

# Working with Angels

#0357

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—March 8, 1977

I have something wonderful to share with you tonight. It's all right to be happy about your subject, isn't it? Yes. And the thing that makes me happy is this: I know that somebody here this evening, as the result of this little study, your efficiency, your production, is going to come up anywhere from 10 to 50 or even 100 percent. Now wouldn't that be wonderful, to get more done? That's right. And enjoy it more. I'm just as sure of it as can be. It could be *you*.

We'll begin with 1 Corinthians 3:9:

"For we are laborers together with God..." 1 Corinthians 3:9.

That's all we'll study now, just those few words. Jesus stopped right in the middle of a verse when He preached at Nazareth. You knew that, didn't you? You'll find that in Luke 4, quoting from the prophecy of Isaiah. Well, we're going to stop right here, because this is a bite, big enough for us to chew on; we won't take the whole slice.

"For we are laborers together with God..."

Will you say that with me?

"For we are laborers together with God..."

Now we're laborers, we're all laborers here, aren't we? But we're laborers together, with whom? God. That's what I want to study with you—this partnership with God in the daily work of life.

In *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 349, I read:

"Religion and business are not two separate things; they are one" *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 349.

What does "one" mean? Not what, in this context? Not *two*. They're what? They're "one." What are the two things that are one? Religion and business.

“Bible religion is to be interwoven with all we do or say. Divine and human agencies are to combine in temporal as well as in spiritual achievements. They are to be united in all human pursuits, in mechanical and agricultural labors, in mercantile and scientific enterprises” *Ibid*.

Lloyd, would you come here and help me a minute? Now I want to ask you something. Do you think that he and I can together pull more than I could alone? Do you all agree to that? Thank you, that's all. [Audience laughter]

Now, if God and I are working together, in working on an automobile, or digging in a garden, or giving a treatment, or washing the dishes, do you think we might get more done? Now, this is not just some tranquilizer; it isn't just something that you sort of puff out into the air to make the room smell better. Oh, no. We're studying something here tonight that's *real*. It's real, it gets results.

Let me read this again:

“Divine and human agencies are to combine in temporal as well as in spiritual achievements. They are to be united in all human pursuits, in mechanical and agricultural labors, in mercantile and scientific enterprises” *Ibid*.

I got to looking at that, and I thought that everything that's going on this campus could fit in under one of those four heads, probably. Don't you think so? Anybody here that's engaged in *mechanical* labors? That would take in anything in building lines, machinery or maintenance. What about agricultural? Well, I hope *everybody* here gets a hand in that somewhat. Mercantile—that's in business lines. And scientific enterprises—that takes in some phases of our work, doesn't it? All right.

Now, this is not mentioning what we usually think of as religious activity. We all take for granted that we're laborers together with God in that. We all know that when we go on a Bible study, we're supposed to pray that God will give us the words to speak, and pray that He'll help us to make plain the Scriptures. We all understand that, don't we? But now this is talking about the secular sector, the practical phases of life. And in all these, God and man are to be working together, is that right? Yes.

Let's take a look at Psalm 127, verse 1, and look at this matter of mechanical things. If I'm going to use a hammer or a saw, I want the Carpenter of Nazareth there with me, what do you say?

“Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it...” Psalm 127:1.

God and man are to be right there working together. Then on agriculture, in *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 6*, it says:

“The same God who guides the planets works in the fruit orchard and in the vegetable garden” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 6*, page 186.

Is He working in *your* garden?

And then it goes on to say:

“So when students employ their time in agricultural work, in heaven it is said of them, Ye ‘are laborers together with God.’ 1 Corinthians 3:9” *Ibid.*, page 187.

Well, God and I are to work together in digging in the ground, cutting the weeds, cultivating, is that right?

Back in 1909, Sister White was on her way from her home in California to the General Conference, that was to meet in Washington. And on the way, she stopped at Madison, that little school that was training self-supporting workers. And she went over to another self-supporting school called Hill Crest School Farms. It’s no longer functioning. But while she was there, she said this. Listen to what Sister White said to the teachers and students in this little self-supporting school near Nashville:

“I am deeply interested in the work that is being done here because special light has been given me... You are not working alone. When you are tempted to become discouraged, remember this: Angels of God are right around you. They will minister to the very earth, causing it to give forth its treasures” Manuscript 13, April 26, 1909, “To the Workers and Students at Hill Crest School.”

Did you ever think of that? When you are hoeing there in the garden, if you are a laborer together with God, who is there working with you? Angels. And that isn’t just to keep you happy, and it isn’t just to keep you spiritual, it’s to *do* something to the *ground*. That’s what this says.

