

# If Any Man

#0316

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—June 13, 1976

The world held out to me its wealth untold,  
The rainbow's end would bring me glittering gold.  
But when its shining prize, I found was only lies,  
Then someone dried my eyes with wounded hands.

Those nail-scarred hands I see, so bruised for me.  
Blood flowed at Calvary to set me free.  
When faith has turned to sight they'll shine forever bright,  
Those wounds of earth's dark night, those wounded hands.

The world sent me her friends with flattery.  
I turned from God to join their gaiety.  
Through tears I realized sin's joy soon fades and dies;  
Then someone dried my eyes with wounded hands.

Those nail-scarred hands I see, so bruised for me.  
Blood flowed at Calvary to set me free.  
Long after years and time those scars will ever shine:  
Dark Calvary's cross remind with wounded hands.

Someday I'll see Him come, the King of kings,  
Descending on a cloud of angel wings;  
I'll see His face that day, He'll take me home to stay,  
And wipe all tears away with wounded hands.

Those nail-scarred hands I see, so bruised for me.  
Blood flowed at Calvary to set me free.  
Beyond these years of time, bright beams will ever shine  
From nail-scarred hands divine, dear wounded hands.  
"Wounded Hands" by Warren C. Wilson.

It's the wounded hand that knocks at the door, isn't it, friends? One of the most important books in all the Bible in the time in which we live is the last book, the book of Revelation. In the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter of this book, we find God's last message to the world. In the third chapter, we find Christ's last message to His church. And I wish you would look at Revelation 14:9 and Revelation 3:20, where in God's last message to the world and His last message to His church, we have three words, the same three words in each of these texts. And those three words are our text this evening hour.

Revelation 14:9:

“And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God...” Revelation 14:9–10.

Now, Revelation 3:20:

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me” Revelation 3:20.

What are these three words? “If any man.” “If any man.” What does the “if” tell us? The “if” tells us that there are conditions.

“...If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark... the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God...” Revelation 14:9–10.

Will everybody drink of the wine of the wrath of God? No. But if any man does certain things, he will.

Now, take the other one, that wonderful promise:

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in...” Revelation 3:20.

Does He come in to everyone? Well, He’d like to. But “if” shows a what? Condition.

Let me share an interesting letter with you. This is a letter that the prophet to the remnant wrote to a man that was preaching righteousness by faith before most of us here were born. You’ll find it now in the book *Selected Messages*, Book 1, page 377. It was written from New Zealand, April 9, 1893:

“Brother A. T. Jones: I was attending a meeting, and a large congregation were present. In my dream you were presenting the subject of faith and the imputed righteousness of Christ by faith. You repeated several times that works amounted to nothing, that there were no conditions. The matter was presented in that light that I knew minds would be confused, and would not receive the correct impression in reference to faith and works, and I decided to write to you. You state this matter too strongly. There are conditions...”  
*Selected Messages*, Book 1, page 377.

“...There are conditions to our receiving justification and sanctification, and the righteousness of Christ. I know your meaning, but you leave a wrong impression upon many minds. While good works will not save even one soul, yet it is impossible for even one soul to be saved without good works.

God saves us under a law, that we must ask if we would receive, seek if we would find, and knock if we would have the door opened unto us" *Ibid.*

Now, in that paragraph that I read, there are three words I wish to have stand out:

"...There are conditions..." *Ibid.*

Will you repeat those words with me?

"...There are conditions..." *Ibid.*

Again:

"...There are conditions..." *Ibid.*

And our Bible text tonight, Revelation 14:9 and Revelation 3:20, present to us that thought of conditions by that word what? If, if.

Now, "If any man," what does "any" tell us? "Any," tells us that all *can* if they will. Everybody *could* be saved. Is that right?

"...If *any* man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in..." Revelation 3:20.

The worst man? Yes. The weakest man? Yes. Oh, thank God, friends, the invitation is to everybody. "Whosoever will may come." "If any man."

And what does "man" tell us?

"...If any *man* hear My voice, and open the door..."  
Revelation 3:20.

"...If any man worship the beast and his image..."  
Revelation 14:9.

