

Hiding Place from Every Wind 6 of 8

Dust Storms of Doubt

#0335

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—May 1967

Our opening text this evening is Ephesians, the second chapter, and the second verse. The apostle here shows us who is back of the winds:

“Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience”
Ephesians 2:2.

This is an interesting name for the Devil: “the prince of the power of the air.” Now, it’s true that God is over all. It’s true that God is on the throne, and He’s the Ruler of this universe. But it’s also true what the Bible says, that Satan is the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4), and he’s doing a lot of things with winds.

You remember in *Great Controversy* in that chapter on “The Impending Conflict,” Satan is pictured as at work in fierce tornados and hurricanes and storms of various kinds. Well, this is true in the *spiritual* realm as well as in the physical world. These winds that are blowing, from which you and I are to be protected by hiding in Jesus, these winds have Satan as their originator. Isn’t he back of the tornado of lawlessness? Isn’t he back of the hurricane of persecution? Isn’t he responsible for the icy winds of formalism and the burning winds of fanaticism? Oh yes, friends. And he is responsible for these winds of heresy that we studied last night.

Now tonight, I promised to study with you about the dust storm. How many of you’ve been in a dust storm? A number of the Depression years I spent in the Oklahoma Conference in evangelism in Tulsa, Sapulpa, and Oklahoma City. And I remember one evening there in Tulsa, when I was on my way to the hall where we were holding the meetings; you could hardly see more than two blocks ahead there in the streets of that city. A dust storm was on. You know, for years, there in the southwest, dust storms were fairly common.

Well, there’s one thing about a dust storm—it certainly reduces visibility, doesn’t it? Now, last night we were studying about the pestilence-laden wind of heresy, winds that bring in death-dealing germs. A dust storm doesn’t necessarily carry any germs, although I’m tempted to think that sometimes germs hop a ride on a dust particle, but dust can be very hard, not only on the vision, but on the respiratory passages. More than one person has gotten sick and died as the result of being in a dust storm.

In the Bible lands, dust storms sometimes came, particularly from the southeast. God told the children of Israel, as He warned them through Moses, that if they would not listen to what He said, He would make the rain of their land powder and dust. Doubtless, the people in the days of Elijah saw a great deal of this as there was no rain or dew for three and a half years.

Now the dust storm that I wish to study with you tonight in the spiritual realm, in this time when every wind is blowing, is the dust storm of doubt. Doubt. Doubt clouds the vision and spoils our perception of truth. Doubt is one of Satan's favorite methods of insinuating himself into the minds and thinking of men.

The favorite punctuation mark of doubt is a question mark. Turn to Genesis, the third chapter, and we will find the first question that was ever asked in the history of the world, as far as the Bible record is concerned. And it's interesting who asked it. Genesis, the third chapter:

"Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" Genesis 3:1.

Now, had God said this, friends? I want you to look at this verse in Genesis 3:1 and tell me: is there anything about it that's wrong? What was wrong with what the serpent said? Well, Satan lied down in the fourth verse, but he didn't lie in the first verse. When we come down to the fourth verse, we see the pestilence-laden winds of heresy, but in the first verse, all that's blowing is a dust storm. That's all. the Devil didn't say anything that wasn't so. He simply raised a question: "Is it *really* true? Do you really think that?"

When the woman responded, is it clear that she knew and understood what God had said? Yes. She gave the answer, didn't she? Why, she said:

"...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..." Genesis 3:2-3.

Why did Satan introduce himself in this way? Because, my friends, this is the way he had found so successful in Heaven before he came to this world. His merchandise was the merchandise of doubt. In his first work with the angels there in Heaven, he did not come out and *attack* the divine government. He simply raised questions and insinuated doubts. That's all. And as the result of these questions and doubts and insinuations, the angels themselves began to talk among themselves and to raise more questions and to discuss and agitate.

Well, that's helpful, isn't it? Isn't it? Not always, is it? Not when the merchandise is the merchandise of doubt. But do you know there are multitudes of

people today that have already been so affected with these dust storms of the Devil that they think that if you can get enough discussion, you will arrive at truth. If you can get enough agitation, that you will finally get a consensus which is supposed to mean something authoritative.