Now I want you to see the other side of that. Go back to Genesis, the fourth chapter. You’ll remember that in the third chapter, we have the sad story of the fall of man. And the Lord told Adam that, as the result of his sin, the ground must be cursed for his sake. He had to work harder to get a living out of the soil, and the thorns and thistles would come. You remember that, don’t you? But still the earth was in a beautiful condition, compared with what we know today.

Now, in the fourth chapter of Genesis, you'll remember the story of Cain and Abel. What happened to the ground as the result of Cain becoming a murder? Notice the 11<sup>th</sup> verse and the 12<sup>th</sup>.

“And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand; When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength...” Genesis 4:11–12.

Had you noticed that? How many of you are seeing something in that, for the first time, may I see your hands? Several of you, all right. I want you to meditate on that.

Now, had something happened to the chemistry of the earth? Had there been some terrible flood or fire or something? No. Cain had murdered his brother. God said, Cain, I have been blessing the earth, in spite of the curse of sin, for you. But from now on, besides the curse that came because of your father's sin, for *you*, there's going to be a *second* curse. And from now on, the earth won't give you as much for your work as it did before. Is that what it's saying? Now, the opposite you see is in what I just read you here.

“You are not working alone... When you are tempted to become discouraged, remember this: Angels of God are right around you. They will minister to the very earth, causing it to give forth its treasures” Manuscript 13, April 26, 1909, “To the Workers and Students at Hill Crest School.”

I say, I think that's wonderful. Isn't that encouraging—to get out with the spade and the hoe and all the rest? Because, dear folks, what comes out of the earth, as a result of our work, depends upon our labor, but not *only* on our labor. That's what I'm getting at. It depends upon that unseen One that's working with us. God, through His angels, is causing the earth to produce what it wouldn't produce if a Christian weren't working that soil. That's not superstition, that's faith.

Now, let's see what else we have here. *Counsels on Health*, page 330. This is in the scientific field; this is talking about the medical missionary work; this is talking about the work of the Christian physician:

“The man who is closely connected with the Great Physician of soul and body has the resources of heaven and earth at his command, and he can work with a wisdom, an unerring precision, that the godless man cannot possess” *Counsels on Health*, page 330.

Isn't that something? Well then, if I'm sick, what kind of a doctor do I want? I want a Christian doctor; I want one that brings the angels of God with him, in diagnosis and in prescription.

“He longs to give you understanding in temporal as well as in spiritual matters” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, page 146.

Does He know how to fix a *machine* that won’t work? Does He know how to fix a *body* that won’t work? And all of this is to give us faith that He knows how to fix a *soul* that won’t work—to change the spiritual experience. Now I said, when I introduced this subject tonight, that I was so happy to share this with you because God has impressed me that there are some people here tonight whose efficiency is going to increase anywhere from 10 to 50 or even 100 percent. A 100 percent would be twice as much. Wouldn’t it be wonderful? Yes.

Now, let me see if we can get something here on the twice as much:

“It takes some persons ten hours to do that which another accomplishes readily in five” *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, page 316.

Well, if the person that takes 10 hours to do it, would improve a hundred percent, he would get it done in how long? In five. So, you see what I’m saying is within the realm of possibility. Now, you might not hit that all in one day, but, thank God, we can *move* in that direction. But it isn’t merely in accomplishing things more *quickly*, friends. Even more important is accomplishing things more *accurately*. More accurately. Does cooking call for accuracy? Does gardening call for accuracy? Does hydrotherapy call for accuracy? Does laboratory work call for accuracy? Does work in the business office call for accuracy? Do you know anything that doesn’t? Well, maybe strolling out on a woodland path doesn’t call for it quite so much. But when it comes to *work*, we’re seeking to *accomplish* something. That’s why we work, isn’t it? Yes, this is not a gymnasium; this is a laboratory in which we are accomplishing things. And I repeat, our goal is not merely getting things done more *quickly*, but getting them done more *accurately*. Do you know what is needed for that? A mind that *thinks*, and that is in close touch with the Holy Spirit, who can impart ideas.

The Holy Spirit can say to the farmer or the gardener, can impress him, with something to do *today* that needs to be done. Does God know when it’s going to rain? Does God know when we need to get our plants in and when to cultivate? So with the physician and the consultation, or the examination room. Oh, my friends, there are a *hundred* things that the godless man may miss, that the Christian physician wouldn’t miss. Something will come to his mind, and it isn’t some stroke of genius that he can be proud about. Oh, it is the work of the angels bringing to his mind something that, perhaps, he learned years ago in medical school. Perhaps something he hadn’t thought of before. He’s working with the Great Physician of soul and body. So in the business office as we deal with patients. And I could go on with everything we’re doing. What did I read here? “He longs to give you understanding in temporal as well as in spiritual matters.” He can sharpen the intellect.

