

Meeting God's Heart Need 4 of 8

You Can Be Guided By God

#0231

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—April 27, 1972

In Psalm 32, the eighth verse, we have a wonderful promise:

"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye" Psalm 32:8.

This evening I would like to study with you, not only the fact that God is able to guide each one of us and willing to guide each one of us; I want to study with you this wonderful truth: that the reason He wants to do that, is that He craves our fellowship. And every time we seek Him for His guidance, it is a new opportunity to satisfy His heart's longing to be with us and share with us and let us share with Him.

In the *Signs of the Times* of April 22, 1903, we read this:

"We were brought into existence because we were needed" *Signs of the Times*, April 22, 1903.

Somebody may say, "Well, I don't think I am very important. I don't know just who needs me."

God needs you, friends. That is the point. God needs you. Let's fill the need. What do you say?

In order that we might fill that need in God's heart, He has arranged many occasions, many experiences in which we feel our need of guidance and direction. But the great purpose of that (and don't miss this!) is not just so that we can get the answer. It is so that God can get us close to Him in fellowship. And if it were possible for us to get the answer without going to God, it would defeat the purpose. And this bears on some very practical things, both in *getting* counsel and in *giving* counsel.

Whenever we encourage ourselves or others to look to men to solve human problems, we defeat the purpose of God in letting us have problems. The purpose of God in letting us have problems is to draw us to Him, drive us to Him, if you please, and in love and mercy, He often cuts off every other avenue. And we mourn or we are in perplexity because every place we go seems closed—a disappointment here, a misunderstanding there, a lack of comprehension yonder. And what does it all mean? Why, it simply means that God is seeking to have us come to Him.

You know, sometimes, when a person is sick and we hear that special prayer has been called for, the tendency is for us to think, "Oh, is he that bad? Is he that

bad? Is he about to die?" In other words, we have tried everything else, now we will try God.

We do this, sometimes, in seeking for wisdom, for guidance. But God intends that as the flower turns to the sun, so we should naturally turn to Him in every question, every situation.

This text that we looked at, here in the Psalms, what is His promise? Will you read it with me?

"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye" Psalm 32:8.

You students of English and grammar, tell me, what person is that first word in that verse? First person. What number is it?

[Audience] Singular.

Well, what does that mean? How many? One.

"I will instruct thee..."

What person is "thee?" Second person. What number is it? Singular.

Why do I spend all that time on that? It isn't to teach grammar. I want you to get the thought. God, one person, is talking to you, one person. He is not talking just to the congregation, not just to the world:

"I will instruct thee... in the way which thou shalt go..."
Psalm 32:8.

Say, if He would do that, wouldn't it be wonderful? Wouldn't it be wonderful to be guided by God in all the details of your life? Well, that is what He promises. And if He keeps His word, that is what He will do. Of course, we will have to look to Him.

Now, turn to Proverbs 3:6. You see, most people in this world are in one of two classes. They are either so sure that they know what they want to do, that they haven't time to go to God for guidance. Or else they are just in perplexity and don't know how to get guidance from God. So they are either certain or uncertain. And either way, they fail to get this guidance directly from God. God won't undertake to teach the person who already knows all the answers. Why should He? How could He? No:

"The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way" Psalm 25:9.

If you already know all about what you want to do, if you have set your mark to be president of the United States, or chairman of the board of General Motors, and nothing is going to stop you, you don't need to go to God at all. You already have your answer. If you intend to be one of the men that land on Mars a few years

or decades from now, you have your career all planned out. If you are planning how to make your first million, or how to be this or that or the other, no, you may not need the Lord.

But the person who knows he doesn't know, but wants God's will carried out, *that* person God is anxious and willing, glad and able, to teach:

"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he will direct thy paths" Proverbs 3:6.

Will He? You know, it is an interesting thing, many times older people when they get acquainted with some child, third grade, fourth grade, sixth grade, they will say, "Well, Johnny, what would you like to be when you grow up?" "Mary, what would you like to be?" Did any of you ever have that question asked? What would you like to be? As if that ought to have anything to do with it, friends. In the first place, you don't know what you would like to be.