Now, we noted in our study last night that when the enemy, 4,000 years later, came to Jesus, Christ met him with what weapon? “It is written.” And He didn’t argue with the Devil at all. He simply quoted the Word of God.

You will remember in Matthew 4 that he approached Jesus with the same method that he had found successful with the angels in Heaven and that he found successful with Eve. He began by a question, an insinuation, a doubt. What were the first words? “If...”

“...If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread” Matthew 4:3.

But involved in that “if” was a what? A question, a doubt. Do you see?

But Jesus did not accept that at all. He didn’t acknowledge that there *was* any doubt. *Was* there any doubt? Not a bit. *Was* He the Son of God? Indeed. Did He have to prove it to the Devil? Not at all.

“...If thou be the Son of God...”

Ah, my friends, doubt, I repeat, fills the air with dust so that human beings cannot see. Jesus refused to enter into any of those scientific discussions of “if.” He simply quoted the Word of God. And as I said last night, can we do better than that? Not a bit.

Now, there are many areas that Satan works on and in, in this matter of doubt. For ages he has suggested doubts regarding the Bible. He has had various ways of doing this. He’s had infidels like Thomas Paine, Robert Ingersoll, and others attack the Bible and raise questions about this and that and the other. Then in our educational institutions, the great colleges and universities of the world, teachers and textbooks introduce doubts. They raise questions. They insinuate things that cause the students, in many cases, to lose their faith in this blessed Word.

But do you know, my friends, it’s possible even in the study of the Bible to have doubts? Satan is perfectly willing to come into our studies—our parlors, our living rooms, our classrooms—as we study the Bible, and blow his dust winds that confuse faith and distort the vision.

Back in the 1880s in Battle Creek, Michigan, which was then the headquarters of our work, one of our leading men wrote some articles in the *Review and Herald* on the subject of inspiration: the inspiration of the Bible. And this leading man, in his articles, suggested that there were *degrees* of inspiration. And he gave examples of what he

meant. Certain books of the Bible he placed on a higher level than others. Now, mind you, they were all inspired, but some had a higher degree of inspiration than others.

The prophet of God wrote a very interesting statement that, to my mind, disposed of it all in one paragraph. You'll find it in Book 1, *Selected Messages*, and page 23:

"I was shown that the Lord did not inspire the articles on inspiration published in the *Review*...When men venture to criticize the Word of God, they venture on sacred, holy ground, and had better fear and tremble and hide their wisdom as foolishness. God sets no man to pronounce judgment on His Word, selecting some things as inspired and discrediting others as uninspired. The testimonies have been treated in the same way, but God is not in this"
Selected Messages, Book 1, page 23.

The expression that was used in the *Review* articles by this brother was "differences in degrees of inspiration." But the Lord didn't inspire those articles, even though they were published in our church paper. Now, I'm sure the man meant all right, and I trust that he received the testimony and profited by it.

We need an inspired voice that speaks from Heaven with authority—the testimony of Jesus. I thank God for the privilege of being connected with a church that has had divine leadership through its history. Oh, it means so much to us!

But now, you notice that the messenger to the remnant says that just as men on that occasion treated the Bible, so some of them had treated the *Testimonies*. In fact, during that same decade, in the early part of it, there was a real crisis that came to Battle Creek over this question. The first hundred pages of Volume 5 deal with it.

To one leading brother there was sent from Sister White, who was in California at the time, a testimony to be read to the church. For some time, he refused to read it to the church. You can read about it there in *Volume 5*. He took the position that some things that Sister White wrote were inspired, but others weren't. (And this one, since it condemned him, was not inspired, you see.)

Now notice, he did not *attack* the prophet of God as being a false prophet. He did not come out and refuse to accept the doctrine of spiritual gifts. All the way through, he said he believed in the doctrine of spiritual gifts. And he believed that there were things that God had shown Sister White in vision that were inspired, but there were some things that were simply her opinion.

These were some of the dust clouds which settled upon Battle Creek in 1881 and 1882. Read those first hundred pages and see the crisis that developed. As the result, friends, our college had to be closed for an entire year—no school at all. A great crisis arose. And the basis of it was these doubts, these doubts, these doubts.