"If any man," these three words focus on this thought, that what I do is my own choice. No one can make this choice *for* me, and nobody can keep *me* from making it. When all the world led by the dragon, the beast and the false prophet combine, when all the forces of evil are gathered against the remnant, and there is a death decree against those that honor the Bible Sabbath and all the commandments of God, praise the Lord we will hear in trumpet tones that third angel's message ringing around the world:

"...If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God..."  
Revelation 14:9–10.

And thank the Lord, a multitude from Babylon will step out and join the remnant church in full obedience. Everywhere voices will be echoing the word of the third angel:

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus”  
Revelation 14:12.

“If any man.” There are conditions. Anybody can meet the conditions. Nobody who fails to meet the conditions can be saved. Anybody, everybody that meets the conditions can receive the fullness of the blessing of God. “If any man.”

Will you say those three words with me? “If any man.” Are you one? Yes. Which way will you go? Will you worship the beast and his image and receive his mark? Or will you respond to the knock of that nail-scarred hand and open the door? One or the other, everybody in this world will do. Everybody in this world is facing this issue. Some are facing it tonight, my friends.

“...If any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me”  
Revelation 3:20.

Now, let's listen to some other words. I've asked Pastor Cox to join me here. And first, we're going to look at Matthew 16:24. And you turn in your Bibles and Brother Cox will read for me. What are our three words? “If any man.” All right. Now, you watch and listen for these three words:

[Pastor Cox]

“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me” Matthew 16:24.

[Elder Frazee] Are there conditions? Oh, yes. If we're going to follow Jesus, do what? Deny ourselves. What monosyllable would you use if you were trying to give a message of denying? “No.” Can you say “No” to yourself? Thank God, those who will look to Jesus can do it.

All right. Now, we're going to look at Luke 9:23. This is much like the verse in Matthew but notice the difference.

[Pastor Cox]

“And He said to them all, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me”  
Luke 9:23.

[Elder Frazee] What's the extra word here? Daily. You mean we have to do it again and again? Isn't it once saved, always saved? No, there are conditions.

“If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross...” Luke 9:23.

How often?

“...daily, and follow Me” Luke 9:23.

And so, we hear Paul saying in 1 Corinthians 15:31:

“...I die daily” 1 Corinthians 15:31.

Notice the comment in *Ministry of Healing*, page 453:

“The life of the apostle Paul was a constant conflict with self. He said, ‘I die daily.’ His will and his desires every day conflicted with duty and the will of God. Instead of following inclination, he did God’s will, however crucifying to his nature” *Ministry of Healing*, pages 452–453.

Well, if dear Paul every day had to fight the battle anew and make the surrender anew, I think I can join him. What do you say?

Jesus says:

“If any man will come after Me, let him...” Luke 9:23.

Do what?

“...deny himself, and take up his cross...” Luke 9:23.

And what’s the word?

“...*daily*, and follow Me” Luke 9:23.

Now, I want you to notice the abundant provision in God’s promises for every situation. Turn to John 7:37. Notice the need that’s mentioned here, and notice the abundant promise to meet the need.

[Pastor Cox]

“In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink” John 7:37.

[Elder Frazee] If any man do what? Thirst. Let him do what? Come unto Me and drink. And in the next verse, He says that if we’ll come and listen to Him and drink, we’ll not only be satisfied, but we, in turn, will become a reservoir, a fountain, and rivers of living water will be flowing from us. What abundant provision, friends. “If any man thirst.” So, God has made full provision for this matter of thirst.

Now, let us take the matter of hunger, John the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter and the 51<sup>st</sup> verse.

[Pastor Cox]

“I am the living Bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this Bread, he shall live for ever: and the Bread that I will give is My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world” John 6:51.

[Elder Frazee] If any man hunger, let him eat of this Bread. And if any man eat of this Bread, he’ll do what? Live forever. Isn’t that wonderful? What Bread? Jesus Himself—received through His Word. For, He says in the same chapter, John 6:63:

“...The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life” John 6:63.

Now, John 7:17. Here He makes provision for our knowledge. Do we lack knowledge? Are we wondering what is truth? Here is the promise, and it’s given with a condition.

[Pastor Cox]

“If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of Myself” John 7:17.

[Elder Frazee] What’s the first word? “If.” And the next one? “Any.” And the next?