You know how you sharpen a pencil. God can sharpen your what? Your intellect. Does your intellect need sharpening? Some people sure need to sharpen up, friends. Yes. Well, God can do it for us.

“He can give tact and skill. Put your talents into the work, ask God for wisdom, and it will be given you” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, page 146.

I think this is wonderful. What do you say, friends?

“Let nothing hinder you... Be ambitious, for the Master’s glory...” *Ibid.*, page 332.

“And those who would be workers together with God must strive for perfection of every organ of the body and quality of the mind” *Ibid.*, page 330.

How’s that for an impossible job? But is it impossible? Why no, God isn’t speaking to tantalize us. True, it may take a lifetime, but it’s *worth* a lifetime, isn’t it, friends? We’re *never* to be satisfied with anything less than what? Perfection. But thank God, we can get encouraged. If you want some courage on that, look at the motto down in the chapel when you go in. Some of you that were there in class yesterday saw that beautiful motto on the wall. What does it say? “Constantly God is laboring to make up man’s deficiencies.” (See *In Heavenly Places*, pg. 221.)

But, dear friends, God is not laboring to make up our deficiencies if we are lazy, is He? God doesn’t send angels to weed the garden while I lay out there and sing. Oh no. The angels of God are ministering to the earth while *I’m* ministering to the earth, is that right? And the angel and I can get more done than I can alone. And, may I say it factually, more than the *angel* will alone. I won’t argue that the angel *could* do the whole thing by himself, but he’s not going to. If you doubt it, just try it. You’ll know what you will have. What will it be? A weed patch.

But now, back to my fundamental premise, dear friends. In every job we undertake, we can have the benefit of heavenly angels impressing our minds. How long does it take you to do the dishes? Some young woman, she may be here tonight, was telling us down at the chapel, you remember, about that she was assigned to do the dishes in the morning, and lo and behold, she got it again in the afternoon. Well, that could happen. I’ll tell you frankly, if I had a nickel for every dish I washed in my life, I could help Bill Dull get that New York property in good shape. That’s one thing I know how to do, is wash dishes and dry them. I have a master’s degree in that field. [Audience laughter] But, my dear friends, I think I can still learn some more about how to do it skillfully and quickly at the same time. Would any of you like to join me in that? I still get my hand in every now and then.

Listen, dear friends, God and angels are interested in helping you and me wash the dishes, aren’t they? If they’re not, no more dishwashing for me; I’ll eat on a

paper plate. The only thing I'm interested in is something that I can be a laborer together with God in. Is that right? Incidentally, this is one reason why I'd just as soon leave the golf and the tennis and the baseball to other people. I can't imagine the dear Lord sending an angel to help me whip somebody else. Can you? No, no. No, I want to be in something that I know the angels are cooperating with me, speaking through my voice, using my muscles, using my mind, but not like an automaton, not like a robot. No, they are *suggesting* to me, giving me ideas, how to write this letter that's so difficult to write. How to solve this mechanical problem, friend. You come up against problems again and again in maintenance, haven't you? God's helped you, hasn't He? Sure.

My dear friends, we can have it clear across the board. Every worker and every student on this campus can be consciously in cooperation with the Lord of glory. Is that something to be happy for? Oh, I thank God *this* is for real. This is not imaginary; this isn't something just to write poems about or sing songs about, although it's worth poems and songs, isn't it? Thank God, this is real.

Now back to page 146:

"You need not go to the ends of the earth for wisdom, for God is near. It is not the capabilities you now possess or ever will have that will give you success" *Ibid.*, page 146.

May I tell you, this is what is so (I was about to say "wrong"), I'll just say "pitiful" about conventional education. The idea is if you can only stay long enough and learn enough facts, you'll be equipped to go out and meet the problems of life. But it's a lie, my friend.

Let me read it again:

"It is not the capabilities you now possess or ever will have that will give you success. It is that which the Lord can do for you" *Ibid.*

Now don't let somebody run clear off to the other extreme and say, "Ok, I'm just going to pray and go by my hunches from now on. If I look at an engine and it's not working, I'll just wait until I get a hunch, and I'll say, 'There it is, that's the trouble.'" No. I hope you won't treat *me* that way if I'm the *patient*. Oh, no. It's God and man doing what? Working together. What am I to put into it? My best, that's right, that's all I *can* put in. But I dare not put any *less* than that into it, whether it's gardening, dishwashing, giving a treatment, or running a machine, whatever it might be. I want to do what? My best. But my best is not good enough. And so God sends an angel, not just to keep a record and write down what I did and what I didn't do. Oh no. He's there to help me in two ways: to put ideas into my mind that otherwise I wouldn't have, and also to work right along with me so that the two of us get more done than I would working alone. What do you say about this, friends? Isn't this wonderful? Thank God, it's true, it's true, and it's for you.

