieved when Mary wasted all that money on some ointment to anoint Jesus. He was bitterly disappointed when Jesus allowed that rich young ruler to get away from Him by presenting such a difficult arrangement. Yes, Judas never came to the point of full surrender.

There are many people like that today. They follow Jesus. They may even be in church office. Judas was. They might even be a leader. Judas was. They could have power to work miracles. Judas did—but never to the point of full submission.

Search your heart, my friends. Is the reason that God has lengthened out your life—is the reason this—that God sees you have yet to learn this lesson? Oh, do not wait, my friends, learn it now. I’ll say this, no matter how well we learn it tonight, we’ll have some deeper work in it next week and next month. But the only way of being ready for the lessons of next week and next month is to learn today and tonight all that

Heaven has for us at this time. That means to surrender to everything we know, every ray of light—to say, “Lord, if You’ve given me this light, I’ll walk in it.”

“Submit yourselves therefore to God” James 4:7.

In doing this, may I remind you, friend, that one of the things that keeps some people from surrendering all to God is they fear it might make them peculiar? It might cause them to disappoint some friend or loved one.

I was writing to a young person just a few days ago, and I said, “Remember this. No matter what decision you make, you’re going to disappoint somebody. There is no way to please everybody. Make sure that the one you disappoint is not the One who gave His life for you.”

And if in seeking to please others you disappoint Him, eventually all those that you sought to please will turn against you and say you made a mistake. If it doesn't happen in this life, it will at the final judgment. Nobody in hell is going to come to you and thank you for doing the wrong thing to please them, my friends. Not a bit of it.

But on the other hand, if you go ahead and make up your mind that you’re not going to disappoint Jesus no matter how you disappoint other people, sooner or later, every one of those human beings that you disappointed will say, “You did the right thing. I’m so glad that you pleased Jesus instead of pleasing me.”

Oh friends, why not take the long look? Why not, not only admit that God lives and reigns but submit to Him, become His subject willingly, gladly. Accept Him as the Ruler of your life. Admit. Submit.

But there’s one more. And then you’re ready for Heaven. Let’s turn over here to 2 Timothy, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter, the 12<sup>th</sup> verse. The man that wrote this was nearing the end of his education in the preparatory school. He was sitting in a damp, dark dungeon, chained and awaiting execution, and he dictated these words. This letter, 2 Timothy, is the last will and testament of the Apostle Paul. And oh, hear his ringing testimony:

“For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day” 2 Timothy 1:12.

The first lesson I gave you tonight is what? Admit. The second? Submit. And the third is commit. And what does it mean to commit? It means to turn over. I was thinking about it the other day in connection with a related word, committee. Do you know what a committee is? Well, a committee’s a group of people to whom we turn over something—turn over some responsibilities. It may be a nominating committee. It may be some other committee. But some responsibility has been turned over to them.

What have you turned over to Jesus?

Ah, you say, “Isn’t that the same as submit?” Not quite. Of course, it’s your privilege to do both together. In fact, it’s your privilege to do all three together. A lot of people don’t do it. There are many who have admitted that God lives, and they’ve submitted—they’ve surrendered—but they haven’t quit worrying. And if you’re worrying, you haven’t committed everything to Him. If you’ve committed everything to Him, there’s nothing to worry about in all this world.

“Well, I’m going to quit worrying as soon as this problem that’s bothering me now gets solved.” Are you? Do you really think so? Don’t fool yourself. If your ceasing to worry depends upon finding some solution to the problem that’s bothering you, the Devil has a committee to whom he has turned over the responsibility of seeing that you have two more things to worry about when that one gets solved. There’s only one answer. It’s to commit—to turn over.

Look how Peter puts it. Turn over to 1 Peter, the fifth chapter, the seventh verse—1 Peter 5:7. The thought is similar to this committee. “Casting all your care”—all your anxiety, all your worry—“upon Him; for He careth for you” 1 Peter 5:7.

Is it really true, friend, that the hand that holds up worlds is willing to hold us up? Is it really true that that’s the same hand that was nailed to the cross for us? Is that true? Oh friends, I’m so glad, then, that we Cannot only admit that He lives and reigns, and submit, yield to Him, quit fighting Him, but quit doubting Him, quit worrying, start trusting, turn it over to Him.

Is it hard to turn loose of the wheel and let Him drive? Do you want to keep one hand on the wheel just in case He should overlook something? Then you’re not fully committed. You haven’t fully committed everything to Him. Turn to the 37th Psalm, fifth verse. What’s the first word? Commit. Here it is again.

“Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring *it* to pass” Psalm 37:5.

Bring what to pass? Bring to pass the thing that will make you most happy. Read it in the preceding verse—fourth verse.

“Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart” Psalm 37:4.

Can you ask for anything better than that? Oh, so many are spending their whole lives experimenting with this and that, finding out all the things they don’t like. And by the time a man is 40, or 50, or 60 years old, he can accumulate quite a list. Some at the ripe age of 17 have already found a long list of things that they just can’t

stand. They've tried it.

Why not commit the way to God, my friend. He says He'll give you what? The desires of your heart. I ask you, can you think of anything better than that? Will you really commit yourself to Him? Turn your life over to Him?

You notice what the margin says there on commit? "Commit thy way unto the Lord." What does the margin say? "Roll thy way upon the Lord." Just roll it over onto Him—the responsibility. Oh, it's true we have something to do, but friends, so many of the things we worry about are things that we can't control at all.

Just 24 hours ago, I was sitting in the airplane at the airport in Chicago waiting for the airplane to take off. And the minutes ticked by, and by and by, I looked at my watch. I thought, "I wonder if we're going to make our connection in Cincinnati to get the plane that's coming down to take me to Chattanooga."