*“If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine...”*  
John 7:17.

If we’re willing to *do* it, He’ll show us what to *do*. Thank God. Let’s meet the conditions. What do you say?

Now, John the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter and the 9<sup>th</sup> verse, here is the wonderful promise of salvation. And again, notice the condition:

[Pastor Cox]

“I am the Door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture” John 10:9.

[Elder Frazee] How is the way to be saved? If any man will enter. That’s right.

“...If any man enter in...” John 10:9.

And enter in by whom? By Jesus. He’s what? The Door. But suppose I won’t enter in. Then will I be saved? Oh no.

“...By Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved...”  
John 10:9.

That’s present salvation. But now, let us notice the ultimate salvation.

[Pastor Cox]

“If any man serve Me, let him follow Me; and where I am,  
there shall also My servant be: if any man serve Me, him will  
My Father honor” John 12:26.

[Elder Frazee] So, the ultimate salvation is to be where? With Him. That was the promise you remember there in the upper room at the last supper:

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe  
also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions: if it  
were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place  
for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come  
again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there  
ye may be also” John 14:1–3.

But notice, it’s all on condition:

“If any man serve Me, let him follow Me; and where I am,  
there shall also My servant be...” John 12:26.

Now, one of the most wonderful pearls on this string tonight is 1 John the second chapter and the first verse. Turn over to the first epistle of John. Do you know why I like this one so much? I need it. I need it again and again. This is the spare tire in the trunk. By the way, folks, do you deliberately plan to get your tire blown out or run over a nail so you can use that spare tire in the car? Do you? Why no. But isn’t it wonderful to know it’s there if we need it? Here’s the Christian’s spare tire.

[Pastor Cox]

“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin  
not. And if any man sin, we have an Advocate with the  
Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” 1 John 2:1.

[Elder Frazee]

“...If any man sin, we have an Advocate...” 1 John 2:1.

Aren’t you glad, friends? Oh thank God, the promise of salvation, present and future, and with it the promise to lift us up when we cry when we’ve fallen.

Now, 1 John the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter and the 16<sup>th</sup> verse, here is the promise for soul-winning. And oh, this is what God wants every saved Christian to be is a winner of souls, to get others into this same glorious program of life in Christ Jesus.

[Pastor Cox]

“If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and He shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it” 1 John 5:16.

[Elder Frazee] Now, the sin unto death is the unpardonable sin. The only reason there's no use praying for that is that the unpardonable sin means that a person has gone beyond the hope of salvation. They've resisted Jesus so long that they don't even hear His voice. *But* let not that detract us from the promise. John's great thrust in this verse is not the unpardonable sin. Get the beautiful hope and comfort and cheer of His promise. What is it?

“If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask...” 1 John 5:16.

Ask whom? Ask God.

“...and He shall give him life for them that sin not unto death” 1 John 5:16.

Oh friends, we're in the restoring business. 1 John 2:1 is the promise for us when we fall; 1 John 5:16 is the promise for us when we're trying to help somebody else that's fallen.

“Rescue the perishing, Care for the dying;  
Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave;  
Weep o'er the erring one, Lift up the fallen,  
Tell them of Jesus, the mighty to save.”  
*Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, #367, first stanza.*

And all this work for souls in effectual soul-winning must be preceded by prayer, earnest prayer, supplicating prayer, persistent prayer. Like Elijah prayed for rain on Carmel. Like Jesus prayed for His disciples; like He's praying for us now. Our soul-winning efforts, I repeat, must be saturated with prayer.

“If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask...” 1 John 5:16.

And God will give him life for that fainting, falling soul. Oh, let's ask. What do you say?

Are there conditions? Sure. *If* any man will *do* what this says, God will give him life. Do you know anybody that's dying? Do you know anybody that's losing the hope of eternal life? Do you know anybody that's never had that hope? *If any man*



will ask, God will give him life for the soul that's about to go into perdition. Thank God for this promise. What do you say?

Now, we're not only to pray, but prayer and works go together. James the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter verses 26–27, what three words do you see right at the beginning of that 26<sup>th</sup> verse? "If any man," and the "if" tells us what? Condition. And "any man" shows that this applies to how many? Everybody. But you don't have to wait till everybody does it. "Any man," any individual, singular number, any individual can do it whether anybody else ever does it or not. That's the message of the "If any man."

