

I'm Very Sure 1 of 4

#0224

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—April 11, 1968

There are a lot of people tonight in the world who would give a good deal to be really certain of some things. Many have lost confidence in religion because it appears to them largely a matter of myths, legends that have passed down from past generations, or else simply the philosophy of human thinking. After all, everybody knows that the wisest man in this world can't tell for sure even what the weather is going to be like tomorrow. And since religion, no matter how much it deals with the past, deals also with the future, it is evident that anything which is based either on the teachings of the past or the wisest guesses of human beings today must be uncertain.

Is there any way to be sure? Yes, there's a way you can be sure.

I hope you'll take notes on this study tonight. If you're already sure of what we are studying, this will help you to help somebody else to be sure. And there're plenty of folks around needing that kind of help. Do you know any of them?

Well, I want to say this to you, friends: It is not enough to say, I'm sure of the religious belief I have because I was brought up that way by my father and mother. There are a thousand other ideas that have been taught, some other person who has grown up, and he was taught by his father and mother. Is that true? There's nothing very certain about that.

Of course, it's a wonderful thing to be taught the truth that you can be certain of as you grow up, but along with learning the truth, we need to know of a certainty how to prove that the truth is the truth. Is that reasonable?

I've been thinking about how wonderful for the people who don't know these two things that I'm about to tell you, how wonderful it would seem to them if they could really know these two things. See if you're certain of both of them. And what I'm about to say, I say humbly, for it's no credit to me. And yet I'd be telling less than the truth; I'd be failing to tell the truth if I didn't say it.

Here are two things that I'm sure of. I'm sure that everything in this life, everything in the world around me, is working for my success. Now, don't you think that there're a lot of people that would give a good deal if they could be certain of that? I want to repeat it. I'm sure that everything in this universe is working for my success.

You say, "That's taking in a lot of territory."

Yes, it is. It's taking in all the territory. And it needs to, in order to be true and to be worthwhile.

Well, you say, "How do you know?"

Well, I'll come to that later.

The second thing I'm sure of is a share in a future life that will never end, that will also bring me true success, peace and health and happiness forever.

Now, those two things to me, my friends—the certainty that right now everything in this universe is working for my success right here in this world, and the certainty of a future life that will get better and better and never end—those two things are not just a matter of hope. They're certain. They can be demonstrated. There is evidence in support of both of those things, and you can have the same certainty in your mind that I have in my mind.

Now, there are millions of people that hope that something like this is happening, but they're not as certain of it as they are of some very tangible things around. Obviously, these two facts that I've mentioned are not tangible in the sense that this hand or this book or this wall are. No. But because a thing is not tangible is no reason that it can't be proved.

There're many things that we can't get our hands on that we can prove and demonstrate. I could illustrate that with the waves of radio, the waves of TV, communication in various lines today. Think of the millions upon millions of vibrations that are filling the air tonight. You can't see them, you can't hear them, but the proper instrument can tune them in, and they can be demonstrated.

And so these two facts that I have mentioned can be proved, and you can have that assurance. What would it be worth to you to have that assurance—to know absolutely, that everything in this universe is working for you? What would it be worth to you to know that you can have a happy life, a successful life that will never end?

Somebody says, "That's too good to be true."

No, it's too good *not* to be true.

Now, what is needed in order that these two things may be true? Well, my dear friends, there're three things that are needed. It needs all three of these, and that's all it needs. Oh yes, there's one other thing. I'll mention it later.

But to start with, we need three things, three things combined in one. We need a general manager for this universe who is so wise that he can plan the very best thing for everybody in it. That's number one. Number two, this general manager also must be powerful enough that he can accomplish the plan. And third, he must be loving enough to choose that plan and carry it through, regardless of what the cost is to him.

Now, if such a thing could be, if such a thing is, then the two facts that I've mentioned follow, provided one little thing. And as I said, I'll tell you about that later.

But now let us look at these three things. Obviously, if everything in this universe is working for my success, everything in this universe must be working together. And the only way things work together is to be under the direction of one mind.

