

Scientific Questioning and Faith

#0276

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—March 19, 1971

He leads. We follow. Do you know what it takes to follow? Love and faith. We must have faith enough to believe Him and love enough to submit. The two belong together, and the two are represented together in that gold tried in the fire that the true witness earnestly counsels Laodicea to buy.

Are you rich? If you have the gold of faith and love, you are rich.

I find as I travel about holding meetings in different places, I find individuals who have had quite a background of knowledge of this message, growing up in it, who have come in touch with the so-called knowledge or wisdom or education or science of this world, and who are not sure of a lot of things.

I was talking with a young man just a few weeks ago, several thousand miles from here, and I was quite interested in his questions, and he was sincerely seeking for some answers. I told him something of what I want to share with you tonight.

I told him my faith is very simple. It has a tripod of three points, three legs, any one of which has great value as evidence. The three together, beyond any question, give us something to base faith upon.

The first is the evidence of design in nature. In the world about us, we see thousands, yes, literally millions of evidences of design, from the tiny atom to the vast galaxies of space—the six-sided snowflake, but each one a separate design; the stars in order, marshaled in the heavens; the marvelous workings of the white blood cell in the body to combat infection, and this super-marvelous brain, which controls the body and enables us to plan and think and act.

And I said to him as I pulled my watch from my pocket, do you not agree with me that the mind that planned this watch is greater than the watch? Do you not agree with me that it is utterly impossible for a reasonable mind to conceive of a little watch arranging itself or being arranged by chance and circumstance? No human mind can conceive of a watch just appearing here without a designer and someone to execute that design.

But this watch is crude and primitive compared with the matchless universe all about us, *full* of evidence. And so, the things of the created world speak to us of a Creator, who thinks, who plans, who designs, and who does it for the benefit of His creatures. That's number one.

Number two, I said to him, is the evidence of prophecy. In the Bible, God has presented us time and again with great lines of prophecy, reaching from ancient times down to these days in which we live—the great image of Daniel 2, the four

beasts of Daniel 7, the 2,300 days of Daniel 8, the 1260 days of Daniel 7 and Revelation 13, and so with other prophecies.

And these prophecies, as they have been fulfilled down through the ages each succeeding century, piles evidence on evidence that here is a book unique, revealing the same infinite wisdom that we see in the designs of nature, for no human mind can foretell the future accurately.

Some people guess. They might guess 50 percent, 70 percent, 80 percent, but God alone is infallible:

“...declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done...”
Isaiah 46:10.

And every mind who wishes can investigate that evidence of the fulfillment of prophecy, and stand in awe as the evidence piles up that here indeed is a marvelous work and a wonder. That's number two.

What was that first evidence I gave the young man? The evidence of design in nature. And what was the second evidence? The evidence of fulfilled prophecy, as given us in the Word of God. The first is from creation. The second is revelation.

And the third, I said to him, my dear friend, is something that only *you* can know, and that is the evidence from experience. There are some things that can be proved only that way. The only way on earth to know the taste of a watermelon is to taste it. The only way to know what a peach is like is to eat it.

And so, the scripture invites:

“O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him” Psalm 34:8.

Now, I said, “My dear young friend” (and I’ve known this young man for years), I said, “Look here. I know that there is a God because of what I see in nature around me. I know that there is a God because He has revealed Himself in the Bible, in foretelling the future as no human mind can. And, third, I know that the God of creation and the God of revelation is my Savior and friend *because* of what He’s done *for* me and *in* me. And *you* can know all those three things.”

Now, I said to him, “On the other hand, if you allow yourself to investigate all the theories which seem to cast discredit on these great facts, if you allow yourself to investigate all the mysterious questions which seem to show that after all, we can't be so sure, you will be left to wander in the mazes of doubt and infidelity. This is what thousands, yes, millions are doing today.

Ah, but, somebody says, “Brother Frazee, are you afraid to examine the evidence of the other side?” I want to tell you something, my dear friend. There are some things that I know, and I am not even interested in so-called scientific theories, which cast doubt upon the plain Word of God.

Now somebody says, "That's being narrow-minded." Well, I'd rather be on the narrow road and get somewhere. But, my dear friends, that is not so bigoted and short-sighted and narrow-minded as it might appear.

Let me reason with you for a little while tonight. There may be somebody here tonight that's in the condition that that young man was three weeks ago. And there may be somebody here tonight that is not at that point now, but you *will* be. You'll meet those questions, those sophisticated problems that are set forth—what are you going to do with this, what are you going to do with that?

I am reminded of an experience that happened in England several years ago. A man was holding forth at great length, destroying faith in the Bible. Successful, as he thought, with his questions and doubts, at the close of one of his lectures, he invited anybody to ask questions that wished.

