

Not by Impulse

#0107

Study Given by W. D. Frazee

Years ago, I heard a friend of mine say, "In order to be able to take on the problems of others, we need to get our own problems solved."

Turn to the book of Job. The One who speaks in this book, the Bible, is the Creator of the universe. And He has a message for us through the things that He has made, as well as through revelation.

"But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee: Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee: and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee. Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the LORD hath wrought this?" Job 12:7-9.

God is speaking to us through the beasts and the birds, through the fishes and through everything in nature. Even a person who gives nature little notice observes that different things are made in a different way. For example, I noticed some dogs and cats playing the other day, and I observed that they get around well on four legs. That seems to be the program. I don't learn from that that the thing for me to do is to go on all fours. There was a time when I tried that, but I soon outgrew it. And most of you have outgrown that too. You and I get around on two legs, and it works better for us.

Do you know why? The answer is very simple. The reason dogs and cats and horses do better going on all fours is that they were *made* to work that way. The Creator *made* them with that plan, but He *didn't* make *you and me* that way. He made us to walk on *two* feet, and it works much better.

If you want to succeed, if you really want to be happy, find out how you were made to tick. Find out what you were made for and how you were made to function. How will you do that? Ask the Creator. With every new car comes a book of instructions. Those who made the car know how it functions, how to care for it, and how to use it to get the best results. The One who made you and me knows how we were put together, and how we can best accomplish what we were made to do and get the most joy out of it. We were made for joy, not pain and sorrow. We were made for success, not failure. We were made for victory, not defeat. We were made for satisfaction, not frustration.

So, if we go to the Creator, He will help us to find out how we tick, what we were made for, and how we function. We will find the answers in His Word and in the things

He has made. As our text says, "Ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee, and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee: Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee: and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee." In all these God is speaking. And in the study of man himself, we find the greatest lessons in nature.

Why do animals act the way they do? They act by instinct. They obey the impulse. Who can explain why the birds during the fall are, by the millions, leaving the north and going to the south?

Someone says, "That's because it's going to get cold."

Do the birds reason that out? No, they don't reason that out. God leads them by instinct. Think of the little bird way up in the Arctic Circle who leaves and heads straight for the Hawaiian Islands, that tiny little dot in the largest ocean on this planet, and it gets there. Birds live by instinct. They obey the impulses that come to them.

Someone says, "Well, that's what I do—I obey the impulses."

But just as you weren't meant to run around on all fours like a deer or an elephant or a dog, you were not made to run by impulse. You weren't made to work that way, and the people who try it are demonstrating over and over again that they *were*n't made to work that way. Every generation has to learn it over again. They have to learn it through hard and sad experience.

If you ask me why animals get along by living by instinct, impulse, and human beings *don't* succeed on that program, the answer is very simple: you weren't made that way; the animals were. The Creator had certain plans for them, and as they obey the laws that God has put in their being, that's success. God gave you and me, and thank God He did, something infinitely *higher* than that. He gave us a mind with reason and judgment and conscience. He didn't give that to the dogs and the horses, nor the frogs, nor the mosquitoes. No form of life on this planet, except man, has this wonderful gift of mind.

Look about us and we see that man with that wonderful capacity can go infinitely higher than the beast, or he can descend below the level of the brutes. What a potential! Shall we, then, live by impulse, merely by our emotions, our feelings? If we do, we will be disappointed. We were not made to work that way. We don't function well on that program.

It may seem to be a satisfying thought to just do what I feel like doing. If I feel like eating, I don't need to look at the clock—just eat, if I feel like eating. If I feel like eating a particular thing, eat it. If someone says, "That isn't good for you," I say, "Well, I feel like it, I think I'll take it." My motto is to obey the impulse. If I see someone drinking something, and somebody may tell me that it's bad for the liver, hard on the heart, or might confuse the brain, but if I have the impulse that leads in the direction, what's to keep me? Prohibition was repealed a long time ago.

Reason, judgment, conscience—what wonderful gifts. What shall I do with them? Shall I put them aside and let impulse and emotion and feeling and physical desire rule? In the midst of all this, God has put something wonderful in the human mind: He's put the will, the power of decision. And the will sits there on the throne and decides whether my muscles shall move to the tune of impulse or obey the dictates of reason and conscience, guided by the Holy Spirit. The will is the deciding factor.

There are many decisions of life where the only way to say 'yes' to one voice is to say 'no' to another voice. And the man who has not learned to say 'no' will be saying 'yes' to the wrong thing again and again.