All right. Now, see how practical James is.

[Pastor Cox]

"If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridled his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world"  
James 1:26–27.

[Elder Frazee] Now, notice that James talks about our speech and also about our works. "If any man seem to be religious" but doesn't use his tongue right, his religion is what? Vain. And "pure religion and undefiled" is to do what? Visit the widows and the fatherless and do something practical for them.

In the book *Ministry of Healing*, page 147, I read:

"Everywhere there is a tendency to substitute the work of organizations for individual effort" *Ministry of Healing*, page 147.

What are organizations? They're a number of people working together to get something done. Is that right? There are labor organizations, social organizations, political organizations, religious organizations. Some of them are good. But notice this *danger* that the prophet points out:

"Everywhere..." *Ibid.*

Except at Wildwood. Is that what it says? No. I didn't get that off the page.

"Everywhere there is a tendency..." *Ibid.*

Now, we don't have to yield to it, but:

"Everywhere there is a tendency to substitute the work of organizations for individual effort" *Ibid.*

But "if any man"—if we'll listen to those words it'll cure this tendency, folks. God's dealing with the individual.

“Human wisdom tends to consolidation, to centralization, to the building up of great churches and institutions. Multitudes leave to institutions and organizations the work of benevolence...” *Ibid.*

What’s benevolence? Why, doing good to people.

“...they excuse themselves from contact with the world, and their hearts grow cold” *Ibid.*

How’s the way to get cold? Just come to church and sit and listen to sermons like this and go home and do what? Nothing. And come back again for another warmup. The doctors will tell us that we need not only to eat and breathe, but we need to what? Exercise.

“Christ commits to His followers an individual work—a work that cannot be done by proxy” *Ibid.*

What does “proxy” mean? Why it means if I can’t go I send somebody else. But *this* work can’t be done by what? Proxy. Oh, can’t I? Can’t I give some money to the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, or the lay activities offering in the church? Won’t that take care of it? No. Not what we’re reading about tonight. James says that man’s religion is what? Is vain. What does “vain” mean? Empty. Worthless.

“Christ commits to His followers an individual work—a work that cannot be done by proxy. Ministry to the sick and the poor, the giving of the gospel to the lost, is not to be left to committees or organized charities. Individual responsibility, individual effort, personal sacrifice, is the requirement of the gospel” *Ibid.*

So what are our three words tonight? If any man. Oh thank God, I can have a part personally and individually. Not everybody can preach, not everybody can be a colporteur, not everybody can be a physician, but everybody can do something to help people. And if any man will do it, thank God, the blessing comes.

All right. You remember in Isaiah 58, the prophet tells us that God is saying that the fast He’s chosen is to deal what?

“...*thy* bread to the hungry...” Isaiah 58:7.

Let’s put it right down in modern English. “Deal *your* bread to the hungry.”

“My bread?”

“Yes, mine.”

“...and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to *thy* house?” *Ibid.*

Your house.

“You mean I’m to help people personally, individually?”

“That’s it.”

All right. Now, let’s go back through it.

“...If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will...”  
Revelation 3:20.

What?

“..come in...” Revelation 3:20.

But:

“...If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark...” Revelation 14:9.

He’ll?

“...Drink of the wine of the wrath of God...” Revelation 14:10.

Jesus says:

“If any man will come after Me, let him...” Matthew 16:24.

Do what?

“...deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me...”  
Matthew 16:24.

And do it how often? Daily [Luke 9:23].

And notice the different provisions:

“...If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink”  
John 7:37.

“...If any man eat of this Bread, he shall live for ever...”  
John 6:51.

“...By Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved” John 10:9.

“If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine...”  
John 7:17.

"If any man serve Me...where I am, there shall also My servant be..." John 12:26.

Thank God friends, one promise after the other assures us that *if any man* will listen and follow the instructions, he can share with Jesus in a fellowship which is personal and individual.

You remember that wonderful promise in *Steps to Christ*, page 100:

"The relations between God and each soul are as distinct and full as though there were not another soul upon the earth...not another soul for whom He gave His beloved Son" *Steps to Christ*, page 100.