An old man came from the back of the auditorium, made his way up to the front, and he stood there peeling an orange. Said not a word. When he got through, he ate it. He looked up to the infidel, and he said, "Was that orange sweet or sour?" The man said, "You fool, how should I know?"

You know what the rest of the story could be, don't you? The infidel was discussing something he hadn't tasted, and he hadn't proved, he hadn't experimented with, when he was discussing God and the religion of the Bible.

Oh, my dear friends, I thank the Lord for the positiveness and assurance of those who have really tasted and know in their hearts that God is good. And this may be called a childish faith. I would call it a childlike faith, for it is written:

"...except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God" John 3:3.

"...except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" Matthew 18:3.

You see, dear friends, if we wait until everything that God has said in the Bible and in the Spirit of Prophecy is proved by what is called the scientific method, we will never arrive at certainty. There is such a thing as reasoning far enough to get a foundation on which to build faith, and then, having arrived at that point, we can go far beyond anything that reason can give us.

Let me illustrate. Suppose that of our five senses, one was taken away. To suppose further, suppose that you had never seen anything. You could hear. You could feel. You could taste. You could smell. There *are* people like that—been born blind, never seen anything. Can you imagine how it would seem the first day that your eyes were opened and you could see? What a vast amount of information would be brought within your reach, hitherto unavailable.

But listen, friend, all the time you were carrying that handicap of blindness, if there was somebody that you knew and trusted and could depend upon what they said, you could learn a great deal by their testimony, is that right?

This is the position the Christian is in. Having arrived at faith in God, as he studies the universe about him and sees the evidence of design, as he studies the Bible and gets the evidence of fulfilled prophecy, and receives Jesus into his heart, gives his life to Christ and receives in his own experience the evidence that there is a living God—I say, basing his faith upon those three great lines of evidence, he then is open to a vast universe of knowledge available, simply by believing God. Simply by believing God.

He does not ask God to *prove* what God says. If we ask God to *prove* what he says, we do not have faith in Him. We are setting ourselves up as the judge of whether or not He is true or false. Oh friends, it's a wonderful thing to pass through the door of reason *into* the room of faith, and on to a vast universe of acquaintance with God, His Word and His works.

Now, I want you to notice some interesting scriptures here. 1 Corinthians, the third chapter, and the 18th verse. 1 Corinthians 3:18:

“Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain” 1 Corinthians 3:18–20.

The wisdom of this world is what? Foolishness with God. Interestingly enough, most of the wisdom of this world is foolishness with the world after a few years.

Not long ago, I noticed a list of a series of propositions set forth by one of the great scientific societies of Europe, some years ago, of course, and every one of them has now been proved to be false. I wouldn't say that everything that science teaches eventually winds up in the garbage can or the wastebasket, but it happens often enough, dear friends, to make a really careful thinker a little slow about accepting as infallible what tomorrow may be declared to be outdated.

One of the great advantages of simple faith in God and God's Word is this—when God speaks, we know it was true before He said it; we know it's true now, and we know it will *always* be true. His Word is never out of date. And may I tell you, friends, His truth is no truer when science confirms it.

It is popular these days, and I join in the exercise myself—I like it—it is popular today to make lists of scientific research, experiments, confirming the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy. I think this is fine. I repeat, I enjoy it.

But I want to tell you something, friend. When all the scientists in all the universities have done their research and made their contributions, the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy are not one whit truer than they were before—not one bit.

Let me give you a little example. When I was a young man taking training as a medical missionary at Loma Linda, the only people around there who believed that cancer was caused by a germ were those who were considered perhaps a bit in right field or left field—whatever way you want to word it—in their faith in the Spirit of Prophecy.

There were those who thought that that would have to be explained or that it would just have to be put aside as something that wasn't really quite scientific. It wasn't scientific at that time, if by scientific you mean proved by research in the universities.

But now, today, friends, every scientist knows that at least some *kinds* of cancer are caused by a virus, which is a tiny little germ so small that it takes an electron microscope to see it. Now, may I ask you, friends, do you have more faith in the book *Ministry of Healing* since that research has come out? Thank God, I say, no, not one bit more faith.

If it is on that basis that we believe the inspired writings, then we have not yet come to faith. Faith is believing God in areas that are beyond scientific proof and scientific research. And yet, there is nothing wrong with scientific research, provided that we never let it cloud our faith or minister to doubt.

Why, my dear friends, what would you do with an adding machine if, to use a very simple illustration—you wouldn't do this particular thing, but suppose you would do this—suppose you'd punch two and two and it said five—the adding machine. Would you say, "Well now, I wonder—I wonder if the men that wrote the arithmetics are correct." And then you try it again, in this adding machine—two, two, and you get five.