Satan has ability to raise questions and put doubts in our minds concerning *either* the Bible or the Spirit of Prophecy. There's a particular kind of doubts that I want to notice here in *Volume 3*, page 259:

"Some have sanctimonious and apparently conscientious and very pious doubts, which they cautiously drop, but which have tenfold more power to strengthen those who are wrong, and to lessen our influence and weaken the confidence of God's people in our work, than if they came out more frankly. These poor souls, I saw, were deceived by Satan"
Testimonies for the Church, Volume 3, page 259.

Yes, friends, pious, sanctimonious doubts do more work for the enemy than the opposition of a Tom Paine or a Bob Ingersoll. Oh, if there is anything that the remnant church should pray to be saved from, it is these doubts concerning the inspiration of this movement! I read in *Selected Messages*, Book 1, and page 48:

"The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God... Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God's remnant people in the true testimony" *Selected Messages*, Book 1, page 48.

Do you believe the Bible? Do you, really? Do you accept anything and everything the Word of God says? Do you believe the *Testimonies*? Are you clear? Oh friends, it's a wonderful thing to be settled and sure.

Turn over to 1 Corinthians, the first chapter, and I want you to see how important this is. Wrapped up in this matter is the assurance of being ready for the coming of Jesus. 1 Corinthians 1, beginning with verse 4:

"I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" 1 Corinthians 1:4–7.

Now, notice: as we wait for the coming of Jesus, we will come behind in no gift if the testimony of Christ is what? 'Confirmed' in us. What *is* the testimony of Jesus? The Spirit of Prophecy (Revelation 19:10). And if this gift is 'confirmed' in us, then we will come behind in no gift. And the eighth verse says we'll be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. I want to be, don't you?

Oh, I need the certainty and the assurance that being established in this matter of the gift of prophecy in this movement brings. It's a wonderful thing, friends, to *know* that you're in the right movement, the right church. It's a wonderful thing! And this isn't a matter of boasting. It's just a matter of having the testimony of Christ 'confirmed' in us.

Are you confirmed? Is this gift confirmed in you? If someone reads you something from one of these books, do you say, not merely with your lips but deep in your heart, "Thank God, that settles it"? Ah, this is what it means to be above and beyond the dust storms of the Devil, my friends. This is what it means to be hidden in Jesus so that all these clouds of doubt and confusion and uncertainty and questioning do not affect us. As we read last night in Ephesians 4:

"That we from now on be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind..." Ephesians 4:14.

Not tossed about with the winds. Why? We're established in Jesus; we're established in His Word, the Bible; we're established in His testimony, the Spirit of Prophecy. I thank God for this.

One of the most subtle ways that Satan has sought to introduce himself is through educational processes. *Volume 8*, page 305:

"The mastermind in the confederacy of evil is ever working to keep out of sight the words of God and to bring into full view the opinions of men...Through educational processes he is doing all in his power to obscure heaven's light" *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 8*, page 305.

Now, I want to ask you a question, friends. I see some colporteurs here tonight. As you go out into the homes of the people, what kind of books do you present? Do you present books written by infidel authors? Is that what you handle? Do you even take out to these people the books that religious leaders in other denominations have written? Do you? In other denominations? Why do you handle Seventh-day Adventist books as you go from home to home?

I can tell you why. See if you agree with me. Because it has been found through long experience that if you can get people to read Seventh-day Adventist literature, some of them will become Seventh-day Adventists. Is that right?

I wonder if it works the other way around. I wonder if the remnant people of God can get to reading, regardless of where it is, my friends—whether it's in their studies at home in the parlor, or whether it's in the classrooms of educational institutions—if they get to reading and studying infidel authors, do you think any of them might become infidels? Has it happened? All too often, my friends.

Suppose that there are placed in their hands books that bring questions regarding the doctrine of creation, that teach this devilish doctrine of evolution.

“Ah,” you say, “but our young people have to meet those things sometime anyway.”

Oh, my dear friends, have we come to the time when we must mingle the philosophies of the world with Christian education? And is that the best that we can offer our young people? God forgive us!

