

# How to Live 10 of 12

## *Develop Your Potential*

#0260

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—1964

Elisha was on his death bed, but his heart was still in work. He called for the young king. Elisha knew he was about to die, and he wanted to give this young man a chance to take hold of the work in a strong, successful way. His name was Joash. Now notice what Elisha did, the 15<sup>th</sup> verse:

“And Elisha said unto him, Take bow and arrows. And he took unto him bow and arrows. And he said to the king of Israel, Put thine hand upon the bow. And he put his hand upon it: and Elisha put his hands upon the king’s hands. And he said, Open the window eastward. And he opened it...” 2 Kings 13:15–17.

Who’s doing the commanding? The prophet. Who is doing the obeying? The king. Even the king should listen to spirit of prophecy. But now watch:

“Then Elisha said, Shoot. And he shot. And he said, The arrow of the LORD’S deliverance, and the arrow of deliverance from Syria: for thou shalt smite the Syrians in Aphek, till thou have consumed them. And he said take the arrows. And he took them. And he said unto the king of Israel smite upon the ground. And he smote thrice, and stayed” 2 Kings 13:17–18.

What does “thrice” mean? three times. What does “stayed” mean? He stopped.

“And the man of God was wroth with him, and said, Thou should have smitten five or six times; then had thou smitten Syria till thou had consumed it: whereas now thou shall smite Syria but thrice” 2 Kings 13:19.

If you read the rest of the chapter, you’ll see the sequel.

My point is that in little things, character is revealed. After using the arrow as the symbol of the Lord’s deliverance from Syria, Elisha said to this king, “Now, take those arrows and smite into the ground.” How many times did he smite? Three times. Well, that was better than once, wasn’t it? Better than twice. But did it suit the prophet? No. The Bible says he was wroth, righteous anger. He was disappointed. He knew that in that young king, there would be a failure to carry

through to complete victory. He lacked something. I'm going to study it with you this afternoon, as we pursue this subject of how to live.

Turn to *Ministry of Healing*, page 497. Oh, this is a wonderful little chapter, friends, a wonderful little chapter in how to live. There are a few of us here this afternoon that probably don't need this chapter. There may be several that need it very much. Perhaps all of us can get something from it. This goes well with what we studied yesterday. It balances some things we studied yesterday. Some things we studied yesterday are needful to balance what we are going to study today.

Now look at that first sentence and read it with me:

"Christian life is more than many take it to be" *Ministry of Healing*, page 497.

You mean there is more to Christian life than some people think? Now, suppose that what I think Christian life is, is up here, the level of my hand. The Christian life is what? More. Which is it, below it or above it? Does it mean less? It's what? You mean it's all that these people she is talking about think it is, but it is what? It's still something on beyond that.

Now it's explained:

"It does not consist wholly in..."

What?

"...gentleness, patience, meekness, and kindness.  
These graces are..."

What?

"...essential..." *Ibid.*

Now you know if we had somebody on this place that was gentle and patient and meek and kind, probably we'd think he was about ready for Heaven. But he's not ready for the Loud Cry.

"These graces are essential" *Ibid.*

And what's the next word? But:

"There is need also of..."

What?

"...courage, force, energy, and perseverance" *Ibid.*

You know friends, I'll illustrate what this is talking about. Did you notice how easy that dog gets attention? You notice. To be sure I had every body's attention, I had to wait until what? The dog quit. Focused attention, not merely on what we're hearing, but on what we are doing.

"The path that Christ marks out is a narrow, self-denying path" *Ibid.*

All together, the next sentence:

"To enter that path and press on through difficulties and discouragements, requires men who are more than weaklings" *Ibid.*

Somebody says, "Well, I'm afraid I'm weak."

I want to give you a little secret here this afternoon. You may be weak, but you don't have to be a weakling. God has made full arrangements to use every weak person, no matter how weak he is, provided he'll learn the lesson we're studying this afternoon.

Paul was weak, but when in answer to prayer Jesus said to him, "My strength is made perfect in weakness," he pressed on, and he accomplished a lot more than Samson did who was a lot stronger. Samson was strong, but he was a weakling. Paul was weak, but he was not a weakling. Do you begin to see the difference? It isn't a matter of how many handicaps I have. It's what I'm doing with the opportunities that God gives me.

Ellen G. White was one of the weakest girls and women that ever came along. But, thank God, she wasn't a weakling. Think of all she accomplished. She learned through hard experience what the Spirit of God inspired her to write in this chapter.