Standing at Calvary and looking up to that figure that hangs on the tree, I know that He loved me and gave Himself for me.

"...If any man hear my voice..." Revelation 3:20.

"...If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink"  
John 7:37.

"...If any man eat of this Bread, he shall live for ever..."  
John 6:51.

"...If any man enter in by this Door, he shall be saved"  
John 10:9.

Thank God, friends, I can come. Nobody else can keep me away. And nobody else can do it for me. Thank God, I will. What do you say? Thank God, I will.

"I can hear my Savior calling,  
I can hear my Savior calling,  
I can hear my Savior calling,  
Take thy cross and follow, follow Me.

Where He leads me I will follow,  
Where He leads me I will follow,  
Where He leads me I will follow,  
I'll go with Him, with Him, all the way."  
"Where He Leads Me" by Ernest W. Blandy, first stanza.

If everybody in the world would respond and come and go with Him, and I didn't, it wouldn't help me at all, would it? No. But if everybody in the world but this poor man should turn *from* Him and listen to the enemy, they can't keep me from responding. Is that right?

"If any man." "If any man." Thank God, I can meet the conditions, give my heart to Jesus, and He will accept me. His precious blood will cleanse my sins. That

wounded hand will clasp my hand, and we'll walk together to the kingdom of God. Let's do it. What do you say?

How many would like to send Him the word tonight that you will? Thank God every one.

Now, with Jesus' help, let's get down to business here in these closing moments. I want to ask a question, friends. The Holy Spirit has been speaking to hearts here. There's somebody that needs to make a decision. "If any man hear my voice and open the door, I'll come in."

Do you know what the door is? Let's be practical. Well, there's a door right there.

Brother, would you go please outside that door and knock. [Knocking.]

Now, what is that door? That door is what's standing between me and the one that's knocking. Is that right? That door is what's standing between me and the one that's knocking. What shall we do? If we open that door, then we get the door out of the way. Is that right?

Allen, will you go open that door, please. I hope he's acting for every one of us. What do you say? But notice, it's something practical to *do*.

"If any man hear my voice and open the door..."  
Revelation 3:20.

Thank you, brother.

Look, what is the door (don't miss it now), what is the door that's standing between you and Jesus tonight? Somebody may be able to say truthfully, "I don't know of a single thing that's standing between Jesus and me." That doesn't mean you boast that you're perfect, but it's the privilege of the born-again Christian to walk in a life of constant surrender and full and complete yielding to Jesus. Isn't it?

But listen, if you've never done it, what is there standing between you and Jesus? There's a door, a barrier. And listen, if you did it yesterday and you didn't do it today:

"The commission of a known sin silences the witnessing voice of the Spirit and separates the soul from God" *Great Controversy*, page 472.

I'm not talking about ignorant sins that we don't know about. I'm talking about willful, deliberate sin, to go back to the hog bin, to wallow with the pigs, to turn our backs on Christ, and do the thing that we know is contrary to His will and law. And if we've done that, no matter what our profession, we may be church members in good and regular standing, but if we have put our choice on the side of rebellion, then what is there between us and Jesus? A door. Oh, let's open the door. What do you say?

And so right now, I want to give an invitation. There's somebody here tonight that knows that the Holy Spirit is speaking to your heart, you hear that voice that pleads with you, "Open the door," you hear that gentle knock. Will you respond right now?

"...If any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in..." Revelation 3:20.

Forget about this audience. Remember, they can't save you, they can't make you do it and they can't keep you from doing it. No man, no devil in hell can keep you.

"...If any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in..." Revelation 3:20.

Is there somebody that says, "Yes, Brother Frazee, Jesus is talking to me. There's some door that's standing between me and Jesus, and by God's grace I'll open it right now." Would you stand right where you are?

Will the congregation kneel with us as we pray?

Oh, our blessed Lord, we thank Thee with all our hearts tonight that you've made the way so simple and clear and plain. *If any man* listens, will hear and open the door, you've promised to come in. And tonight, Lord, we've opened the door the best we know. We've said "Yes" to Jesus instead of "No," and we're saying "No" to self and sin. We thank Thee for the precious blood that was shed upon the cross to cover us, to cleanse us.