Read this chapter in Volume 8 from which I just quoted some of the first paragraphs. This *warns* us against the infidel authors and many other classes of books that are common today. And on page 309, there’s given this summary:

“Never should books containing a perversion of truth be placed before children or youth” *Ibid.*, page 309.

And as a friend of mine used to say, “Never—that’s not very often, is it?”

“Never should books containing a perversion of truth be placed before children or youth” *Ibid.*

Oh, thank God, friends, we don’t have to lead our children and young people into the dust storms of the Devil. Let us make certain in our homes that the books that our children read, from the time they’re old enough to look at pictures and right on through, have *truth* in them and don’t sow the seeds of doubt. Be sure that that which does not speak according to the law and the testimony does not have light in it.

Now, there is another phase of doubt that I would like to notice. First, however, before I do that, turn to Romans, the 10th chapter. I want to notice how faith, which is the opposite of doubt, comes. And then, of course, we will see clearly how doubt originates because doubting is the opposite of faith. Romans 10:17. Will you read it with me?

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God” Romans 10:17.

How does faith come?

[Audience responds] By hearing

By hearing what?

[Audience responds] The Word of God

Hearing the television? Hearing the radio? Hearing the newspaper? The only time when radio and television can develop faith in you is when the Word of God, pure and unadulterated, is being presented there. We can thank God for our denominational broadcasts preaching the message of the third angel. But most of what is on television is trash, trivia, and trouble. Very little else that's left.

And remember this, my dear friends, even when people listen to religious broadcasts or telecasts (I'm speaking of those from the popular churches), even though the Word of God is read, it is interpreted in such a way that doubts are suggested that undermine faith in the third angel's message.

Instead of religious broadcasts being something to encourage people to listen to, I'd a whole lot rather they would listen to the newscasts of this world than the religious broadcasts. Why? Because listening to the newscasts of this world, they might get some *political* misinformation, but when they listen to the religious broadcasts, they are sure to get some *religious* misinformation, and that's far more serious, isn't it, friends?

"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" Isaiah 8:20.

So then, faith cometh by what? Hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. I ask again: how does faith come? By hearing the Word of God. Then if you want faith, you'll listen to what? The Word of God. Now, suppose instead of that, you listen to the words of men whose hearts have doubt in them? Then what will you get? You'll get doubts, just as sure as can be.

I want to share with you what I think is one of the most interesting passages that the prophet of God ever wrote. I don't know whether you will agree with my evaluation of this, but this is *very interesting* to me. It's in *Selected Messages*, Book 2, page 166. It is in a letter written to Elder D. M. Canright. How many of you have ever heard of Canright? Oh, yes. Canright, at one time, was quite a preacher among us in the earlier days, but Canright allowed his mind to become filled with doubt. If there was ever a man that was plagued with doubt, it was Canright. He went in and out of this message several different times.

Now, this letter was written October 15, 1880 from Battle Creek. This is a long letter that Sister White wrote to Elder Canright, appealing to him to reconsider and to not go all the way in separating himself from God and God's message for this hour. But on page 166 is this statement. Listen carefully:

"I do not ask an explanation of your course. Brother [C. W.] Stone wished to read your letter to me. I refused to hear it. The breath of doubt, of complaint and unbelief, is contagious; if I make my mind a channel for the filthy stream, the turbid, defiling water proceeding from Satan's fountain, some suggestion may linger in my mind, polluting it. If his

suggestions have had such power on you as to lead you to sell your birthright for a mess of pottage—the friendship of the Lord’s enemies—I want not to hear anything of your doubts, and I hope you will be guarded, lest you contaminate other minds...” *Selected Messages*, Book 2, page 166.

Here was a letter that the prophet of God refused to read. It was the letter that explained *why* Canright was doing what he was doing. Well, shouldn’t she read it so she could answer it? Shouldn’t she examine it so she could point out all that was wrong with it?