And so this afternoon, I'm so anxious to see every one of you develop your potential. What's the name of this chapter? *Development and Service*. It is in true service that the highest development takes place. But I want to tell you something, my friends. While I cannot become strong by lifting weights of a thousand pounds with this arm, I'll never become very strong lifting weights of eight ounces with it either.

Now the next paragraph, let's read it together:

"Men of stamina are wanted, men who will not wait to have their way smoothed..." *Ibid.*

Wait a minute. Let's look at that. Men who will not, what? Wait to have their way smoothed.

Between here and town, some of you have noticed this big paving company. Did you notice the sign on their operation up here on the mountainside? "We pave

the way.” It’s wonderful to go along one of these freeways, isn’t it? You can almost go to sleep on it. In fact, some people do. But I don’t suppose very many people go to sleepwalking those trails around Yerba Buena do they, those steep, narrow, rough trails? I’ve been on a few of them. Some of you have been on more of them. There is something about difficulty that presents either a barrier or a challenge. That’s what this chapter is talking about.

We will start reading together again:

“Men of stamina are wanted, men who will not wait to have their way smoothed, and every obstacle removed, men who will inspire with fresh zeal the flagging efforts of dispirited workers, men whose hearts are warm with Christian love, and whose hands are strong to do their Master’s work” *Ibid.*

Two lines down, look at that little word of one syllable that is so necessary and is often lacking. What is it? Push. That’s it. These people that she’s trying to stir up, what is it that they lack? They lack what? Push. But she says that some of these people engage in what? Missionary service. They engage in missionary service. But they lack what? Push. Do you suppose they get much done? No. They are easily what? Discouraged. What does it mean to be discouraged?

“Oh, I tried this, but I couldn’t get any cooperation.” Or “I tried this and I guess it’s too hard for me.” Or “I tried this and the people weren’t interested.” They’re what? Discouraged, easily discouraged. But they engage in missionary work. They lack what?

“They have not those positive traits of character that give power to do something,—the spirit and energy that kindle enthusiasm” *Ibid.*

You know, some of you folks, I trust all of you in one capacity or another, will be working with sick people to try to get them well, or with well people to help them learn how to keep from getting sick in nursing, health conditioning, giving treatments or in educating. Do you know there’s something that every medical missionary must be? He must be a salesman.

Now, it doesn’t take a salesman to give a tranquilizer. It doesn’t take a salesman to give a shot, not ordinarily. It takes salesmen of rare capacity and ability to get people on a program of will power instead of pill power, as Dr. Wilhelm Rob speaks of it. This calls for enthusiasm, or push, and the ability to kindle interest and enthusiasm in others. God will give you the opportunity to develop those traits. And remember, you may be weak, but you don’t have to be a weakling.

“Those who would win success must be...”

What?

“...courageous and hopeful” *Ibid*.

What does it mean to be courageous? Full of what? Courage. Who were two men back there at Kadesh-barnea who were courageous? Caleb and Joshua. How many spies were there beside them? Ten. What were their names? You don't remember? Well, they were not worth remembering, were they? No. What was the matter with them? They were not courageous. They were not hopeful.

Now, I want to ask you. Was it ghosts they saw there in the land of Canaan? Giants. Were they really giants, or did they just look that way? Were they real giants? Oh yes, centuries later David took one of them down, and he was twice as tall as David—Real giants.

What kind of cities did those ten men see? Great walled up cities. And the armies had what kind of chariots? Iron chariots. And those ten spies said, “Look here. There's no question about the fig trees and the vineyards and the olives. It's all nice. But we can't do it.” Did they tell a lie? They couldn't do it.

Now, did Caleb and Joshua see the same giants? The same walled cities? The same chariots of iron? And they said what? We can do it. We are able. We are well able. Were they liars? Both told the truth.

Now, interestingly enough, the multitude believed which one? The ten. Do you know it is easier to get people to accept a discouraging report in the Lord's work than it is to inspire them to attempt an impossible campaign? And the interesting thing is, God let Israel do just what they voted to do. He let them accept the report of those ten spies, and they went back in the wilderness.

Forty years later, how many of the ten were still there? In fact, they died that day. But how many of the congregation that had come out of Egypt were there when they went over? None, but who? You mean those same men were there, Caleb and Joshua? Did they get the land? Did they meet the giants? And what did they still say? We are able. We are well able.

Unbelief destroys and faith saves. Unbelief cannot. Faith can and does.