I think that most of us would be sending that adding machine in for repairs. What do you say? May I tell you, friends, there are some of the scientific minds of this age that need to be sent into the repair shop. That's right. That's the problem. That's the problem.

What did I read here?

“...the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness”
1 Corinthians 3:19.

God lets people just get all messed up and mused up and fussed up and bound up and tied up in their own so-called knowledge.

Now, come back to that 18th verse:

“Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise” 1 Corinthians 3:18.

Moses spent most of his life up to 40 years of age in the greatest schools of his time, and Egypt was no stone-age civilization.

“And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds” Acts 7:22.

But when he was 40 years old and was willing to take that scientific study and research and experience and sophisticated knowledge—he was willing to take it all and use it in the service of God. God, in effect, said, Very well, Moses, we will take you out to the university of Midian and give you some post-work. And there, for 40 years, in the hot desert, he sweat most of that out of him.

No, I mean it, friends. That’s what happened. Now, there was a residue of knowledge that Moses had learned in Egypt that stayed with him and that he used. It is hard for *any* system of education to deal entirely in lies. It is hard for any religion to be made up of nothing but falsehood. There is no such thing, my friends. The education of this world is a *perversion* of truth. The religions of this world are perversions of truth.

And so, there was a residue of knowledge that Moses had gotten, but 40 years of being with God out in the mountains in Midian brought him to the place where he knew that the God that made those mountains, mighty in their grandeur, was far beyond those scientific minds of Egypt that had made some pyramids. The pyramids would look pretty small alongside Mt. Sinai, friend.

And so, Moses, one of the greatest minds of antiquity, found in simple faith the answer to his quest. And knowing God, he led his people in that great exodus movement from Egypt to Canaan. My point is, he became, as this verse says, a fool in the knowledge of this world, forgetting much of what he’d learned, in order that he might be truly wise.

The man that wrote this book, the epistle to the Corinthians, had a similar experience. Paul was wise in the knowledge of his time, but when he met God on the way to Damascus, the Master sent him off to Arabia, and there in the deserts, he sweat a lot of that out of him. And there, Paul, the wise, learned, sophisticated rabbi, became a humble believer in a “Thus saith the Lord.”

Notice, his warnings to us in Colossians, the second chapter, and the eighth verse, and remember, friends, as we read these verses, we are not reading the ravings of some ignoramus out in the hills somewhere. We are reading the inspired testimony of a man who had all that the world could give, but who had unlearned most of that and had adopted as his motto,

“To know nothing save Jesus Christ and Him crucified”
1 Corinthians 2:2.

Colossians, the second chapter, and the eighth verse:

“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ” Colossians 2:8.

What’s that first word? Beware. What’s that mean? Be careful; take heed. If you were putting up a light that would say, Beware, what color would you get? Red. That’s right. Beware. Beware lest any man spoil you.

Now, he’s not talking about spoiling like spoiled food. He’s talking about spoiling like a victorious army in a conquered country will take spoils from that country, rob and pillage, and take away the best of the land as spoils. That’s what he’s talking about. *Beware*, lest any man come in and rob you of your riches—the faith, the simple, childlike faith in God and love for God.

Because I want to tell you, friends, it’s hard to love a God you can’t trust. It’s hard to love a God that you’ve lost confidence in. And oh, there are so many so-called scientific theories today that steal away, that spoil, the riches of simple faith and trust in God.

“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ” Colossians 2:8.

A dear friend of mine, some years ago, interested in the combination of science and religion, interested in the uniting of the medical and the evangelistic, was led to delve into the intricacies of modern psychology. He’s deep in it now. *He* thinks he’s a success, but he’s no longer in the ministry of this movement, my friends. He’s set himself up as a counselor, but it is written,

“If the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch”
Matthew 15:14.

My dear friends, if I thought I needed any counsel that a man wise in psychology might be prepared to give me, the last one I would want would be one whose study of psychology had led him to forsake the ministry of Christ and become simply a professional, commercial man.

I would say, “God, help me. Do I want to get hold of the thing that led *him* down that blind alley?” No, friend, no. I would rather be a simpleton in this world and have a simple faith in the Word of God and the testimonies of His Spirit than know all that the world calls knowledge, and thereby become full of doubts and scientific questions and sophisticated theories.

Oh friends, listen:

“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ” Colossians 2:8.

Beware. And remember, the man that was writing this was the apostle Paul.