Somebody says, "Well, what about all the wars in this world and all the sickness and all the strife? Things don't seem to be working together at all."

There's an explanation for that. And none of those things affect the truth of the facts that I have stated.

You say, "Well, I can't understand that."

Well, don't try right now.

Did any of you ever study arithmetic? Oh yes, all of you have. Tell me, friends, where do you start? Do you start in the middle of the book, or the back of the book? Where do you start? You start at the beginning. Why? Because you have to start with the simplest problems and work from them, learning certain rules. And finally, if you're successful, you'll get to the back of the book and you can work the hardest problems. Is that the way it works?

Friends, we ought to be just as reasonable, certainly, when it comes to these vital things that concern happiness here and happiness hereafter. But many people, when anything like this is considered, plunge right in to a discussion of some of the greatest problems and the greatest mysteries that baffle them.

But, you wouldn't do that in any science in a college. Oh, no. You have to work, always, from the known to the unknown. Is that right? Why, that's the only way any of these discoveries are made. Think of the discovery of the law of gravitation. Think of the discovery of the nature of the atom that has led to the use of atomic power, both for destruction and for constructive purposes. You can think of many, many other illustrations.

My point is, every student, every scientist, has to work from the known to the unknown. Do you agree with me? And he has to be willing to start in with simple problems and get certain things settled. And a real scientist does not let what he does not know keep him from using what he does know. Is that right?

A number of you, in a little while, you're going out here, going to put the key in the car, start the motor, and you'll be off to your homes. But a number of you are going to do that. If I should tell you that you couldn't put that key in until you could explain to me all about how that automobile works, you'd be staying here all night, wouldn't you? There are many things about that automobile you can't explain, aren't there? I imagine even the best of you would acknowledge that there're some things you can't fully explain. But oh, I'm so glad, friends, that we who drive automobiles can use what we do know, instead of worrying about what we don't know. What do you say?

And so it is with these things we're studying tonight. When we face the problem of why war, why sickness, why riots, why divorce, why this and that, remember, friends, this isn't where we start. If we start with that, then we're in perplexity of no end. No. There're some other things that are susceptible of clear proof that if—watch the point—we get those settled, we can eventually come to a solution of these age-long problems that afflict humanity today.

Why not begin where the beginning is, instead of insisting on plunging into the middle, or the back of the book, and insisting that unless somebody can explain to us some of these knotty problems, we have no time for it?

So I come back to this. I say that what is needed, if we are to have full assurance that everything is working for our success here and also hereafter, is first of all, to know that there is a general manager of the universe who knows enough to plan it right, and is powerful enough to carry it through, and is loving enough to choose to do that, whatever the cost to him. Do you agree with me on those three things?

Now, stop and think of this triangle. Stop and think which one of the three you could leave out and still get the thing to work.

Suppose that he's wise enough to know what would be best for everybody, but he isn't powerful enough to do it. What good would his wisdom be if he did not have the power to accomplish it? That wouldn't help us very much, would it?

Suppose again that he's mighty in power. He can do anything, but suppose he's not wise enough to plan things out so that things work well. What good would his power be to us?

But oh, friends, watch the next point. Suppose he were wise enough to know everything that could ever be known and plan the very best. And suppose that he had so much power that nothing could stand in his way, but suppose he lacked love for you and me. We might then find ourselves in the hands of a tyrant who would delight in torturing us or making slaves of us, or otherwise making things miserable for us. Couldn't we?

You see, we need all three attributes. Our general manager must be all-wise. He must be all-powerful. And he must be all-loving.

Somebody says, "That sounds like the God that the Bible tells about."

Yes. Exactly so. But merely because the Bible tells about such a One does not prove it, friends. No. But there is evidence. And what we find in the Bible in the description of God is exactly this: He is all-wise. He knows everything, knows the end from the beginning. He knows what is for our best good, and not only for us but for every creature in the universe.

And second, the General Manager of the universe, that the Bible brings to view, is One who has all power in Heaven and in earth. Nothing can stand in His way. He upholds the entire universe and makes it all work together.