My dear friends, in this little class in how to live, I want to lay it on your hearts, here at Wildwood your greatest classroom is not going to be in Haskell Hall or down at the sanitarium, or even under these trees. It's going to be in the problems you meet from day to day, in the home you live, in the work program you are engaged in, in the missionary endeavors you undertake, and in how to fit it all together into a successful program that doesn't wear you to a frazzle and leave you stranded. This calls for men. It calls for women. It calls for maturity.

Now, there are lessons for children to learn here at Wildwood, but this is not a child's program. We have an elementary school for children. They have their little problems suited to their age. But this medical missionary institute program is a program for adults in every sense of the word, my friends. But that is not measured by the calendar.

David, at the age of 17, was more grown-up than a lot of people today, 50, 60, and 70. He knew God. And he'd already wrestled with that lion and that bear. He had pushed so he could tackle the giant. Oh, when the lion comes, what are you going to do? When you hear the bear growling, what are you going to do? Are you going to call Haskell Hall and say, "What are you going to do about that bear? I can't do a thing until you get him out of the way."

"Those who would win success must be..."

What?

"...courageous and hopeful. They should cultivate not only the passive, but the active virtues" *Ibid.*

Now together:

"While they are to give the soft answer that turns away wrath, they must possess the courage of a hero to resist evil. With the charity that endures all things, they need the force of character that will make their influence a positive power" *Ibid.*, pages 497–498.

God wants every one of you, the younger, the older, the weakest, the strongest and all in-between, to be a center of influence, so that as people come on this campus as patients, as visitors, people from the community, you will be able to be used by God to take hold of them and inspire them with enthusiasm concerning these wonderful principles.

"Some have..."

What?

"...no firmness of character. Their plans and purposes have no definite form and consistency. They are of but little practical use in the world" *Ibid.*

Not much hope for them, is there? Oh yes, the hope is in the next sentence. All together:

"This weakness, indecision, and inefficiency should be overcome" *Ibid.*

Now, if it should be overcome, can it be overcome? Thank God friends, we don't have to hobble along weaklings all through life. We can become strong to bear burdens for God.

I spoke of Ellen Harmon. Think of her at the age of 17, apparently a hopeless invalid, soon to die, one lung gone, can't speak above a whisper, disfigured, lacking education. God says to her, "I am going to use you for My messenger."

"Oh, Lord, I don't know how I can do that."

"Never mind," the Lord said. "I have plans for you."

Now, was she discouraged at first by that? Yes, she went through a number of days of darkness. But thank God, friends, she came out on the light side of the cloud. Some folks prayed for her. God heard their prayers. And the light broke through. And for 70 years, she received those wonderful messages and did a tremendous work.

Think of all she did, friends! Besides the four children that she had herself, think of the dozens and scores, probably hundreds over her lifetime, that lived a shorter or longer time in her home. Think of the problems that she went through. Think of the persecution she endured. Think of the physical sickness of various kinds. She had tuberculosis at one time. She had heart trouble at one time. She had cancer at one time. She had a lot of other things. But friends, she will have a crown heavy with stars.

Oh, I repeat again, weak people need not be weaklings if they will learn these lessons, to pray and to take hold of the assignments of providence and use them as the laboratory in which to develop strength.

Now, comes the gem paragraph of it all as far as I'm concerned, in the middle of 498. When I read this, it just thrilled my soul, because it fits in with some things that some of you've heard me give a few weeks ago on how valuable we are to God. You folks remember that how valuable we are to God? Notice the practical bearing this has on what we're studying this afternoon. All together:

"Many who are qualified to do excellent work accomplish little because they attempt little. Thousands pass through life as if they had no great object for which to live, no high standard to reach. One reason of this is the low estimate which they place upon themselves. Christ paid an infinite price for us, and according to the price paid He desires us to value ourselves" *Ibid*.

Now, let us look at this. Why is it that many people don't accomplish very much? They don't attempt very much. And this comes, it says, because of what they place upon themselves? A low estimate. Why of course, friends, if my idea is that I'm a puny little thing and I really don't have much talent, and there isn't much I can do, I might be able to carry a glass of water or something, but really I can't do much if I really believe that I won't do what? I won't attempt very much, and therefore, I won't what? Accomplish very much.

“Many who are qualified to do excellent work accomplish little because they attempt little” *Ibid.*

I’m reminded of an experience; you can read it in the book *Medical Ministry*. Sister Whites tells about something that happened there in Battle Creek. There was a young woman who was working in the *Review and Herald* office. She was sick at home. Sister White went to see her and had prayer with her.