I remember when I was eight or nine years old. I was having just a little problem in my mind deciding what I wanted to be when I grew up—an artist or a soldier in the United States army. Well, it turned out, I wasn't either one.

But the greatest reason that question is basically wrong, and a mistake is this: our great desire should be that God's plan in our life will be carried out:

"It doth not yet appear what we shall be" 1 John 3:2.

There is only one thing that counts to the person that knows God. It is, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do." And God usually unrolls that scroll a little at a time. But oh, for this, oh, to know the joy, my dear friends, of going to God for our orders and letting Him plan our lives!

I have mentioned the fact that God often cuts us off from other avenues, in order that we may be drawn to Him, driven to Him for advice, for counsel, for guidance. Notice that fifth verse. What does it say?

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding" Proverbs 3:5.

Well, I wonder why not. Why not lean unto your own understanding? Don't even lean that way. Balaam went to God for guidance, but he leaned hard to his own understanding, didn't he? Did he finally get his way? Yes, he got it. Did he get to go over there, to Balak? Yes. And did he finally get in with the king in an try to curse Israel? Oh, yes. If you don't know how he succeeded, read that chapter in *Patriarchs and Prophets* called "Apostasy at the Jordan."

My point is, friends, people who dare to go to God for guidance and yet lean unto their own understanding, are only asking for more problems. That is all. To successfully get guidance from God means that we simply lay aside ourselves and look to Him:

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths” Proverbs 3:5–6.

Well, someone says, “Sure, I know I don’t know much, but then I know some people who know a lot. I think I will go to them.”

Well, turn over to Jeremiah 17. We will see what it says about that:

“Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD” Jeremiah 17:5.

Now, don’t misunderstand me, friends. There is a place for asking counsel. But I want to tell you something. (And oh, don’t miss this!) Older people as well as young people, listen. Whenever any man you ask for counsel leads you to look to him as an authority instead of God, you are better off without him. And I don’t care what realm it is in:

“Man’s words, if of any value, echo the words of God”
Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, page 423.

The best human counselor you can find is one that will simply direct you to a “thus saith the Lord.”

You see, on any question that you may have in your mind, God has either spoken or He hasn’t. If God has spoken, how foolish it is for some human being to tell you something else. He is of value only as he points you to what God has said, and then it is God that is speaking, not the counselor. Do you see?

And let me tell you, young and old, be careful about giving counsel. It is surprising how many young people are moved by what their young friends advise them to do. Boys will sit and they will discuss about this or that. This one will give his opinion and that one his opinion. I suppose it looks like a sign of maturity to express what we think somebody ought to do. I am sorry to say that that is because as young people, we hear older people ventilating their views. But it isn’t a sign of maturity to smoke, even though some adult people smoke. Isn’t that right? And it is not a sign of maturity, friends, to just express what we think everybody ought to do. That is a sign of immaturity.

Now, if God has spoken on a subject, the important thing is to find out what God has said. And if God hasn’t spoken on a subject, it is one of two things, usually. It is either something that doesn’t make that much difference, or else it is something that God has reserved to Himself to guide you individually, and He wants you to listen to Him. He has something to tell you in the secret place of prayer.

You will find in *Volume 5* some instruction for people who need to be guided by the Lord. It says to go to your closet and there, alone, commune with God:

“Plain, simple duties that must not be neglected will open before you” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5*, page 163.

Alone with God in prayer? Yes. God will teach you. God will lead you. And so I repeat, human counsel is of value in helping you find out what God says, and suggesting to you how you can get more wisdom from God. But it is not to be a substitute for Jesus as your personal Counselor and Friend.

“Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD”
Jeremiah 17:5.

So, we are not to trust in our own wisdom. That is foolishness. We are not to trust in the wisdom of man apart from God. That is foolishness. The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.

