

Writing the Law in the Heart

#0559

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—August 3, 1964

What would you think of a student who was in, we'll say, the sixth grade in school, who was having difficulty with mathematics. The arithmetic problems are very difficult for him, and every time there's a test, he fails that test.

What would you think if he should say after he had failed several tests, "Well, I'm so glad next year I'm going into the seventh grade. I think it'll be a lot easier for me then. I won't have to worry about all these hard problems that I haven't been able to solve in the sixth grade."

What would you think of that sort of reason?

You would say, "That student is not acquainted with the way things work in school."

Isn't that right? Yes. Because as we go along in school, problems get what? Easier or harder? Harder.

Now, I *will* say this, friends. We can make the problems in the seventh grade much harder by *not* solving the problems in the sixth grade. Is that correct? Yes. In fact, we can make them impossible, can't we? That's right. And so, a wise teacher will keep a student working on the problem that is difficult for him. Am I correct on that? Or is that poor teaching? You think that's all right, do you? Keep working at the problem that is difficult until one can solve it. Is that right? That's the way if we're going to go on.

I was quite interested in what someone told me about General John J. Pershing. He was the commander for the American expeditionary forces, you remember, during World War I.

When he was just a little fellow, and he started school, he was a great perplexity to his teachers. He couldn't keep up with the class, for something in that little head of his insisted on fully mastering anything he came to. Whatever it was, whether it was reading, or arithmetic, or whatever, if he came to something and he couldn't see through it, he just stayed right there. The class might go on, but he stayed. And as I say, the teachers hardly knew what to do with a student like that. But at any rate, he was a human being. He was an individual and enough of an individual that he stuck with it.

Well of course, in time, he mastered that point and that point and that point, and really, as I remember the story, he finished the eighth grade ahead of the students that he'd started with because really, friends, much of elementary education from the first grade right on through is going over and over and over

things. Isn't it? Yes. They keep getting a little more difficult, but even in high school and college, one of the things that takes the time of many a teacher and many a student is going over things that were supposed to have been learned long before. Am I correct? Yes.

Now, listen. Jesus is preparing a people for the final examination. That's what the three angels' messages of Revelation 14 are about. That's what they're for, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

Now, in previous examinations down through the history of the world, people usually have had another examination if they didn't succeed. Peter, you remember, didn't make a very good passing mark that night when he was tested in Gethsemane and in the courtroom. Am I correct? You wouldn't say he passed, would you? You'd say he failed, wouldn't you? But did he have another chance? Thank the Lord! And he received the Spirit of God on the day of Pentecost after he had learned the lessons that he had failed to pass in Gethsemane and the judgment hall.

But my point is, friends, he never received the Holy Spirit until he passed those examinations. God took him over the road, over the road.

Do you remember that when they were by the lake up there at Galilee some days after the resurrection Jesus met them up there, you remember, and in the course of the morning after they'd had breakfast, Jesus said to Peter, "Simon, son of Jonas, do you love me?"

What did Peter say?

"Yes, Lord," he said, "You know I love You" [a paraphrase of John 21:15–17].

What did Jesus do then? He asked him the second time. What did Peter say?

"Yes, Lord."

Then, what did Jesus do? Asked him the third time. Why in the world did Jesus ask him three times? That was what was bothering Peter. The Bible says Peter was grieved because Jesus asked him three times [see John 21:17].

And my dear friend, you may be grieved sometimes when Jesus brings you right around again to the same point on which you failed. But remember, He's going to do it because He loves you. And don't think that you're going to skip that grade. And don't think that you're going to put that problem somewhere and hide it, sweep it under the rug, or something. Oh, no; oh, no.

The reason Israel was in the desert for 40 years was that those dear people had to come around again and again and again to the point they had failed on. We as a people must do that. You individually must do that. Oh, I wish every soul would really get that right now before we go any further in our study.

But ah, so many people have the idea, just like students in school, "Well, I hope I won't have that one again. I hope I won't have that one again."

