

Simplicity of Soul-Winning

#0154

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—January 1, 1973

My text this evening for this devotional period is taken from the book of experience. You know, we are told in *Christ's Object Lessons* in that wonderful chapter on "Things New and Old" that the Word of God includes the written Word, the book of nature, and the book of experience in God's dealings with human lives.

Today I read a letter which has just come to me from Bill Dull. Some weeks ago, I shared with you at a Friday night vespers service some things from Bill, and the dateline on that was Fiji. Do you remember? I went out to Canada not long after that to hold meetings at the college and then on to Silver Hills expecting, perhaps, to see Bill there. But, lo and behold, I got the message there that Bill was on his way to India, and his letter today is from south India.

I wish I had time to read all of this to you, but he tells of his experience and how the Lord led him to go over there to south India, and how he has been welcomed there and the work he's doing in teaching things on health and soul-winning. This is the part of the letter I want you to listen to especially:

"We are living in the home of Elder D. R. Watts, the president of the South-India Union. Sunday, we will leave for the south tip of India, where we will be one month on the east side and one month on the west side. Last night, Elder Watts very earnestly talked with me and said that in south India it isn't a matter now of how many Hindus will accept the message, but it is a matter of how many thousands of people we as a church want to have in heaven with us.

"For the last few months, the laymen and ministers have been raising up a church on the average of about only two miles [apart] of thirty to fifty members."

That sounds like a lot; you've been reading the reports. But he says that in that one state there are 30,000 villages and after 60 years, we as a people have reached only 300 of them.

"This union has no money to help further, and he [the union president] asked me to please ask you and the folks there if we would start a self-supporting school in that area. He said the laymen are willing to work if someone would only teach

them how to do medical missionary work and how to support themselves.

“This morning, I sat on a conference committee meeting with him, and he told the committee of our work in the United States and Canada, and asked them to all pray that God would impress us to start our self-supporting work here. So talk to the brethren there and pray about this need.”

This is my first opportunity to share with you what I just received today. Is that something to pray about? If you know the tremendous need of India, the great concentration of people there, it presents a gigantic problem. But whereas for many decades India has been one of the places most impervious to the message, just within the last few years in south India this has turned around, and thousands there are coming in each year. One man has baptized several thousand people there in south India.

But our conference brethren, according to this, see the need for training of these lay members in two areas: Health and medical missionary lines and self-support. If those two things can be brought in along with the doctrines which they already know, the potential is tremendous. You can see that.

Now, I say this is my text. Sitting here are men and women who, if we will make the proper dedication and get the proper training and enter into the proper experience, will be filling some of these needs—perhaps in India, perhaps on some other continent—because God is stirring things here and there all over the world, isn't He?

A few months ago, Brother and Sister Edward Kim were here as students and workers on our campus. The Lord laid on their hearts a burden to go back to Korea. Tomorrow evening (they don't know this yet), Brother Wilson and I are going to call on them to give us a few words by way of report, because this campus and our visitors who come on Friday nights should hear.

Brother and Sister Kim, Brother Wilson shared with me some of the things you've been sharing with him while I've been away, and we want our audience tomorrow night to hear it. It's thrilling.

You know, it's going in Africa. This Brother Bill Dull that God has used to do this tremendous work in Fiji in recent months and now in India, only a few years ago came here as a young man in his late teens and learned to know the Lord and learned how to do soul-winning along with some things about health and self-support. My burden in these few minutes tonight is simply to share with you this great challenge: be sure that you're getting training and experience in soul-winning.

The prophet, on one occasion, remarked that some people in the church are waiting for somebody to carry them to the vineyard so they can pick grapes. And then

she goes further in the interesting parable and says that some people are waiting to have the vineyard carried to them. Quite a picture, isn't it?

It is possible on this campus to come and go like the door on its hinges, carrying out necessary assignments and be here a year, two years, three years, and never get deeply involved in soul-winning. You may say, "Somebody ought to do something about that." I agree. That's why I'm talking to *you*. I think *you're* the one that should do something about it.

In fact, you're the only one that can do what needs to be done about it. There are many things, dear fellow students, for we're all students, and dear fellow workers, for we're all workers in the cause of Jesus, dear brothers and sisters, there are some things that can be assigned. A man can be assigned to dig a ditch, to fix a lock, to wash dishes, to hoe corn. I could go on with a long list of things we may be assigned to do.

But the work of soul-winning is something that has to come from a burden in the heart. It has to be something that, instead of being *assigned* to us, is something that, as Jeremiah says, is a fire in our bones. (See Jeremiah 20:9.) The opportunity to learn soul-winning is here on this campus and in this area: in our community work and in the institution, in the home where you live, in the sanitarium and hospital where we labor together, on these grounds, out in our branch Sabbath schools, in the homes of the people. In the various activities that we're engaging in, there are priceless opportunities.

But it takes more than a great opportunity to produce a great result. So this evening, I want to talk with you about the simplicity of soul-winning as it affects you as an individual. In the book *Messages to Young People*, page 227, I read:

"The work above all work—the business above all others which should draw and engage the energies of the soul—is the work of saving souls for whom Christ has died. Make this the main, the important work of your life. Make it your special life work" *Messages to Young People*, page 227.