What is the purpose of getting counsel from God? It is to please Him. If we have any other purpose, we will probably not get what we are after. If I am asking the Lord for wisdom so I will know how to play the stock market and be a millionaire, I may not get much wisdom. If I am asking the Lord to help me work out my career and plans according to my ideas, He may not help me. The great purpose of seeking counsel is that we may please Him—that we may fill that need in His heart.

I want to give you another little sentence to copy in your notes. The reference is Ephesians 5:10, but it is the Twentieth Century translation:

“Always be trying to find out what best pleases the Lord”
Ephesians 5:10 (*Twentieth Century Translation*).

Isn't that beautiful? Someone gave me that when I was just a teenager, and I have loved it ever since.

It was my dear friend, Elder Luther Warren, who I learned that from. He used to have an expression when young people would ask him for advice—“What do you think I ought to do about this? What do you think I ought to do about that? How do you think I ought to wear my hair? What do you think I ought to do about something else?” Do you know what he would say? He would say, “If you will go to God, and if you will just play fair with God, He will guide you.” Do you know what he meant, to play fair with God? Why, he meant to go to God honestly and openly and sincerely and say, “Lord, there is just one thing I want. I want to please You.” And then do what you think will please Him. That's what will please Him.

“Oh,” you say, “but I do that, and I am not quite sure.” Well, if you are not sure, just do what you think will please Him. That is all. Sometimes people give me a birthday present. They don't always come around and ask beforehand what I want, but they give me what they *think* will please me. Well, if they are trying to please me, it pleases me. Why? Because they are *trying* to please me. Don't you see? It is that simple.

And so if you are *seeking* to please your Lord, you *do* please Him. What pleases Him is your *desire* to please Him, your *choice* to please Him.

Let me illustrate that. Are there some people this week that will be keeping Sunday, thinking it is the Sabbath? Will they keep Sunday trying to please the Master? Does it please Him? Why, *sure* it pleases Him. Now, someday they will find out about the true Sabbath, and then what will they do? Well, they will keep it. Why? Because they have been wanting to please the Lord. And as soon as they find out that what He said was the seventh day instead of the first, Saturday instead of Sunday, they will change over. And it won't take them a long time to do it, because all the while they have been trying to what? *Please* Him.

A friend of mine, a minister, was starting a series of meetings, and some people were coming. And they were so happy with what they were hearing. They wanted to show the minister how much they appreciated it. So they brought him a great big ham, a ham. Well, did it please him? *Sure* it pleased him. He didn't eat it, of course, but it *pleased* him. Why? Because the people *appreciated* him. By and by, they found out that wasn't the thing to do, and then of course, they didn't bring him any more hams.

Do you see what I am getting at, dear friends? The thing that pleases God is not the precise thing you do in dress or diet or music or reading or education or Sabbath-keeping or any other subject. No, no, friends. The thing that pleases your Lord is that you want to please Him.

But when you have that attitude, you don't settle back and say, "Oh well, if that is it, I don't need to study anymore. I don't need to learn anymore." No, no. The more you love Him and the more you want to please Him, the more you want to study in the books to find out what best pleases Him. But you won't be on pins and needles thinking that you can't please Him until you know it all. You will know that you please Him tonight just because you tell Him you love Him and want to please Him. Oh friends, I am so glad about that. Aren't you?

You know, I hear some music sometimes, and maybe you do too, that you wouldn't choose—some kinds of religious music. And some, I think, to borrow a phrase, is "way out." And I mean "way out." But, I want to tell you something, friends, and don't miss it. If a person is singing that music, and that is the best they know to praise God, I say the dear Lord sifts out a lot of discord, and He hears what the heart is singing.

And do you know He has to do that with the music we sing? Or did you know that? Or did you think we already sang like angels? Ah friends, you know the reason I sing? I like to sing, especially when I am by myself or with one or two friends. But sometimes when I am driving all by myself I just sing to the Lord. And He likes it. I know He does. You might not like it. You might say, "Why doesn't he keep still and let somebody who can sing, sing?" But oh, my Lord loves to hear me sing. Do you know why? Because I love Him.