You *will*, my friends! You'll have that very one again.

I might say that this is one of the few things that God and the Devil are agreed upon. And you can readily see that if there is something that both God and the Devil are agreed on, it's useless for you to try to get around it. Isn't that right? Yes.

God, as I have shown, is bringing you around to the point you have failed on. Why? He wants you to learn your lesson and succeed. Well, why would the Devil bring you around to the point you failed on? Well, you know. He knows your weakness. He has studied the points you're weak on. And so, he's delighted to have that problem come up again.

He looks at you, and he says, "Well now, that fella, he failed on that ten years ago. He failed on it nine years ago, and eight years ago, and seven, and six, and five, and four, and three, and two, and one year ago. My, I'm so glad he's going to have that problem again! Because I know he'll fail on it again."

But listen, do you have to fail on something just because you've failed on it ten times? Do you? No, my dear friends, you don't. Thank God! Peter learned his lesson. Moses learned his lesson. And everyone that goes through the gates of the city of God will be somebody that down here in this world learned the lesson. Remember, the only time it's fatal to fail is the last time you try.

Should I repeat that? Remember that the only time it's fatal to fail is the last time you try. And it doesn't make any difference whether that's the first time, or the fiftieth time, or the hundredth time. So, make up your mind, my brother, if you've failed, get up and go on again.

But listen, when you get up and go on again, do not nurse some secret longing in your heart, or some secret hope, "Well, I hope I don't meet that problem again because it has tripped me up now I don't know how many times. And if I can just get through to heaven without meeting that problem, I think I'll get there all right."

But you won't. No. You're going to meet it. That *very* problem that you faced and failed, *that* problem you will meet again. Maybe tomorrow, maybe next week, maybe next month, but you'll meet it. Ask God to help you, friends. Don't feel that you've got to run away from problems.

Listen, run away from the Devil. But listen, Jesus says:

"...I am..." Matthew 28:20.

What?

"...with you alway, even unto the end of the world..."
Matthew 28:20.

And:

“...I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” Hebrews 13:5.

“Stand like the brave with thy face to the foe.”
Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, #610, Refrain (partial).

All right, now that by way of prelude. I want to tell you first of all tonight about a little pig.

You say, “Well, that’s a strange thing to talk about in a chapel like this.”

Well, this little pig must have been an unusual pig. My wife saw him in an express office. He was in a box, a crate. And really, if I may use such an adjective with such a noun, he was a lovely little pig. Yes. He had been washed and fixed up in every way that a pig could, and he had even been powdered. Yes, the little pig had been powdered.

And there he was in a crate, and he was going somewhere. He was in the express office. And my wife wasn’t there to take the pig or to get a pig. She just happened to observe it, you understand.

Well, when she told me about it, I fell to thinking.

I thought, “I wonder what that pig will do, for *all* his washing, and *all* his pedigree, and *all* his special attention, and *all* his powdering, I wonder what the little pig will do when they turn him loose, you know, where he’s going when they turn him loose. What will he do?”

Well, what *will* he do, friends? What? Will he wallow in the mud? Will he make for the nearest mud puddle? You mean after they’ve gone to all that trouble to wash him up and clean him up and powder him that he’ll make right for that mud puddle? How many of you think he will? Well, I guess you’re acquainted with those creatures.

Listen, friends, the Bible has a text on it. Even if we didn’t know anything about it by observation, we could turn over here to Peter’s second epistle, the 2nd chapter, and the 22nd verse. That’s 2, 2, 2, 2—2 Peter 2, verse 22. Don’t forget it. And we’ll see exactly what the apostle Peter says on this subject of pigs:

“But it is happened unto them...” 2 Peter 2:22.

He’s talking about some human beings.

“But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire”
2 Peter 2:22.

That’s it. I wonder why pigs do that, anyway. It’s their nature. That’s it, brother. That’s right. It’s their nature. They like that. Of course, when they’re turned loose, they do what they like to do.