As you look at the world of nature around you, you will notice that the animals and birds are concerned mostly with simply looking after their physical needs, seeking out what they need for food and shelter. That keeps them busy. Man is made for something more. But multitudes of men and women and youth are spending their lives just as the beasts are—just toiling to get something to eat and a place to live, and with the creature comforts that they can afford. But the same God who made the birds to hunt for the seeds or other food, the same God who made the animals to seek their food, that God made you and me to live for something higher than looking after our physical needs. He said:

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

Most people are living on the animal level; they're acting from impulse and living largely for the satisfaction of physical and mental desires. But people who do that are never really satisfied for very long. Do you know why? Because they weren't *made* that way. They weren't made to function on that level. You weren't made to live for that purpose. And if you say, “But I *will* live for myself, who can stop me?” nobody can stop you. But two and two are still four. If I drop this book, you know what will happen. Which way will it go? Down, not up. The law of sowing and reaping is just as certain, my friends. The One who made you and me did not make us to find our satisfaction in living for self. He deliberately made us on another program. He made us to tick in such a way that true satisfaction can be found only in living for God and for fellow men. That's the only way we function.

I want to read to you a few very interesting statements on this:

“Seek not for happiness, for it is never to be found by seeking for it” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 2*, page 135.

If I run after happiness, won't I catch it? No. I may catch fleeting glimpses of it and think I've almost got it, and, "If I could only get a little more money, I could get it. or if I could only get this or that, I could get it. Now I've got it. Where is it? It's gone. I'll get it, I'll get it."

“Seek not for happiness, for it is never to be found by seeking for it.” Quite a statement, isn't it?

Suppose I'm out to prove that this isn't so. What a shame to waste a life trying to prove that God is wrong!

“We cannot be happy while we are wrapped up in our interest for ourselves” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 4*, page 71.

Someone once remarked that a man who is wrapped up in himself makes a very small package. Notice that the person who is wrapped up in himself cannot be happy.

Here's the secret behind all this:

“God in His providence has willed that no one can secure happiness by living for himself alone” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 4*, page 224.

The next statement was written to a young woman. I would suggest that all you teenage girls look this up, but it will be for the boys as well, and for men and women with gray hairs or no hair. It works for *all* of us because this is the way we tick:

“You have not been happy, because you have been seeking after happiness...Your mind dwells upon yourself. It needs to be drawn away from yourself by seeking to lighten the cares of others; and in making them happy, you will find happiness and cheerfulness of spirit” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 2*, page 248.

There is the recipe. There is the book of directions in the glove box, and the car *works* that way.

You say, “Well, I'm free. I can do as I please. I am going to pour crankcase oil in the gas tank and pour gasoline in the place where other people put the oil. That's the way my car is going to go.”

Will it? Not very far. Why not? Because the manufacturer didn't *make* it that way. And, my dear friends, you weren't made to find happiness by *seeking* happiness. You were made to find happiness by forgetting all about yourself and living to make other people happy.

There was a man by the name of Solomon, who was the wisest man who ever lived and one of the richest. He wasn't dumb, but he turned out to be one of the greatest fools in history. He said so himself. He spent most of his life searching and seeking new ways of making himself happy. He had everything that anybody could find to eat. He tried them all. He went after all the pleasures of sense, the indulgence of

appetite and passion. He had beautiful music of all kinds. He had entertainers. He had power. He had influence. He had prestige. He had everything. He sat there on his golden throne, surrounded by people who were trying in every way to make him happy, with a scowl on his face.

Solomon finally woke up to what was happening. In his sunset years, he wrote a book about it—it's the book of Ecclesiastes in the Bible. In plain, modern language he said, "Young men, don't try what I've tried, because it won't work. It's all vanity, emptiness, nothingness. And no matter how much you get, it does not satisfy." Twelve chapters there. Read it, friends, and hear that lament of a wasted life. Remember, Solomon had more wisdom, knowledge, skill to get what he wanted than you and I will ever have. He had more money—gold, silver, everything. He had all that it takes, but it never was enough.

Isn't it a shame to waste a life proving you can't get happiness that way? Oh, my friends, young or old, give God your life and don't pour it down the drain trying to prove God wrong, because you can't do it. You will only make yourself miserable and make other people miserable in the process. Why not turn from that selfishness?

Someone says, "I don't want to do anything bad."