That song you were singing tonight, "My Jesus I love Thee, I know Thou art mine," I have sung that hundreds of times. And friends, I mean it—If ever I loved

Thee, my Jesus 'tis now. I love Him. He loves me. And I know He likes my love. I know He likes for me to talk to Him and sing to Him. And one of the reasons that He lets me come to problems—and I have had my share through these 66 years—is this: He wants to get me in close fellowship with Him, a special interview.

You know, one-time several years ago, we were having a problem down at Wildwood, about the railroad wanting to come through our property. And we were referred to a certain attorney that might give us some wise counsel. The manager and I went down—it was a long trip, over a hundred miles—to see this man. And we talked to him one evening for a little while, and when we got through we paid him. Do you know what it cost us to talk to him about an hour? Fifty dollars. Well, now, I assure you we would not have done it unless we had felt a special need of counsel.

Listen, friends, God sometimes lets us come to great problems that we may come to Him. Of course, He is glad to have us come with little things, too. Let me read something here from *Steps to Christ*. I think this is wonderful:

“Keep your wants, your joys, your sorrows, your cares, and your fears, before God. You cannot burden Him; you cannot weary Him... Take to Him everything that perplexes the mind” *Steps to Christ*, page 100.

If you have a problem in math, can you take it to the Lord? Can you? Yes. Some of us older ones, our problem in math is knowing how to spread the income over the expenses. Can we take that to God? Oh, yes:

“Take to Him everything that perplexes the mind. Nothing is too great for Him to bear, for He holds up worlds, He rules over all the affairs of the universe. Nothing that in any way concerns our peace is too small for Him to notice” *Steps to Christ*, page 100.

I told you the other day about losing my little comb, and the dear Lord helped me find it. That is about as little a thing that I can think of, but He took care of that. Nothing is too big for Him; nothing is too small for Him.

And remember, it isn't just that He wants to help us; He wants to get us in there with Him where He can enjoy *fellowship*. He just delights in having us come in to visit Him. And if the only way He can get us to visit is for us to have a problem, He will let us have a problem. Not just so we can get the solution, but so He can get us in there with Him. Do you see what I am trying to say, friends? He hungers, as I read last night, for our love, for our sympathy, our understanding. Oh, let's come to Him and make Him happy by looking to Him for advice, and then doing what we think will please Him. What do you say, friends?

Now I will tell you one problem we run into when we do this. Moses ran into this problem. Perhaps we will turn to Acts 7:25, and you will see what the problem is. We suppose that if we get the right guidance from God, and try to do it, that everybody, at least all the good people, will pat us on the back and cheer us on. But friends, it doesn't always work that way. Sometimes, when sincerely we go to God

and try to get His wisdom and advice for us on education, on diet, on dress, on music, on reading, on anything, and the best we know, the thing for us to do is this, and we start to do it, somebody comes along and says, "What, don't do that! I wouldn't do that! Why are you doing it?"

All right, now let's see what happened to Moses:

"For he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not" Acts 7:25.

What did Moses suppose? That his brethren would understand. Had God called Moses to deliver Israel? And he supposed what? That his brethren would understand. Did they understand? It says, they understood not. Well, poor Moses? No. Not poor Moses. You know what that made it necessary for Moses to do? To look to God. Did God understand? Yes, God understood. And so Moses had to look to God.

Go over to Hebrews 11, and you will see what I mean:

"By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured as seeing him who is invisible"
Hebrews 11:27.

Who is that? God. And Moses endured as seeing Him who is invisible. In other words, as human beings misunderstood him, Moses turned to the One that *did* understand him, and that gave him a wonderful fellowship with God.