I wonder if there's anybody here tonight like that. Peter says there are some people like that. You can wash them up and do all kinds of things to try to change them, but as soon as they get loose, where do they go? Where do they go, friends? They go to the hog wallow. Why? That's what they like. That's their nature. That's it, my dear friends.

[Man from audience] That's their carnal nature.

Elder Frazee: Yes.

Do you see something in this? Do you see that it is utterly hopeless to make human beings ready for heaven simply by teaching them or simply by putting them in a good environment?

Suppose you'd move that little pig I was talking about, that little pink darling all washed and powdered, suppose you'd move it right in here into Eden Valley.

"Oh," you say, "of all things, no."

Well, just suppose. We're only imagining. And suppose you should take it to hydrotherapy every day and give it a wonderful bath in one of those bathtubs there. And suppose that every time you saw it heading for the neighbor's pigpen and hog wallow, you'd get hold of it and pull it, you know, catch it and pull it back.

And suppose you'd keep that up for six weeks, my friends, and you could be *sure* because you'd have people on duty with it 24 hours a day. You'd be *sure* that it had never gone near a hog wallow for six weeks. Oh, let me make it six months—six months.

And you could stand up and testify, "This creature has never been near the wallow for six months."

Now, turn it loose. What will it do? It will go right to the hog wallow. Do you mean that's all in vain? All those good treatments it got and all that careful watching? You mean it didn't accomplish anything? Not a thing, my friends.

Enoch had that trouble 4,000 years ago and more. Oh yes, my friends. Enoch would go down to the cities of the plain and preach the message of God.

And some people would get under conviction, and they'd say, "But Enoch, I just have so many sins and so many problems. What can I do?"

Enoch says, "Listen, I've got a little retreat out here in the hills. Come on home with me, and you can learn how to live with people that are having a wonderful time living a different way from these cities of the plain."

And so, they come home with Enoch, they come home with Enoch. But my dear friends, whether they're there with Enoch a day, or a week, or a month, or however long it is, the time comes.

They say, “Enoch, you know, I’ve got to get back—I’ve got to get back to the city for a while.”

“What’s the matter?”

“Well, I’ve got this and that and the other thing to do.”

But really, Enoch knows, for he’s been through it over and over again. Enoch knows that the problem is this—there’s a restlessness in that dear man, that poor woman to get back where the bright lights are, and where the hamburgers are, and where the beer and the wine are running, and where the TV and the radio are keeping everything lively, and you know, all the rest.

And Enoch, he pleads with God, and he may plead with men, but he cannot change the nature. What does our text say?

“But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb,
The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that
was washed to her wallowing in the mire” 2 Peter 2:22.

And Enoch, I see him stand there with the tears running down his face as he sees that man that he’s been working with for a week, a month, six months, going on down the road back to Sodom, back to Babylon, back to hell, my friends. And why? He can’t be happy up there in the hills. He is so full of the longings for nicotine and caffeine and alcohol, for the bright lights and the gay jazz and all the rest, that life seems dull and uninteresting up there in the mountains. And even God stands helpless.

And if it was that way, my dear friends, 4,000 years ago and more, what do you think it is in this last hour of human history when:

“...The devil is come down unto *you*, having great wrath,
because he knoweth that he hath but a short time”
Revelation 12:12.

“Ah,” you say, “well then, Brother Frazee, was Enoch’s program entirely hopeless and without results?”

No. Some people got some help.

“What made the difference between those that got help and those that didn’t? It might help some of us tonight.”

Well, dear friends, I’ll tell you what the secret is, I’ll tell you what the secret is. It’s the same thing that would help that poor little pig if there was any way to help it and we needed to help it. That pig would have to have a miracle worked if it would ever stay away from the hog wallow when it was turned loose. Am I correct? Yes.

And unless a person is born again, unless he has a miracle worked in his life, it doesn't make any difference how many treatments he gets, how many parlor lectures he listens to, how many studies on Revelation 14 he takes notes on, how long he listens to the message of God, how long he lives with the people of God, not one nor all of those things will do it, my friends. There must be a *miracle*, a miracle.