And her mother said, “Poor child, she can’t live long.”

Any of you remember reading about it? It’s a very interesting story.

Sister White felt her pulse, looked at her, and the Spirit of God must have rested upon Sister White. She said, “Arise and dress and go to the office.”

Why, the mother said, “Do you think she can get over this?”

“Certainly,” Sister White said. But Sister White said she would have died if she had stayed there in bed day after day after day. Read about it there in *Medical Ministry*.

Of course, we need good sense when to apply these things. God give us some good sense, friends. But God give us good sense to know when to arise and walk; when to shake ourselves from the weakness and lethargy which would encourage us to attempt very little when God has qualified us to do what? Much for Him.

In order to do this, we must place what? A high estimate upon what? Ourselves. Won’t that make us proud? Oh, no, because we get this estimate by looking where? To Calvary, to Christ upon the cross. What did Jesus do there? He paid for us. Did He get a bad bargain? Did He know what He was paying for? Did He think we were worth it? Are we? We are friends, if we let Him make of us what He sees in us, and that is no dime store package.

Oh, my friends, you can be a wonderful worker for God. You can accomplish something that will make the whole universe thrill with joy. It won’t be by puffing and strutting. Neither will it be by shrinking and a false humility that says, “Oh, I can’t do very much. Don’t ask me to do anything because really I couldn’t do anything. Don’t ask me to do this or that or the other. Oh, no ask somebody that could do it. I couldn’t do it.” Or did you ever hear that?

“Many accomplish little because they...”

What?

“...attempt little” *Ibid.*

And the reason they attempt little is that what? They place a what? A low estimate upon themselves. And the cure for it is to look where? To Calvary and see



what Christ paid for you. Did He pay it for you? Oh, did He? Is He going to get what He paid for? Are you going to let Him have it? He says:

“I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir” Isaiah 13:12.

Well friends, it thrills my heart when I think about it. Now, down at the bottom of the page, echoing what we’ve studied in earlier classes:

“None should consent to be mere machines, run by another man’s mind. God has given us ability, to think, and to act, and it is by acting with carefulness, looking to Him for wisdom, that you will become capable of bearing burdens. Stand in your God-given personality. Be no other person’s shadow. Expect that the Lord will work in and by and through you” *Ministry of Healing*, pages 498–499.

Think of it, friends. You’re not expecting failure. You are expecting what? Success. When you give a Bible study or a mission talk in Sabbath School; when you give a treatment in the treatment room; when you wash the dishes in the home; when you hoe the corn or milk the cow; whatever you do you are expecting that God is going to help you do it.

Ah, but somebody says, “I do that and I fail.”

Learn from your failures. Doctor was talking to us about his little girl. They don’t kick her out because she falls down. They help her to do what? Why to rest in the cradle, and they are going to take care of her the rest of her life right there in the cradle, aren’t they? They love her so much, they’re going to wait on her hand and foot. She might fall if she would get out of the cradle. See. Oh, thank God for the privilege of learning from our mistakes.

I heard something precious the other day. I think I’ll repeat it. One of the girls up in the office was telling me about this. Dear Sister Callahan has had many years in secretarial and bookkeeping work. She was helping one of the girls, and in fact, she had helped her number of times, to find errors in the bookkeeping. This helper asked Sister Callahan, “How does it come you find these mistakes so quickly?” She said, “Because I’ve made so many of them.” Isn’t that wonderful?

Page 500 at the top of the page:

“Many become inefficient by evading responsibilities for fear of failure” *Ibid.*, page 500.

“Oh, no, don’t give me that job. I might make a mistake.”

In fact, you might make a greater mistake. How would that be? Not attempting it. But many become inefficient. They become inefficient by doing what?

What does evading mean? “Oh, I see a chance here. I might be asked to do something.” And so I avoid it. Maybe I just turn it down; anything to keep out of it. And what is my reason for evading it? Fear of failure.

Now notice this next sentence. All together:

“Thus they fail of gaining that education which results from experience, and which reading and study and all the advantages otherwise gained, cannot give them” *Ibid.*

Do you see what I meant when I said that your greatest classroom here will not be in Haskell Hall or the sanitarium or here? It is in meeting the problems of daily life, how to live twenty-four hours a day. How to get time to pray and study and do missionary work and do home responsibilities, and get your work done in your work department, and have time for meals and sleep.