That isn't what I'm talking about. I'm talking about whether you are living for God and others, or whether you are living to please yourself. Why won't it work? You weren't made to tick that way. You weren't made to live on the brute level. God made you for something higher, something wonderful—to be like *Him*. And God is thinking of others all the time.

One of the greatest poets in English literature, Lord Byron, at the age of 36, penned these lines, summing up the frustrations and disappointments of his life:

"My days are in the yellow leaf,
The flower and fruit of love are gone;
The worm, the canker, and the grief
Are mine alone."

Thirty-six and already life to him was a dream that had turned into a nightmare of frustration—a series of disappointed hopes and ruined lives, his own and others. He had a wonderful mind but prostituted it to selfishness—to the service of his selfish heart.

Why spend your life demonstrating the ruinous effect of selfishness? Why not do the thing you were made for, the way you were made to do it?

There is another way of being slaves to impulse. Impulses are not all made up of selfish desire to do this or get that. Some of our other emotions have to do with depression and discouragement; just don't feel good—moody, gloomy. Are you going

to let those impulses rule you like selfish people are letting impulses rule them that lead them to indulgence?

Suppose I get up in the morning. I got up on the wrong side of the bed. I come down to breakfast, and my face is a scowl.

Someone who knows me well enough asks me, "What's the matter?"

"Oh, I don't feel good." So I go through the day like that.

Do I have to live like that? No. I wasn't made to be ruled by my impulse. Thank God, the Christian believes what the apostle Paul wrote:

"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" Philippians 4:6–7.

Here is a precious little sentence:

"God's children are not to be subject to feelings and emotions. When they fluctuate between hope and fear, the heart of Christ is hurt; for He has given them unmistakable evidence of His love" *Messages to Young People*, page 110.

This doesn't say God's children are not to *have* feelings and emotions. How many of you get up every day and feel good all day long? Well, we all have feelings and emotions then, don't we? But this says we are not to be *subject* to feelings and emotions. The animal is, but you and I don't have to be. God has given us reason, judgment, conscience, and intelligence. He has given us a knowledge of His promises and of the plan of salvation, and we can rejoice in what we know is true, whether we feel like it or not. This is the Christian's privilege.

Someone says, "But Brother Frazee, you don't know what a failure I am."

No, I don't. I hope I will never find out. Why advertise it? God didn't put you in this world to advertise that you are a failure. He wants to use you as a demonstration in His laboratory, proving that He can lift you above the rule of feeling and emotions and cause you to radiate love and good cheer regardless of how you feel inside. That's the program. God's children are not to be subject to feelings and emotions. "When they fluctuate between hope and fear, the heart of Christ is hurt." Let's not hurt Him anymore. What do you say?

“At times a deep sense of our unworthiness will send a thrill of terror through the soul; but this is no evidence that God has changed toward us, or we toward God. No effort should be made to rein the mind up to a certain intensity of emotion”
Messages to Young People, page 111.

Thank God, I don't have to keep myself feeling the same way all the time. It has nothing to do with it. I know that God is my Creator. I know that Jesus is my Savior. I know that He died for me on the cross. I know that He lives for me in the sanctuary above. I know that I have given myself to Him. I know that He has accepted me. I know that He has pardoned my past and guaranteed my future. I'm a child of the King. I'm on my way to heaven, and Jesus is walking with me now. Don't you think I have enough to be happy about?

Why not look at reality, even though some of it is unseen? What a pity to live on an animal level of being controlled by our feelings, emotions, and impulses, either on the selfish side of running after what we think will make us happy or on the equally selfish side of being gloomy and mopey, when we could, if we only would, come up out of the cellar and into the sun, quoting the promises of God and beholding Jesus!

Here is a statement from *Ministry of Healing*, that wonderful textbook on successful living. See if you don't like this:

“It is not wise to look to ourselves, and study our emotions. If we do this, the enemy will present difficulties and temptations that weaken faith and destroy courage. Closely to study our emotions and give way to our feelings is to entertain doubt and entangle ourselves in perplexity. We are to look away from self to Jesus” *Ministry of Healing*, page 249.

I was talking to someone not long ago, and we were talking about some of these things. I said to my friend, “Look out the window.” We looked out the window, and there was a beautiful scene. Then I said, “Look here.” We looked in the other direction and there was a wall. I asked, “Can you look at that beautiful scene out the window while you look at the wall?” Fortunately, the Lord has given us muscles to move our heads and a will to decide which way we will look. If you look at yourself, you will either go down the road of trying to please yourself by indulging your animal desires, or you will go down the road of being discouraged because you are so frustrated with what a failure you are. One or the other of those two roads you are bound to go if you look at yourself.