Now, I want you to go back to Genesis, the third chapter. You see, all that we're talking tonight is a part of a great controversy. It began in Heaven before this world was created. The controversy was transferred to this world. There in the Garden of Eden, the serpent became the mouthpiece of the great serpent, the Devil.

Listen:

"Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made..." Genesis 3:1.

In the original creation, friends, of all the animals, the serpent was the wisest. Do you see in this a parallel to Lucifer, the wisest of the created beings of God, being the one that launched this program of scientific questioning? This is the way he made his deceptions so attractive in the courts above.

And now, having succeeded in his hypnotic spell with one-third of the angels of Heaven, he comes to this world, and he takes over the brain and the total apparatus of this wisest of animals, the serpent.

And he, Satan, speaking through this serpent, said unto the woman:

"Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" Genesis 3:1.

I remember hearing old Elder Gilbert, a converted Jewish brother, tell us that in the Hebrew this word that's translated "Yea," is really "humph" Humph, like that. Humph, has God really said you can't eat of every tree of the garden? A sneer. A sneer is the weapon of sophistication, my friends.

"Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die" Genesis 3:1-4.

He begins by raising a question, by insinuating a doubt, and he continues by a flat denial of the Word of God. Thus, he proceeds today, my friends, and always in that order.

And what is his third step? To suggest the scientific method—experiment, if you please. Why should you be dumb enough, Eve? You are an intelligent woman—to merely accept the word of somebody else. Try for yourself. I have done it. You saw me last week, and I couldn't speak, but I've eaten of this wonderful fruit and, as you see, now, I'm speaking. And God knows:

“...that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil”
Genesis 3:5.

Oh, if you will only enroll in this course, you will really be educated. Oh, if you will only take this subject, you will be wise. Oh, if you will only experiment in the laboratory of your own body and mind and spirit, you will know that what I am telling is the truth. You will be wiser than you ever were before.

Who’s speaking? The serpent. And who’s speaking through the serpent? The Devil. And the interesting thing is, my friends, that it was not all lies that he said. There was a mixture of truth in the whole thing. It was *true* that if she ate, her eyes would be opened. It was true what he said that she would certainly know evil as well as good. And for six millenniums, this poor planet has been demonstrating that, my friends.

But God never intended that Adam and Eve should know what pain is, and what disease is, and what rebellion is, and what murder is, and what adultery is, and what all the other long list of sins and the consequences of sin are. God never intended that for His children.

But the serpent, with his subtle suggestion that God has kept back something—and all He had kept back was evil, my friends—but, oh, he said, You’re missing something.

My dear friends, do I need to dwell upon the counterpart of this today? Do I need to even point out what is being done today with tobacco and alcohol and marijuana and LSD and a hundred other things, all with the idea of learning something, experiencing something beyond what ordinary life offers?

Do I need to point out how, in what is called the new morality (which is really the old immorality), there is that enticing suggestion that the way to know life is to experience it, the way to know love is to enter into it, the way to know the thrills is to participate in it?

And if God has said something about, Thou shalt not commit adultery, well, that’s old-fashioned. That’s simply an endeavor to keep young folks from having a good time. This is simply the echo, you see, of what the Devil said 6,000 years ago.

But, ah, my dear friends, when Adam and Eve stood by the side of their dead Abel and saw the murderer Cain fleeing, I don’t think they were proud of the degree they had received from the university of Sin. I don’t think they gloried in their wider knowledge, their new sophistication. Do you? Oh, when will we learn, my friends? When will we learn?

You remember that text we read a few moments ago in 1 Corinthians 3, that, if we really want to be wise, we need to become fools in the sinful knowledge of this world. I warn you, my dear friends, against knowledge concerning psychology, philosophy, sex education, married life, the training of children, religion, spiritual life, counseling, prayer, anything that’s coming from the wine cup of Babylon today.

You will get a mixture of good and evil. Some of it will be more good, some of it more evil, but there is not one volume issuing from the presses of Babylon that you can take from cover to cover and say, "This is pure wheat." There is not one single volume, my friends, in all those fields that you can take with the certainty of "Thus saith the Lord."

Ah, but somebody says, I think I'm wise enough to know the difference. Oh, do you? Are you wiser than Eve? Are you wiser than Solomon? Are you wiser than Dr. John Harvey Kellogg?

Oh, my friends, the wiser you think you are, the more foolish you really are. If you think that that wisdom, wherever you got it, brings you to the place where you can take the education of this world, the psychology of this world, the philosophy of this world, the religion of this world, and strain it through your little brain, and keep that which is true and put aside that which is false, you are fooling nobody but yourself.

Eve tried it and you see the result. Solomon tried it and you see the result. Dr. John Harvey Kellogg tried it, and you know the result. And there have been thousands of others.