Now, turn over here, please, to the book of Ezekiel, chapter 36 and verse 25 beginning. And I want you to see that this is what God is dealing with and what He has promised. And oh, I hope we will have it.

"Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you" Ezekiel 26:25.

Now, if that's all He did, friends, He might have to keep doing it forevermore, just like keeping the pig washed up, you understand. But now, notice what the next verse says:

"A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put My spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes, and ye shall keep My judgments, and do them" Ezekiel 26:26–27.

There is the promise of a miracle, friends—heart surgery if you please. God proposes to take out that old selfish, wicked, sensual, lustful, critical, faultfinding, lazy, selfish heart. He wants to take that out and put in a heart that loves God's way and hates the Devil's way. And that's our only hope. That's what we should be seeking for day by day. I trust we all are. That's the promise.

All right. Now, let's look at the same promise in different words over here in Hebrews the 8th chapter beginning with the 10th verse:

"For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put My laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to Me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know Me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more" Hebrews 8:10–12.

Tell me, friends, when God came down on Mt. Sinai and talked to the children of Israel and then called Moses up into the mount, what did He give him? What did He give him? The Ten Commandments. All right. Who wrote them? God wrote them. What did He write them on? The tables of stone, is that right? The tables of stone.

Who wrote them? God wrote them. And he wrote them on what? Stone.

Now, this text that we've just read says that God is going to write His law where? In our minds and hearts. I wonder how long it took Him to write the Ten Commandments on the stone? Well, we know it didn't take Him longer than forty days because that's all the time Moses was up there, correct? I don't suppose He took all that time to do it. Do you? But that's the maximum, isn't it?

Listen, how long has God been writing in *your* mind and heart? Longer than forty days? Is the job done? Can it *be* done? Is it possible? Why friends, that's what this covenant is about. This covenant is God's promise confirmed with an oath.

“...This is the covenant that I will make...I will put My laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts...”
Hebrews 8:10.

Say, friends, let's let God fulfill His promise. What do you say? Now, you see, if this law is written in our minds and hearts, we'll know God's will and we will also love it. And then, instead of it being hard to do it, it'll be easy.

David said, and he was writing by inspiration prophetically of Jesus, Psalm 40 and the 8th verse:

“I delight to do Thy will, O my God: yea, Thy law is within my heart” Psalms 40:8.

Where was the law in Christ? It was in His heart. And as the result, He what? He delighted to do it. Well, if the law is written in *my* mind and heart, how will it make me feel to do God's will? I'll delight to do it. Oh, how much it means to have God's law written in the heart. Doesn't it, friends?

I want to ask a question. And friends, I mean this very seriously. And think as I ask this question. Fathers (those of you who have children), why don't you kill those children?

Now, you say, “That's an awful question to ask a father.”

Suppose you should tell me, “Why, Brother Frazee, don't you know there's a law here in the state of Colorado against murder? And if I should kill even one of those children, they'd lock me up and probably take my life. And I'm pretty careful.”

Is that the way he's going to answer me? Is there a law here in the state of Colorado that deals with that sort of thing? Is that what is protecting those children? Is that what's keeping fathers from taking their lives? Is that it?

But now, suppose that you answer this way. Suppose you say, “Why, Brother Frazee, the very idea of your asking me that question. Don't you know that the Ten Commandments forbid that, and the wages of sin is death? And if I should kill even

one of my children, I'd go to the lake of fire. And I don't want to burn in hell. And so, I try to be pretty careful about this."

What would you think of *that* answer? Would any of you fathers and mothers here tonight be satisfied with your experience if that's what kept you from murdering your children? Would you?

Or suppose you would say, "Well, Brother Frazee, haven't you heard about that wonderful reward, the pearly gates, and the golden streets. I've read about Heaven, and I want to be there. And I *know* if I kill one of my children, I can't go because the Bible says murderers are going to be outside. And so, hard as it is for me sometimes, I look at that golden city, and I say, 'Well, I'll just hold myself, just hold myself.'"