But the third thing, of course, that the Bible brings to view about God, is that He is love. And that He is so fully controlled by love, so fully moved by love, that the good of His children is the one thing that's on His heart. And He loves them so much that He will do anything; I mean anything, that's necessary to ensure their success in this life and in the world to come. In fact, the Bible says that He thinks so much of us that in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ, He gave Himself to die, in order that we might know Him, not only as wise and powerful, but as loving, and share in eternal success.

Now, I repeat, the fact that the Bible brings to view just such a person as we need if we're to have this hope, does not, in itself, prove that there is such a person. But certainly, friends, if we're agreed that what we need in order to have certainty is a general manager who *is* all-wise, and *is* all-powerful, and *is* all-loving, and this Book, the Bible, presents such a One, it would be worthwhile for you and me, as intelligent human beings, to examine the evidence. Don't you think so, friends?

And this I propose to present to you tomorrow night, in our second study in this series.

But now, I told you there was another little point that was involved in this, besides these three. And that little point, friends, it's so tiny, in a way, and yet so big, in a way. Do you know what it is? I'll tell you what it is. It is the human choice of each individual.

The General Manager of this universe can make a plan for the success of everybody in it, and it can be the result of His infinite wisdom. He can pledge his power and his love to carry through that plan. But if He gives you the power of choice, you can either cooperate with Him to make that certain, or you can fail to cooperate with Him and cause it to fail, as far as you are concerned.

And this is exactly the position each human being is in, my friends. The evidence is here. It's certain. You can examine it. You can examine and cross-examine the witnesses. You can come to conclusions that are positive. And may I say, friends, I have presented some of this evidence that I'm going to be presenting to you tomorrow night, to infidels. I've presented it to people that had no faith in the Bible. And I have never (mark this point) had *any* man, regardless of his doubts or past experience, that would listen to the evidence but what would admit that I had evidence that was reasonable. And so I want you to hear that evidence tomorrow night.

But now, I come back to this point, friends. If all this is so, and it is, do you see how important the choice of the individual is? The General Manager of the universe can plan before this world was made. He can plan for a world in which you can be successful. He can plan for an eternity in which you are to be successful. He can harness the wisdom of His mind and the power of His almighty hand, and He can pour out His love in creation and redemption. But if He has given you free choice, you can spoil the whole thing, as far as you're concerned. And if that isn't so, then you have no free choice. But you do.

This begins to explain some of that hard-to-be-explained problem of why war, why sickness, why rioting, why divorce, why a thousand other woes and sorrows. But listen. Settle this in your heart: *If* there is a General Manager who has harnessed His wisdom, His power, His love for your success, and you are willing, then indeed, all things can work together for you both now and hereafter.

Oh friends, I repeat, I'm so glad of certainty. I'm so glad that the anchor holds. I'm so glad that in His wonderful providence, He has helped me to know of this wonderful truth, these facts that He has helped me to examine, the evidence. And I know that these things are so; not because somebody has told me, but because I have examined the evidence and I know it. And you can know it. It isn't just some mysterious feeling, some hunch, and some conviction that may come to somebody and not to somebody else. It is an examination of clear facts; certain evidence just such as might be introduced in a court of law. Are you interested in that? Come tomorrow night at seven o'clock, and we will examine it.

But for tonight, remember, your choice is involved. What will you do with that wonderful choice that the Manager of the universe has given you? Will you use it to cooperate with Him in learning and following the way that He knows will bring you true success, health, peace, happiness, assurance? Or, will you take that choice and use it to defeat His plan, as far as you are concerned?

Oh my friends, how much God must value human choice when He lets all that He has invested be risked to see what you will do with it. Isn't it something to think about?

Shall we bow our heads?

Precious Lord, we thank Thee so much tonight, that Thou hast said, Come and let us reason together. And we're so glad that there is evidence that we can examine. We're so glad that as we have examined the evidence, some of us know that all these things are true. We pray Thou wilt help everyone listening tonight, if he knows the evidence, to share it with somebody else, and if he doesn't, to listen, to examine it, to test it in every way until the same glorious certainty fills his heart. For Jesus' sake, amen.

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