Now, if I were the Devil, do you know what I'd do? I'll tell you what I'd do if I were the Devil. I'd slip in by the side of somebody listening here tonight, and I'd whisper this: "Yes, that's what you need." (This is the Devil talking.) "This is what you need is to get into soul-winning, and you'd better leave this campus and get to some place where the action is." If I were the Devil, I'd do that. Now, in case any of you wonder how I knew the thought that was in your mind, I didn't read your mind, but I have become somewhat acquainted with the enemy and the way he works. I'm not on friendly terms with him, I hope, but as an opponent, I respect him. And as the apostle says, "...We are not ignorant of his devices." (2 Corinthians 2:11.)

I want to say this to you: the reason that Bill Dull is where the action is in West Virginia and Canada and Fiji and India is that he was where the action is here at Wildwood and in the New England area down here and up and down this little valley. That's why.

Trips, whether they're in the air or on water or land, do not make missionaries. Trips only give us the opportunity to do what we have already learned to do. And so, I hope you will ask the dear Lord to make this year, 1975, a year of soul-winning for you. It's true we're all a part of a soul-winning team, and if that were all that were necessary, friends, we could leave the soul-winning work to the ministers, the chaplains, the Bible workers, and a few special laymen. But I read in *Volume 5* of the *Testimonies*, page 459, this statement:

"Whatever our department of labor, be it housework or field work or intellectual pursuits, we may perform it to the glory of God so long as we make Christ first and last and best in everything. But aside from these worldly employments there is given to every follower of Christ a special work for the upbuilding of His kingdom—a work which requires personal effort for the salvation of men" *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5*, page 459.

She's not using 'worldly' there in a bad sense. She's already explained what she means—keeping the wheels running in our daily work, in the home, in whatever business or vocation we have.

Here is something, brothers and sisters, that I can say, without any question, is your work as it is my work. I cannot say that all of you are called to preach; I know that you're not all called to preach. I can't say that all of you are called to sing; I'm sure some of you aren't. And so I could go on with a long list of things that we associate with soul-winning. But of this, I'm abundantly certain for I have just read it from an inspired page: each one of us is called to be a personal soul winner. A *personal* soul winner.

"...a work which requires personal effort for the salvation of men" *Ibid.*

And may I tell you, dear friends, a wonderful secret? All the other experiences of life that we're having—whether they're in the treatment rooms or on the farm, in the business office or in the home, on the campus or in the community—all these other experiences are designed to sharpen our intellects, improve our efficiency, and give us contacts with human souls that we can reach for Christ. That's what they're for!

It is not by accident that God has placed us adjacent to a territory having tens of thousands of judgment-bound souls. We reach some of them by God drawing them to this campus as patients, as guests, as visitors. Others we reach by going out where they are with our Five-Day Plans, our community health programs, our door-to-door visitation, our vacation Bible schools, and in various other ways. There is a place where *you* fit into

the divine scheme, and that is not like dominoes, just moving here and there as moved by some human hand. Rather, it is as a key that fits a certain lock.

Oh, I want *your* key to reach the lock that only *your* key can fit, and I want to see it happen this year. Wouldn't that be a wonderful thing, my dear friends, if this year God could bless you with reaching some soul—on this campus or off this campus—that *you* can reach better than anybody else?

Now, I said a moment ago, if I were the Devil what I would do about it. I want to tell you what the Devil does at this point. And again, you may wonder why I'm so well-acquainted with him. It's his methods that I'm acquainted with. When the Devil sees that you are really burdened to work for souls, and you begin to think about John or Harry, or Alice or Mary, that you might work for, the Devil will slip in by your side and agree with you that that person needs help. He'll even be willing for you to pray about it, but he'll make a helpful suggestion as to how to answer your prayer.

The Devil, helping? Oh yes, he's a great helper. I'll tell you how he'll help. He'll say, "Yes, that's a good idea you have about Mr. Jones needing help. But you are not the one to reach him. Someone else could do a much better job than you could." "Brother Frazee. Maybe we ought to get Brother Frazee." (This is the Devil talking. This is the Devil being very helpful.) Do you know why the Devil is suggesting that? Because the Devil knows that God is burdening this man's mind to reach that other man because he can reach him better than *anybody else* can.

This idea that only the ministry, or that only a few specially trained people can really be successful in soul-winning is simply not true, brethren. It's the Devil's idea to cripple the church, to strangle its enlarging efforts. Let Wildwood this year be a year when every one of us takes a burden in prayer for a few definite souls. And I want to leave it with you on that simple note. The prophet says, "Begin to pray for souls." Will you repeat that with me? "Begin to pray for souls." Again: "Begin to pray for souls."

This is what preceded Pentecost, and if you begin to pray for definite souls, pray first about who to pray *for*. Ask God *who* He wants to burden your heart for. Now, if some of you need help in territory because you don't know how to begin, if some of you need help in *methods* because you don't know how to work, thank God, we have people here that are willing to help you.

Our pastors and chaplains are ready to help you. I know that Brother Boykin, Brother Nemire, and here is Brother Steve Cook, who has been carrying a large load in our student-training program. Brother Cook will be glad to help any of you find a place in this, as will Brother Boykin and Brother Niemeyer.

Brother and sister Boykin are conducting a continuous training program in Bible work and soul-winning. And there are others who are engaged in this. I'm not exhausting the list. My point is this: if you wish to be involved in this most precious of all labors, working personally for individuals on campus and off campus, you can be.

I repeat: first, go to God in prayer. Begin to pray for souls. If you need help, there are those who are ready to help you. God will give you a rich experience, and this year can be a most wonderful year in which precious souls shall be won for Christ. And incidentally (and not so incidentally), your own experience can be richer, brighter, than ever before.

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