Turn to Exodus 33:11. Oh, I think this is one of the most wonderful verses in all the Bible. What did God call Moses, according to the third line of this verse? His friend. Wouldn't you be happy to know that God called you His friend? You know that God is your friend. But did you know *you* are *God's* friend? He *wants* you to be. And notice the experience Moses had:

"And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend" Exodus 33:11.

Would God do that for you? Oh, yes. He wants to. He wants to speak to you through His Word, by His providences, and by His Holy Spirit. As you kneel down in simple faith and commit your way to the Lord, He wants to guide you; He wants to talk to you. Notice this stupendous statement in *Desire of Ages*:

"We are not to place the responsibility of our duty upon others, and wait for them to tell us what to do. We cannot depend for counsel upon humanity. The Lord will teach us our duty just as willingly as He will teach somebody else. If we come to Him in faith, He will speak His mysteries to us personally. Our hearts will often burn within us as One draws nigh to commune with us as He did with Enoch. Those who decide to do nothing in any

line that will displease God, will know, after presenting their case before Him, just what course to pursue" *The Desire of Ages*, page 668.

"Well," somebody says, "I am glad you read that, Brother Frazee. My problem is, so many other people are telling me what to do."

There are some things, dear friends, that no amount of getting guidance from God is going to take the place of. No matter how much guidance I get from God, the policeman down at the corner can stop me and ask to see my operator's license. Is that right? And I can't go whizzing by and say, "I've got guidance from God. You have no business interfering with me." Can I? That wouldn't be faith. That would be what? Presumption. And we all have duties and obligations to civil government, to church government, the home government, and school government.

We don't have to look to God for guidance for the things that other people decide. We can pray God will help the policeman not to stop us if we haven't time to stop. We can do that. But if the policeman stops us, we accept that as God's guidance. And so in the home and in the school. We can pray if our parents have a decision to make for us, that they will make a wise decision. If the faculty has a decision to make, that involves us, we can pray that God will help them. And so in the church.

But listen, friends, there are 10 thousand things that you have to decide. You, young people, every day, are making decisions.

You say, "I don't know. There doesn't seem much left for us to decide."

Let me ask you something. Do any of you decide when you get up in the morning? Well, you can. Of course, if you wait long enough, somebody else may decide it for you. But you can decide as to when you will get up, can't you?

Do you know what I do, sometimes? Oh, it is a precious experience. I may have to go to bed late because of many things that I can't control. And sometimes I just say to the Lord, "Now, Lord, You know it is late, and I am getting to bed late. Please wake me up in the morning when You see I need to wake up. You have something to say to me. Will you wake me up?" And friends, again and again, I see Him do it. And you know, some of the most precious thoughts God ever gives me, are in the early morning, when I wake up, even before I get out of bed—just when I am half asleep and half awake, like the dawn coming up. I love that.

Oh, I know, friends, every individual has an experience of his own. Yours will be different from mine, and mine from yours. My point is, do not let the decisions that other people make keep you from going to God for wisdom on the decisions you have to make. That is what I am talking about.

Thank the Lord, we do not have to make all the decisions that affect us. Thank the Lord, a lot of them are made for us by the Lord, through others. But oh, the decisions that fall for us to make—the books we read in our leisure hours, the time we get up and the time we go to bed, how much food we eat, whether we eat

this particular food or other one, who we chose for our friends, who we write to and what we write, a thousand other things. I say, folks, we have plenty of laboratory material on which to work in this matter of seeking God for guidance, and finding experimentally that He will teach us His way.

And remember, the great purpose of it is to get us in with Him, so He can have fellowship with us.

We were brought into existence, why? Because we were needed. You need God's guidance. He needs your fellowship. You need His wisdom. He needs your love. So press in. Get down on your knees and say, "Dear Lord, I am coming to You for guidance, but I am coming to You because I know You want me."

Copyright 2021. All rights reserved.

W. D. Frazee Sermons
435 Lifestyle Lane, Wildwood, GA 30757
1-800-WDF-1840 / 706-820-9755
www.WDFsermons.org
support@WDFsermons.org