“Oh, I don’t know how I’ll ever get it.”

Do you realize friends, that out in the world right in this area in which you and I live, there are plenty of people who besides making a living are spending from an hour to two hours a day just in driving back and forth to work. And this is true of millions of people in this country, the larger the metropolitan area, the longer it takes for people. Brother Bird, anybody in New York City that takes an hour to get from where they live to where they work? We have such great advantages here.

Now some of us have been in the rat race, and we come here, and we relax a bit. And this is good friends. I hope we’ll all catch our breath and every day catch our breath. Some of us before we came here, we’ve been burning the candle at both ends. And I hope you will take all the time you need to sleep. Some of us had been used to just getting a snack, snatching a snack and eating. And I hope here you’ll have time to sit down and relax when you eat; time to chew your food thoroughly and slowly and enjoy it.

But listen, friends, listen. Don’t miss this! After we’ve had our good sleep and after we’ve had our time to pray and talk with God, after we’ve had our time to eat, somewhere along the line, we must learn to hit it hard; to give it all we have. For it is written in Ecclesiastes 9:10:

“Whatsoever thy hand finds to do, do it with thy might...”  
Ecclesiastes 9:10.

That’s the thing. The purpose of getting rested and relaxed and refreshed is so we can do something for God.

Now some of us are here to help you in any way we can to learn these lessons. But remember, friends, I can’t learn it for you. And nobody else can learn it for you. What did we study already in this class? That God is in the business of shaping an individual program for you, being your individual teacher. What did we read yesterday? That nobody else can measure the amount of sleep you need.

Nobody else can measure your food. You must learn this. This is part of being an adult. This is what it means to learn how to live.

And the answer to successful living is not to get on social security as fast as possible so you can roam over the country just relaxed and easy. Somebody pays the bill. Oh, no. The great joy of living is accomplishing something for God. These few pages of this chapter ought to thrill any blood-bought soul, my friends. There is a balance between this thing of relaxation and rest and taking it easy on the one side and hitting it hard with push and determination on the other.

I'll tell you the biggest difference, my friends, between what I'm talking about today and the rat race. In the rat race people are pushed and pulled by others. In what we're studying this afternoon, the individual pushes himself because of his love for Jesus. He's not afraid of what other people think or don't think. He has left that all with Christ. But joyously for Jesus' sake he's giving himself and all that he has.

Well, this study this afternoon hasn't answered all your questions. In fact, with some of you, it has raised more questions than it has answered. That's all right. I suggest that you take these few pages in this little chapter in *Ministry of Healing* and in your private devotions, this isn't an assignment, this is just a suggestion for those of you that feel led to do it, tonight or in the morning, kneel down and say, "Dear Lord, how in the world can this work for me?" Let Him talk to you.

I didn't write this. It was written before I was born. Every line I read to you out of this book, I'm not responsible for its writer. And thank God friends, the same Jesus that wrote this or had it written is the one who toiled in the carpenter's shop at Nazareth and the home and showed us how to do what we're studying about. He will help you solve your problems. Don't doubt it. Don't have any question about it. Be like Caleb and Joshua instead of the ten.

Let us stand.

I'd just like to ask a question. This isn't any general call or invitation. But there may be somebody here this afternoon, that as you face up to the things we studied yesterday and the things we have studied today, you feel a great longing in your heart and a great sense of need. Now, for some of you, this may be just thrilling. But there's somebody here perhaps this afternoon that really as you face this, you think, "Lord, I've got to have some special help in order to get through."

I'd like to pray for you if you would like to raise your hand. Is there anybody like that here? Yes, dear friends. Well, all right. As I pray, you pray for yourselves, and Jesus is going to hear us. Is He? Can we get some help in about six weeks from now? When? Tomorrow? When? Now. Can we? Thank the Lord.

Heavenly Father, under these living trees we bow our heads and our hearts in glad acceptance of Thy challenge and in full assurance of faith. We're weak, Lord, weaker than we know we are, but we thank God for the message today that we don't have to be weaklings. We thank Thee that Thou hast chosen everyone here to do exploits for Thee. And if it has to be with human handicaps, if it has to be with

natural hereditary or cultivated weaknesses, Lord, let Thy strength be made perfect in weakness.

Bless these who sense a special problem and a special need in their lives and help them this very hour to know that Christ is Himself the solution to every problem. And so just now, we lay hold of Thee, and like Jacob, we will not let Thee go without the blessing. We thank Thee. Amen.

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