How much could I do about it? Well, I could worry. That'll help, won't it? Sit there and think, "My, my, my, I wonder if they're going to make it. I wonder if they're going to make it. I wonder what's the matter. I wonder why they don't get going." Well, they'd had record snowfall in Chicago and only a few of the runways were being used.

And, my dear friends, for over an hour and a half, we sat there in our seats waiting to be cleared for takeoff. And, of course, I missed my connection in Cincinnati. But the Lord had a plan. And before I got through the night, I had the privilege of sitting, talking with a man that I would never have met except for these delays. I had a fellowship with him in Christ. He was so thankful that we met. I was so thankful to meet him. Maybe we'll meet in Heaven just because I had to sit for an hour and a half waiting for the plane to be cleared for takeoff.

Now, the question is, shall we sit through those delays worrying or trusting? That's the question. Ah friends, I'm so glad that God is teaching me, and He seems to be stepping up the tempo—he's teaching me first in one way and then in another that the only way to keep from having a nervous breakdown in the world in which we live now is just to commit everything to Him.

But, of course, you have to take the consequences. Incidentally, you do anyway. But oh, it's so much nicer to do it by choice instead of by force. Do you see what I mean, friend? I'd hate to have even strawberry shortcake forced down my throat, wouldn't you? Yes. How much better it is to choose it—to say, "Yes, please, I'd like it, and give me a good big helping."

"Commit thy way unto the Lord" Psalm 37:5.

Choose to let Him run your life. Will He do it? He says so.

“He shall give thee the desires of thine heart” Psalm 37:4.

Oh, my friends, the younger you learn it, the sweeter your life can be.

Well, are you going in the Pullman or in the observation car? Either way be sure, friends, to stay on board. Be sure, changing the figure, that you’re learning the lessons in this preparatory school. May I tell you, friends, there are many things we’re going to study through eternity, and if we don’t learn much about them here, that’ll be all right. I’m going to be able to travel through Orion just as well as if I had been the first man on the moon. Traveling to outer space now wouldn’t help me one bit in that trip through the stars. Do you agree?

And so it is with a thousand things, I mean even the good things that are filling the minds of students and research workers today. But there is one lesson, my friends, and that one lesson is divided into these three that we’ve studied tonight—that unless I learn it here, I will never even be enrolled in that school.

God is not going to teach us in eternity either to admit, or submit, or commit. We learn that down here. Don’t forget it. There are no electives in what we are studying. These are required courses for graduation from this school. Let’s learn the required subjects now, even if we miss some of the electives that we can take later. What do you say?

Admit, submit, and what? Commit.

All right, brethren, come and sing for me again. This is a sweet song of trust. It breathes the spirit not only of surrender but of trust and absence of worry. Oh, let the Holy Spirit breathe into our hearts, as the holy moments have come, these lessons of peace, and trust, and rest.

[Hymn, “That He is God, Be Still and Know”]

A little boy was looking for his daddy. And finally, he heard him down in the basement—down in the cellar. And he came, and he looked down there, but he couldn’t see him. It was dark down there.

“Daddy, where are you?”

Why, daddy says, “I’m right down here. Can’t you see me?”

“No. I can’t see you.”

“Well, jump,” he said, “and I’ll catch you.”

And he looked, and all he could see was the dark. Do you know what he did?



He jumped. What do you suppose daddy did? He caught him.

Ah, my friend, that's to commit, isn't it? Oh, there's somebody here tonight that God is calling to commit everything to Him, not merely admit that God lives and rules. We all know that, don't we, friends? And I hope we've all submitted. If we haven't, let's submit tonight. What do you say?

But I'll tell you, really, my great burden tonight is to help folks to just roll all the troubles and worries and concerns and responsibilities over to God. You say, "Brother Frazee, you'll make people lazy."

Listen, friends, to turn everything over to God means that we can work better than ever before without all that big, unnecessary load on our shoulders. What's the use of trying to walk the Christian way with a hundred-pound sack strapped to our back? Let's let it go. What do you say? Then we can run the way of God's commandments. Then we can be busy doing the little things we *can* do in perfecting character and helping others, without the weight of concern, wondering what's going to happen to us or to the work that we're engaged in.

"Commit thy way unto the Lord." Let's do it.

May I ask, friends, is there somebody here tonight—I'm going to make a special invitation—is there somebody here tonight that really believes God brought you here tonight to get this particular message. It has reached your heart, you're making a decision, and you'd like to just walk right up this aisle, step up here, tell this congregation in the words that Jesus will give you that you're not only admitting and submitting, but you're committing all to Jesus. If you would, just come right up right now.

[Testimony service]

Anybody else that God has spoken to tonight and you're responding. All right.

Now, I wish that we could have a song. John, lead us in Come Every Soul by Sin Oppressed, There's Mercy With the Lord. What is it—567? See if it is. Is that it? 567.

"Come every soul by sin oppressed, there's mercy with the Lord,  
and He will surely give you rest by"—what—"by trusting in His Word."

There's somebody here tonight that needs to submit that hasn't submitted. If there's some idol in your heart, why not come up here tonight, kneel down at the altar, and give that thing to God. What do you say?

And if there's somebody here—you've tried to surrender, you've tried to submit, but you still realize that you're tense, you're worried, you're concerned, there are

anxieties—why not take this third step tonight and commit all to God.

Maybe you're sick. Why not put yourself in the hands of God and say, "Lord, if you want me to die, that's all right with me. If you see it's necessary for me to have some pain, that's all right. You'll use it for your glory and my good."

You can't control whether you live or die, you can't control whether you have pain or don't, but there's one thing you *can* control, friends—you can control whether you commit it all to God or try to carry it yourself. It can wear you out, my friend.

[End of tape]

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