We've come in that wonderful name. We're so glad that somebody's there at the throne of God tonight,, praying for us, holding up wounded hands in intercession, in supplication. So, we're of good cheer. We're trading our sins for His righteousness. We're giving up our way and taking His way. And oh, we're so glad you accept us for His sake, in His merit, and this is where our hope rests tonight.

Dismiss us with your blessing and send us out with life for poor, weak, failing, sinful souls. Teach us how to share with them the good news that *if any man* will listen and come he can be saved. We ask it for Christ's sake, amen.

We're very glad that Elder Larry Cancellor is with us tonight. He's going to bring us a little report from Missouri.

Larry, when was it you came to Wildwood the first time?

[Brother Cansler] Sixty-six, I believe.

[Elder Frazee] How long had you been an Adventist then?

[Brother Cansler] Less than a year.

[Elder Frazee] Well, we're glad you got here right away soon. How long were you with us that time?

[Brother Cansler] Two years.

[Elder Frazee] And then what did you do?

[Brother Cansler] We went to Missouri in the colporteur work.

[Elder Frazee] That's right. Well, he was there in the colporteur work for a while, and then he was back with us here for a while and helping us in our soul-winning work and back in the colporteur work. And now, the brethren have asked him to be a district pastor there. And the Lord's been blessing his ministry.

How many did the Lord give you last year, Larry?

[Brother Cansler] Fifty-eight baptisms last year.

[Elder Frazee] Fifty-eight baptisms last year and we thank the Lord for this. And I just asked him to take a few minutes tonight and tell us whatever the Lord would lay on his heart of how the Lord is blessing and anything you'd like to, Larry. We're glad you're here.

[Brother Cansler] Well, it's certainly good to be back at our Wildwood home again, and I still see a few faces I'm acquainted with. You know, you folk have had quite a turnover in the last few years starting other institutions around the world. But it's wonderful to know how God is working, how He is leading His people. And we can see signs everywhere that the Lord is ready to finish His work, and this should encourage our hearts.

I'm so happy to see the students here. You know, the reason the Lord has sent you here is that you may learn how to win souls for the kingdom of heaven. This is the only reason we exist as a church, and it's certainly the only reason this institution is in existence—that we might become soul winners for the Lord.

And I appreciate so much the wonderful help that we gained in our three-year stay at Wildwood learning these great principles. You know, I'm happy these principles are not Wildwood principles. They're heaven's principles, and if we apply them correctly they will work and bring souls to the kingdom of God.

I don't know what I could say to you tonight that would encourage you. I could talk here for hours but I'm not going to do that, but I might share with you a few of the things the way that God has blessed.

Two and a half years ago, the brethren asked us to take over a district pastoring three churches, and they told us that there were some problems there but they felt the Lord would help us. We went there to church and of course we wanted to get a soul-winning program going, and I began talking about it to the church board and different ones. And they began telling me it couldn't be done. Everyone had tried it. No one's interested. And in other words, "You might as well forget it."

Well, we know that's not heaven's plan, is it—forget the souls that are perishing. So, we earnestly prayed that God would help us and we went to work giving Bible studies. And in a few short months the Lord helped us to have our first baptism of 10 souls. And of course, the church members began to think a little bit by this time, and we kept giving Bible studies.

Our teacher, who's a very fine, dedicated man, he wanted to have a prayer meeting. They weren't having a prayer meeting. And we inquired and found no one would ever come to prayer meeting. So, he said, "We're going to have a prayer meeting anyway."

Well, when they had prayer meeting, my wife and son and our teacher were the only ones there. Now, this was the condition the church was in. But as we began, the Lord began bringing souls into church. These new people began to bring life into the church and this is what we must have. And that year, just giving Bible studies, the Lord gave us 43 precious souls. But those new people, as I held soul-winning classes and seminars, those new people began sharing their faith.

When I first went there, we had a family, a couple, an older couple, that were what we would call very nominal Adventists. He would attend church on Sabbath morning and go home and go to work. And they did a lot of things of that nature. But one Sabbath they brought a fellow with them, and I didn't know who he was. I hadn't really gotten acquainted with the older folk at that time very well. But this young man about 35 was the fattest, most dejected-looking fellow I ever saw. He just sat back there like he had no hope in this world.