Is that it? Is it? Is there a law:

"Thou shalt not kill" Exodus 20:13.

...that's keeping the father and the mother—is there a law written somewhere that's keeping them from doing it? Where is it written? In their hearts.

"Oh," you say, "that's just natural."

Well, the Bible says in the last days some people are without natural affection, doesn't it? And every little while in the newspaper, isn't there some headline about some father, or some mother murdering their children? Isn't it happening every now and then? What's the matter? Oh, the law isn't written in their heart. So, it isn't automatic and universal. Is it, friends?

And let me tell you something. When Jerusalem was about to be destroyed in A. D. 70, when that nation and that city that had rejected Jesus and nailed Him to the cross was drinking to the dregs the cup of wrath and judgment, let me tell you natural affection fled, and mothers ate their own children in the siege of that city. Read the first chapter in *Great Controversy*.

And remember that in that same chapter, you will find the statement that what happened in that city is going to happen all over this world in the terrible time of trouble just ahead. This world is going to be a horrible place, friends, when righteousness has fled and justice is gone and natural affection is vanished. Then, men will understand that the only hope that any sinner in this world ever has of doing right on every point is to have the law written where? In the heart.

Now listen, don't you wish that every commandment was written in your heart just like the law "Thou shalt not kill thy children" is written in the heart of a true mother or a true father? Don't you?

If it were, tell me, would it be hard or easy to keep the commandments of God? It would be what? Easy, that's right. And that's what Jesus says in Matthew 11:28–30:

"...My yoke is easy..." Matthew 11:30.

Some people say, “Well Lord, I don’t see very much easy about it.”

Well friends, just like the poor pig, you’ve got to have a miracle, or else you’re going back to the hog wallow just as certain as can be. The law of God has got to be written in your mind and heart so that you know it and love it. And then, friends, just like the mother as she cuddles her little child and coos and sings the little lullabies, that little baby is perfectly safe in her arms. It couldn’t be safer anywhere, right? Yes.

And she doesn’t have to just struggle moment after moment and say, “Oh, I hope I can’t keep this day without murdering my child.”

No, she doesn’t have to do that.

And thank God, friends, we’re not going to have to go a million years, or even a thousand years just clenching our fists and gritting our teeth and saying, “Oh my, if I can just hold on another moment.”

God wants to fulfill His covenant promise:

“...I will put My laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts...” Hebrews 8:10.

Then, we’ll love what God loves, and we’ll, equally true, hate what God hates. And we won’t be running to the hog wallow. We won’t be doing things behind the backs of our parents, or our teachers, or our supervisors that we’d be afraid to do when they were watching. No. We won’t be slipping around with this thing and that thing and the other thing that our conscience condemns us for. It’ll be a delight to do the will of God when the law of God is written in the heart and mind.

“Well,” somebody says, “I sure wish that miracle could happen for me.”

Well, it can, friends. That’s why Jesus died—to make it possible. Now listen, there are two things that God wants to do for us in this, and one He does instantly and the other He takes time for. Some people don’t understand that.

When we come to Jesus and give ourselves to Him, He forgives us instantly. He covers our past mistakes instantly, and we’re accepted just as if we’d never sinned. That’s good news, isn’t it, friends? Everybody ought to be happy over that.

But now, the second part of the work, that of changing our natures, that of writing the law of God in our minds and hearts, so we love everything God loves and nothing else, that dear friends, is a gradual process, a gradual process. And listen, if you were to weep and pray all night tonight, it’d still be a gradual process.

God has proposed to do some writing on this every day in your mind and heart. Will you give Him the time? Will you? Suppose this were a literal thing. Suppose that something had to happen right up here in your ten billion brain cells, it

does, but suppose it were done by some physical treatment or some physical experience.