Now, let's think about another part of our work—soul-winning. You can see that if these things are true in mechanical and agricultural labors, and mercantile and scientific enterprises, certainly they must be true in soul-winning.

Let me share this beautiful statement with you:

“God will impress those whose hearts are open to truth and who are longing for guidance. He will say to His human agent: ‘Speak to this one or that one of the love of Jesus’”  
*Testimonies for the Church, Volume 6, page 339.*

You notice, it isn't some computer thing; it isn't some photograph or tape recorder that we say, “Well, put this on for TLC.” No, no. This, my friends, is the inspiration of the Almighty. This is *God* speaking to the nurse, the physician, the minister, the Bible worker, the colporteur, the housewife, the mechanic—anybody that's in contact with other people. At the right time, at the right place, to the right person, “speak to this one of the love of Jesus.”

“No sooner is the name of Jesus mentioned in love and tenderness than angels of God draw near to soften and subdue the heart” *Ibid.*

Oh friends, every one of us can have that divine leading, as to what to say, when to say it, and who to say it to. Aren't you thankful? Now, think of what a great privilege we have on Sabbath in our Sabbath ministry. Whether it's giving a treatment to a pain-filled patient or doing the other necessary things that must be done, all day long on the Sabbath, we have double reason to expect divine leading, right? What a privilege, what a privilege. Can you begin to see, friends, that if a man or woman ever gets this concept we're studying tonight, all he wants, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Sabbath, is to be just where God wants him at that particular time, and he's listening to get his signals and directions from Heaven. Whether it's in mechanical work, domestic work, nursing, medical work, business office, giving Bible studies, whatever. Every waking moment, we can be in partnership with God. Then, how much money would it take to buy you away from that program?

Christ has purchased you; He has purchased you with a sacrifice of His blood. So, my thought tonight is: let us make use of our privileges, what do you say? Let's make use of our privileges. Now obviously, this calls for faith, because I can't see that angel. I can't see him out there doing anything to the soil. I can't see him as he stands by my side, whether in the desk or here tonight, or by the bedside of some patient, or washing the dishes. I can't see the angel. Is he there? Yes, he's there. How do I know it? By faith. What is faith? Believing God. How much would you like? How much would you like?

You know, if somebody would give you their credit card to one of the big department stores down in town, and tell you to go down there and buy anything you



needed, it would be too bad to come back with a fifty-cent purchase, wouldn't it? Well, it would be nice to at least get that much. Oh friends, "There is no limit to the usefulness of the one who, by putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart, and lives a life wholly consecrated to God." (See *Desire of Ages*, 250.)

Now, purposely, I've made this short study tonight, because I knew that as soon as I gave it, somebody would want to say something. And maybe it's you. If it is, up on your feet and say it, right to the point. And listen, if we get hold of the temple of what we studied tonight, it'll deliver us from all of these dragged-out, dreary, discouraging types of witnessing. We'll ask God to help us to get right down to business, and let our testimonies be on the point of courage and cheer of what God has done and is doing and will do. What do you say? All right.

[Testimonies are shared.]

Now folks, I haven't time tonight, perhaps we can study some other night some of the questions that can be raised on this subject, and some of the safeguards, and all that sort of thing. Wouldn't it be too bad to take a beautiful truth like this and become fanatical and extreme with it, wouldn't it? No, it's not necessary. All we have to do is just read what this says, and go by that. But, let no fear of extreme keep you from reaching up for all that God wants to give you. This doesn't mean that you'll be perfect or infallible. God may let you make mistakes, but if He does, it's to teach you some lesson. Don't worry about that; you may even cry over some of your mistakes, that doesn't mean God's forsaken you. It only means that you're not *graduated* yet. That's all right. Thank God, Jesus is helping you. And what's that statement that's down there, that motto on the wall? "Constantly God is laboring to make up man's deficiencies."

By the way, a closing thought: if *God* is laboring all the time to make up people's deficiencies, would it be a good thing for *me* to labor all the time to make up people's deficiencies? No. That's right, let's help one another.

All right, let's stand.

Precious Lord, we're so glad to be in partnership with You. We thank Thee with all our hearts that Thou art willing to take us with all our liabilities and limitations and take the risk of using us. Help us, Lord, to trust Thee and to do the very best we can and then believe that You're making up for our deficiencies. In Jesus' name, we thank Thee, amen.

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