And my heart went out to that man that day, and I told my wife as we went home, I said, "I must go see that man. He has some real problems." I learned his wife had suddenly died a while before that and left him with two young people, and when she died, he died. He had no hope in Jesus so what did he have to hang onto?

I went over about the next day or two days later, and I found him out behind his garage working on a car. And we started a conversation, and we hadn't talked for two minutes and he blurted out to me, he said, "I want to be baptized in your church."

And I said, "Well, that's wonderful."

And he said, "I know I can't live up to what you people teach but I want to be baptized anyway."

And I saw he had plenty of problems and I didn't tell him about his problems. "I said, "This is wonderful. I'm glad the Lord is speaking to your heart, brother."

We went in and we had a Bible study that evening, his family. And to show you how God is leading people, he has two young people and his parents lived with him at the time, and one night as we studied—we were studying about healthful living and about coffee and tea. And the little boy spoke up and he said, "Well, grandpa drinks tea." He said, "He has to. He gets a headache if he doesn't."



You know, he was very helpful, but you know sometimes we have to be able not to hear. But to make a long story short, this young man drank in the message. His two young people drank in the message and were baptized.

The next time I went over to give a Bible study, there was a lady there, and I didn't know her but she was very interested, and so we started Bible studies with her. And after a while, she was baptized and in a while they were married. And of course, she had a previous family. I baptized two of her young people, eventually.

And then, they began bringing another very fine lady to church, a very outstanding lady, a lady who has three brothers who are ministers in the Christian church, a well-educated lady. And when she heard these great truths, "Oh," she said, "this is what I've been looking for all my life. Where have I been? Where have you been? Where has the Adventist Church been all these years?" And she came in.

Eventually, I baptized I believe six more of her family. Some were away from home and in fact one of her daughters, an older daughter, had been baptized in the Church of Christ just a few weeks before, and she came to our meetings and she'd been reading some materials, and she was baptized.

And then, she brought a Catholic lady to the meetings, and she was baptized. And the other family, they brought another young lady, a schoolmate of the young lady, and she was baptized. So, the results of that one sad dejected man coming to Sabbath school, 15 precious souls were baptized.

But the thrilling thing was how the grandparents got ahold of the message. The older gentleman told me, he said, "I've been drinking coffee for sixty-some years and I can't quit it." But he says, "I've been having a terrible experience the last three weeks but the Lord has given me the victory."

And those people are some of the most stalwart members of our church today. You know, the Lord is anxious to transform lives, isn't He? He can transform lives.

We had our first ingathering campaign, and I wanted to have it conducted on a very spiritual level. We didn't talk about raising money. We talked about winning souls. The first night I was out, I went to a home and knocked on the door. A young couple came to the door, and they invited me in and so I went in. And I was impressed to ask them if they were affiliated with any church.

They said, "No. We've studied with this group and that group, but no."

And I said, "Well, I gather you folk haven't found what you're looking for yet."

And they looked at each other and said, "Yes, I guess that's true."

"Well," I said, "I have good news for you."

They looked at me. I said, "I have what you're looking for."

And they looked at me. I said, “Yes, I’m serious. I do.” I said, “Would you like me to come back when I have a little more time to explain it to you?”

“Yes, we’d like you to.”

I went back the next morning. You know, Sister White says that we need to strike when the iron is hot and keep the iron hot by striking. So we must get after these people.

So, we had a Bible study. They worked for the government and were very hard to make contact with, but one of the first studies, we studied about heaven.

And she said, “Now, do you think that in heaven we’re going to be killing animals and eating animals up there? That doesn’t look like it would be the right thing to do.”

So we had a very interesting study on the beautiful plan God has given His people on healthy living.

Another night, I was over right away, and she said, “Now, all through the history of God’s church, He has had prophets. Why wouldn’t His church today have a prophet?”

Well, you can see that led into another very interesting study that evening. But the people are out here, friends. They’re looking for this message. Many are looking wistfully to heaven, waiting only to be gathered in. But you know, I think some of the best counsel I could perhaps give you this evening, there are many sad, dejected souls out here. They know not which way to go. But our job is to get them to Jesus.