Suppose you had to come and sit in the doctor's office for 30 minutes each day, and if you do that, day by day, those brain cells would change so you'd like the hog wallow less and love the New Jerusalem more. Listen, would you come 30 minutes a day to have that treatment? Would you?

Somebody says, "Well, I'd like to, but I'm just so busy. I've got to earn a living and the TV programs to keep up with and the newspaper and neighbors and friends and relatives, and there are just all kinds of things running. I'd like to, but I don't know. I'm afraid I couldn't come for 30 minutes every day. Couldn't I come 30 minutes once a week, doctor, and get it done?"

The doctor might say, "Well, if you'd live long enough, 30 minutes a week might *finally* work out something."

But the trouble with us, dear friends, is that none of us live as long as Methuselah today, do we? I say we need this every day. What do you think? Oh friends, did you know that's what our time is for? It's been bought and paid for by the precious blood of Jesus.

And again and again for the last 120 years, when it has seemed that the winds were about to blow over this world and blow everything to pieces, our Advocate has stepped up to the mercy seat and held up His wounded hands as He gazed in pity on the remnant that were not sealed yet.

And He said, "Father, My blood, My blood, My blood, My blood."

And time has been lengthened out a little longer.

Someone was telling me about an accident that happened on the railroad. It was a terrible accident. Many were injured. And the engineer was caught in the wreck in such a way that scalding water from the boiler was getting on his feet and legs. And he cried to one of the trainmen that was hurrying by.

He said, "Can't you get me out of this?"

He said, "We're doing everything we can, and if you can wait for just a little because," he said, "if we moved the wreck now to release you, it would fall on another man that's held and kill him. Can you wait just a few minutes?"

"Oh yes," he said, "but hurry. Hurry, please."

Ah my friends, few realize what our easy-going movements in this matter are costing Jesus. While we work and play and loll around and go on all kinds of things on just living the life of this world, Jesus, our blessed Jesus, is suffering, for He loves every person in this world a million times more than we love anybody. Let's give Him the time to write the law in our minds and hearts. What do you say, friends? Let's do it.

And if *we* will, *He* will. It's His part to do the writing, but it's our part to give Him the time. And listen, don't think that someday He's going to grab you and put a rope around you, like one of these cowboys lassoes a steer, and drag you in and put the brand on you. Oh, no. That's not going to happen today, nor next week.

If this law is ever written in our minds and hearts, we're going to have to come to Jesus and say, "Dear Jesus, I know I'm not like You, but I want to be, and I'm going to give you time every day to write that law in my mind and heart."

It would be well for us to spend a thoughtful period every day meditating on the law of God as written on the stone, and as revealed in that wonderful life of Jesus Who was the Word incarnate, the law lived out. Let's give Him the time. What do you say, friends? Oh, let's do it. Remember, if *we* will, *He* will.

And now, my text, the text we've been having at the beginning, tonight we'll have it at the end. Will you recite it with me? You can see it belongs right here, Revelation 14:12. All together:

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

How many of us would like to send Him the word that we're heart to heart with Him in this matter, that we see that what we need is to have this law written in our minds and hearts and that we're going to give Him the time day by day to write that law in our minds and hearts, that our natures may be changed, that we may love what He loves and hate what He hates?

How many of us would like to send Him that word? Would you stand?

"Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole;
I want Thee forever to live in my soul;
Break down every idol, cast out every foe;
Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Refrain:
Whiter than snow, yes, whiter than snow;
Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, #318, first stanza.

Wednesday night at seven o'clock, we'll continue studying the third angel's message.

Dear Father in Heaven, we thank Thee for keeping Your promise, answering our prayer, and being with us tonight. We thank Thee, oh we thank Thee, that here tonight Thou hast been writing this law in our minds and hearts. And help us tonight when we go home and tomorrow morning when we awake to let Thee do some writing. Help us to *keep* letting Thee work on our brain cells every day, filling our minds with Thy lovely truth.

And let the precious blood of Jesus cover us where we've failed, and as we look at that lovely character, may we be changed into the same image from glory to glory, for Jesus' sake, amen.

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