My dear friends, God is preparing a group of people in this last remnant of time who will know all that God wants them to know and will either have never learned or forgotten that which Babylon teaches.

For it is written:

"And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with Him"—with *Him*, with the Lamb—"an hundred forty and four thousand, having His Father's name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth"
Revelation 14:1–3.

I'm reading now Revelation, the 14th chapter, verses 1 to 5. I'm on the 4th verse. Don't miss it.

"These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth..." Revelation 14:4.

The book of Revelation, you know, is a book of symbols. And in the 17th chapter, great Babylon is set forth as a woman clothed in scarlet. She has daughters who are harlots, like herself:

“And upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery...”
Revelation 17:5.

Oh, I'd like to know about that.

“...Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and
Abominations of the Earth.”

Ah, my friends, let us not drink from her golden cup. Let us not follow her
devious windings. Let us not be attracted by her artificial adornments. Let us not be
beguiled by her siren songs.

Concerning the remnant, who welcome Jesus in peace, it is written:

“These are they which were not defiled with...”

Babylon, the harlot mother, or the harlot daughters.

“...for they are virgins...” Revelation 14:4.

They have a pure faith, a simple trust in a “Thus saith the Lord.”

Ah, somebody says, “But my trouble is I'm afraid I've already been defiled.” I
bring you good news, friends. The God who took Moses to the deserts of Midian
and there amid the mountain solitudes took out of him that sophistication of Egypt
and that worldly education, will do it for you if you'll give God a chance.

The God who took Paul to the deserts of Arabia and got out of his system that
reverence for tradition which filled the mind of the educated Jewish class; God will
do it for you if you'll give Him a chance.

Jesus is purifying His church by the washing of water through the Word.
There is wonderful, cleansing power in this Word, my friends. And, if you will lay
aside the books of Babylon, if you'll quit looking at the TV broadcasts of Babylon, if
you'll quit listening to the ideas, the scientific theories, that would lead away from
God, if you'll quit ingesting and digesting this mixture of good and evil that's filling the
world today through all the media. If you'll just put that aside and feed on inspired—
inspired words—God can do a marvelous miracle in your life.

God can take away the stain of worldly knowledge. He can counteract the
influence of worldly education. He can restore to you a simple, childlike faith in a
“Thus saith the Lord.”

For it is written:

“Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God
Romans 10:17.

How does faith come? By hearing. Hearing what? The Word of God. Do you want more faith? You'll never get it at the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, where the serpent is broadcasting. Oh, no. You will get it at the Tree of Life.

"Thy words were found and I did eat them, and thy Word was unto me the joy and the rejoicing of my heart" Jeremiah 15:16.

Oh friends, fill the whole soul with the Word of God. Ah, but you say, "I come to some things in it I can't understand." All right. Listen. Do any of you ever eat prunes? Do you ever come to something hard in the prune? What do you do with it? I know what you don't do with it. You don't try to chew it up. Do you? Why, no. You just quietly put it on the side of the plate and go on enjoying that which you *can* appropriate.

But the seed in that prune is for a purpose, my friend. It isn't put there just to make trouble for you. The seed of a prune has an important purpose. Do any of you know what it is? Oh, yes. Like other seeds.

Listen, everything in the Bible has a purpose, but God never intended that you should be able to start at Genesis 1 and go through to Revelation 22 and understand *everything* in it the first time you read it. No. You are not that wise, and God put enough in it to keep you busy for several years—for an eternity, in fact.

And so, when you come to a verse that's too hard for you to chew, don't gag on it, and don't quit eating prunes. Just put it down and go on with what you *can* see and understand and appropriate. If you follow that program, friend, someday soon we'll see the one who inspired all this Word, and He'll tell us the things that we didn't understand in this life.

And, friends, I'm so thankful that He came down from Heaven, that long journey, to help us understand what we have studied tonight and to show us the way back home.

Wouldn't you folks like to sing me that song again? Wouldn't you like to hear it again? "Jesus Led Me All the Way." He leads us through nature; He leads us through His Word; He leads us through the work of His Holy Spirit in our personal experience. Thank you.

After the girls have sung, anybody that would like to, just quickly make your way up here. We'll have a few testimonies.

[Singing]

Some day life's journey will be o'er,
And I shall reach that distant shore,
I'll sing while entering heaven's door,
Jesus led me all the way.

Jesus led me all the way,
Led me step by step each day,

I will tell the saints and angels,
As I lay my burdens down,
Jesus led me all the way.

If God should let me there review,
The winding paths of earth I knew,
It would be proven clear and true,
Jesus led me all the way.

[Recording ended in progress]

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