But you can turn away from self, the indulgence of self, and the depression that comes from seeing what a failure you are. You can turn your mind from all that and look at the beautiful scene—the plan of salvation from the Eden that was to the Eden that *will be*, and the loving ministry of the Savior all in between. And it's all for you. Jesus came to earth for you. He lived for you. He died for you. He rose for you. He

ascended for you. He's interceding for you. He's coming for you. It's all for you. And if you will look where the light is, you can reflect the light.

In the evening sky, we have three beautiful evening stars: Venus in the west, Jupiter in the south, and Mars in the east. How brilliant they are. All three of them are shining with reflected light! Every light that comes from those three planets originated in the sun. When the evening shadows fall and darkness gathers, we look in the sky, and there are those planets shining with reflected light, reminding us that the sun is still shining. And you and I, if we will fix our gaze on Jesus, can shine with reflected light. And to a world that is covered with the darkness of selfishness and fear and disappointment and frustration, you and I can be light-bearers. We can be God's stars, shining with reflected light. Shall we do it? How many of you would like to send Jesus the word that that's what you want to do?

I want to let you in on a secret. Some of you already know it. You can't do what we just said without a miracle. The stars do it because they were *made* to do it. They do it "automatically." But the only way that you and I can do it is by a miracle. God must *change* these hearts of ours. There is more than one heart where a battle is going on. My heart goes out to you in your struggle. I love you. God loves you. And I know that even if you want to do all I have talked about tonight, I know you can't do it without a miracle.

But thank God, He is in the miracle-working business. The Creator came to earth to be our Redeemer. When He touched the leper, the disease was gone. When He touched the blind eyes, what a wonderful thrill of joy came to the heart of that man as he looked upon his Redeemer! The Creator spoke to the corpse, and Lazarus came forth alive.

If you and I will seek God and ask Him, He can turn us from selfishness to unselfishness. He can turn us from fear and moping gloom to the joy of living for Him and working for Him and trusting in Him. This is His business. He delights in doing it. The help is for you, and the help is now.

Tonight, Jesus can work a miracle in your life. I have seen Him do it for scores, hundreds, yes thousands, and I *know* He can do it for you. If you are going to take on the problems of others, you need to get your own problems solved. You need to learn by experience what God will do in helping you to be master of your impulses, master of your feelings, instead of being a slave to them. You cannot do it by yourself. Jesus will give you liberty from Satan and from self, but you must seek Him with all the heart. He says, "Come unto Me, and I will give you rest."

From Hymn #567:

Come every soul by sin oppressed,
There's mercy with the Lord.
And He will surely give you rest
By trusting in His Word.

Jesus means just what He says. If you come, He will give you help; He will deliver you. There's somebody here who has never made that full surrender to Christ. Come, friends, and give Him your heart, and let Him change you so that you become a victor instead of a slave, a success instead of a failure, unselfish instead of selfish. There's somebody here who has come to Jesus somewhere in the past, but you've stubbed your toe and fallen down. You've let something come between you and the Master. Come back tonight, friend. Leave this chapel knowing that Jesus the Savior has your hand in His.

Oh, I would love to see every unsaved soul go out of this chapel tonight, knowing that Christ is your Redeemer, knowing that you're on Jesus' side (not merely outwardly but inwardly), knowing in your own heart deliverance from living by feeling and impulse. Won't you come right now? Make a break, friend. Say, "Yes, Lord, I'll do it."

[Testimony service follows]

No matter how hopeless your case looks to you, I know it's not so. I know that you can be saved. I know you can find victory. I know that you can find the real meaning of life. It isn't chasing after happiness. You will never find it that way. And it isn't by nursing your gloomy disposition. No. Turn from all that. Come to Jesus.

Quit living for self. It isn't just whiskey and tobacco people need to give up. It's something infinitely harder—it's *themselves*. The selfish heart doesn't necessarily want liquor and tobacco. Whatever it is that is coming between you and God is your idol. Why not enter into an experience with Jesus and have real victory? Why not let Jesus change your heart so that you bring joy to Him and joy to others? You will find joy too. But the great reason for doing it is to do the thing you were born for—to bring joy to the heart of your Creator.

Think how much He loves you! Think how much He paid for you! Think about how His heart was poured out for you so you could make this choice! Plead with God. Seek Him that He will change your heart and give you something better to live for than to please yourself.

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