You know, I can’t win souls. But if I know Jesus and I’m looking to Him, and if I can get the people to look where I’m looking, He can win a soul. And we need to be studying the real science of soul-winning and getting people to look. You know, when people really fix their gaze on Jesus, their habits—as they surrender their lives, their habits go in the background. Oh, He’s the answer.

Back in the days of the children of Israel when the serpents were in the camp biting the children of Israel, God told Moses to make a serpent and put it on a pole, and those who looked did what? Lived. And I tell you, all of us today have been bitten by serpents. And we’re dying. And it’s not only the first death. It’s the second death that we’re dying today. We’re going to soon die the second death. But if we can get people to look at Jesus, He can bring life to these souls. And I’m so thrilled to see how He is bringing souls into His kingdom.

You know, you young people. God has a special plan for your lives. He hasn’t brought you here for no reason. He has brought you here for a great reason. He wants you to prepare to go out. You know, I’m convinced that we have no idea what God’s plans are for our lives. I had no idea that I was going to be in the ministry a few years ago. In fact, the brethren talked to me about it several years before I would consider it.

And then, a few months ago I had no idea that I was going to have to take on the responsibility of being the conference evangelist. But you know, friends, if we will lay ourselves at the feet of Jesus day by day, He will lead us step by step. You know, that's one of the great principles of the soul-winning work. If we want to really win souls, we must teach the people that Jesus will take them right where they are and begin there to lead them step by step all the way to the kingdom. This is my theme in soul-winning, and this makes sense to people.

*Volume 1, page 187, says:*

*"God leads His people on, step by step" Testimonies for the Church, Volume 1, page 187.*

I think of another man. I heard about this couple. His wife had been an Adventist, a backslidden Adventist, for many years. They lived 30 miles from a church. I went to see them one day and he was out in the yard smoking a cigarette. He'd been chief of police of that city for a number of years, and then a businessman, a very successful businessman. He'd just retired.

He invited me into his home. And I invited him to come to church after I'd gotten acquainted a while. And he said, "I can't come to your church." So sad, so hopeless, when he said that.

I said, "What's wrong, brother?"

And he said, "Well, I'm hooked on these things." And he brought out his cigarettes. And he said, "I can't come to church."

"Oh," I said, "why brother, our church is a hospital for sinners. Not a rest home for saints. Come on out."

And that kind of broke the ice, you see. And his faith began to ask questions.

"You mean there's hope for me? Do you mean a person like me could have hope?"

And I began to tell him what hope there was for him. And you know, pretty soon that man was on his knees, and he gave his heart to the Lord. You know, the way to get people over cigarettes and all these problems is to get them to Jesus. This is the solution to all these sin problems.

That man drove 30 miles one way to church that week. His wife was still working on the Sabbath. He had a real struggle. Oh, we have to work with these people. It's agonizing work. Many times you have to work with these souls every day, pray with them, study with them, and urge them and encourage them. But the man finally received the victory and his wife. They're both very fine Adventists.

He had a brother-in-law that his wife was a backslidden Adventist, too. I went to visit them. And these were two men that couldn't be reached with the message,

everybody said. But the other man is one of the finest set of Adventist Christians you could ever find today.

You know, the Lord is able to take lives that are twisted and deranged and mixed up and confused, and just unravel them and make them beautiful lives. Oh, I could tell you many stories this evening, but I'll not tell you anymore. But I want to encourage you, especially you students, to keep looking to Jesus. You know, the Lord is anxious to see the Latter Rain poured out, and this loud cry message given. But He's waiting for people He can trust His Spirit with.

And I trust that you will really dig in, as the saying is in this institution, and learn the wonderful truths that God has for you to learn here because God has great plans for you. I'd like tonight to ask for an interest in your prayers. The conference has voted there for us to start a medical evangelistic team, and we are working on this now. And you pray that God will send us the members that we need to bring this health and gospel message to the world, and go into these churches and spend some time there that they can have real revival and reformation. God is longing in a very special way to see His work finished, but Jesus can't come until the harvest is ripe. But if we will help Him, we can hasten the coming of Jesus.

So, may the Lord help each one of us to so surrender our lives to Him moment by moment, day by day, that our characters reflect the image of Jesus and we can be safe to save in His kingdom.

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