Do you know, my friends, there is an idea afloat today that you ought to be willing to investigate *anything*. Have you ever heard it? That you ought to be willing to read *anything* and if you can’t show what’s wrong with it, you ought to accept it and stand by the man who’s presenting it. This paragraph will bear careful study before we start that program. Jesus says, “...by their fruits ye shall know them” (Matthew 7:20). And when I see that a certain program, a certain message, a certain movement has fruit which is evident—leads people *out* of the movement instead of into it, leads people to doubt and question concerning the leadership of the movement rather than confirm faith in it—is it *my* duty to investigate *every* nook and corner of that program? Is it *my* duty to listen to *every* doubt that is suggested and *every* report concerning the mistakes of the brethren? Oh, no, friends. If I listen to doubt, what does the prophet say?

“...Some suggestion may linger in my mind, polluting it”
Selected Messages, Book 2, page 166.

Oh, brethren, this is safety for us.

“And a Man shall be as an hiding place from the wind...”
Isaiah 32:2.

As you see the dust clouds gathering, these clouds of criticism and question and insinuation concerning the leadership of the movement, the authenticity, the authority of this organization, remember these words of the prophet. She kept her mind clean. I’m thankful that she did, aren’t you?

And listen. I wonder, friends, if she couldn’t afford to have *her* mind befogged and clouded and polluted with these doubts, I wonder if *I* can afford to? If the prophet of God had to guard *her* mind from these doubts, I wonder if *I* don’t need to also. What would you say? The Lord grant us wisdom.

Now, another kind of doubt that I want to call attention to: doubts in our own personal experience; doubts concerning our acceptance with the Lord; doubts concerning the Lord’s forgiveness of our sins and the presence of His Spirit in our hearts.

Let’s turn to James, the first chapter, beginning with the fifth verse:

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord” James 1:5–7.

Doubts, you see, limit the blessing which we receive from God. “...What things soever [we] desire, when [we pray], believe that [we] receive them, and [we] shall have them” (Mark 11:24).

In the last message that Sister White ever wrote, we find some of the most beautiful, encouraging words on this point. You will find them now in *Testimonies to Ministers*, pages 516–517. This was a personal testimony written to someone who was having a battle with doubts and fears. Writing to this individual, the prophet says:

“[Christ] is waiting to take you into a harbor of gracious experience...

”Put away your distrust of our heavenly Father. Instead of talking of your doubts, break away from them in the strength of Jesus, and let light shine into your soul by letting your voice express confidence and trust in God...Be helped, be strengthened, be lifted out of and away from the dark dungeon of unbelief. Doubts will rush into your mind, because Satan is trying to hold you in captivity to his cruel power; but face him in the strength that Jesus is willing to give you, and conquer the inclination to express unbelief in your Savior.

“Do not talk of your inefficiency and your defects”
Testimonies to Ministers, page 516.

Do you know how to have more faith, friends? Talk what faith you have. Do you know how to have more doubts? Why, just talk out what doubts you already have. That’s all. It’s that simple. The book *Evangelism*, page 633:

“Let us take heed to our words. Let us talk faith, and we shall have faith. Never give place to a thought of discouragement in the work of God. Never utter a word of doubt” *Evangelism*, page 633.

There is what word “never” again. How often is that? It’s never:

“Never utter a word of doubt” *Ibid.*

But suppose you *feel* doubt and discouragement. Go to God, alone, and pour out your soul to God in prayer and start reading the promises. For what was it we learned came by hearing the Word of God? Faith. But doubt comes by hearing the doubts of others, and our own doubts multiply as we express them.

Oh, I wish I could help somebody here tonight to determine, by God's grace, never again to utter a word of doubt or discouragement. This is the way, dear friends, to work with Jesus, to settle your soul in faith. Talk faith, and you'll have faith. Talk doubt, and you'll have doubt.

Which do you want? Thank God, we can get it, then, by going to Jesus, listening to His Word, and then expressing faith in Him on every possible occasion.

This leads us right into the testimony service. What word of courage, cheer, confidence, thanksgiving is in your heart tonight? Will you express it, my friends? Expression deepens impression. Will you say that with me? Expression deepens impression. Again: Expression deepens impression.

So, if there's even a *little bit* of faith in your heart tonight, talk it out—express it. If there's any doubt, let it die because you never expressed it. Let it die of neglect. Yes! Let it die of neglect. But take that plant of faith and water it and feed it and encourage it. Expression does what? Deepens impression. What is your expression tonight?

[Testimony service]

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