

I Will Guide Thee

#0612

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—September 30, 1968

It's going to be a wonderful thing when we go on past the moon that the fellow stopped at the other night and go on out beyond, isn't it? We're headed that way.

I enjoyed this psalm that our friend sang just now. May I direct you to another one of David's wonderful songs that is particularly the medical missionary psalm, the 67th Psalm:

"God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause His face to shine upon us; That Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy saving health among all nations" Psalms 67:1–2.

God has a way of life, life and health for all people, and God desires through His people to make that way of health and healing known.

It's interesting to me that this 2nd verse of the 67th Psalm is used as the introductory text in this volume, the *Ministry of Healing*, which we all appreciate very much, and which we are told by inspiration contains the wisdom of the great Physician.

"That Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy saving health among all nations" Psalm 67:2.

David Livingstone once said that God had only one Son, and He made Him a medical missionary. And this is true, and it indicates both the need of this planet and the ideal way to meet that need, as heaven has designed the plan. And so, I'm very happy to be meeting with men and women tonight who in one way or another are interested in having a part in God's wonderful plan of solving the problems of men, for that's what the medical missionary is. He's a problem solver.

In the book *Councils on Health*, page 540, is this significant sentence:

"The work of the true medical missionary is largely a spiritual work" *Counsels on Health*, page 540.

I wonder why. Well, let's look at some of the reasons tonight. First of all, the physical problems of men are caused largely by spiritual problems. What percentage?

Well, in this same book, I have an inspired statistical report, page 324:

"Sickness of the mind prevails everywhere. Nine tenths of the diseases from which men suffer have their foundation here" *Ibid.*, page 324.

Now, let us at once call attention to the fact that this inspired statement is not telling us that nine-tenths of the diseases that people have are all in their heads. No. They may be very much in the stomach, the liver, the lungs, the joints. But the foundation of nine-tenths of the diseases from which men suffer have their origin in the mind.

“Sickness of the mind prevails everywhere. Nine tenths of the diseases from which men suffer have their foundation here” *Ibid.*

I submit then, if this is true, and it is, that it is at once apparent that if we’re going to deal with the physical problems of men, we need to be qualified to help them with their mental problems. And of course, the great physician, Jesus, is the One Who has the answer there.

Take the problem of guilt. Obviously, the Gospel is the only answer to that problem. Any attempt to lessen the sense of guilt just from the standpoint of human reasoning, or to dull it by some chemical or psychological approach, is missing the point. Guilt comes from sin. Sin is the transgression of the law.

“And ye know that He...” 1 John 3:5.

Jesus.

“...was manifested to take away our sins...” 1 John 3:5.

When He takes away the sin, the guilt problem is solved. But:

“...Without shedding of blood is no remission”
Hebrews 9:22.

It takes the blood of Jesus to cleanse from sin. And so, we see from this standpoint one of the reasons why the work of the true medical missionary is largely a spiritual work.

Dr. Loring Swaim, for many years connected with the Harvard Medical School and studying especially the problem of arthritis and kindred diseases, has come to the conclusion that many of the cases that he meets in his practice must have spiritual help in order for arthritis to be affected.

This is interesting. Dr. Swaim is not a member of the church that you and I are, but he has found in this book, the Bible, the means to help many of his patients get away from their anxiety, their guilt, and their other emotions. And when he has helped them through reading the Bible with them, when he has helped them solve their personal spiritual problems, he finds in many cases some changes, sometimes some very spectacular changes, in the actual condition of the joints. Interesting, isn’t it? Yes.

Well, the research that has been done in the last few decades in what has been called psychosomatic medicine helps us to understand some of the reasons for this. There are probably other reasons.

My point is:

“The work of the true medical missionary is largely a spiritual work” *Counsels on Health*, page 540.

The one who has one hand on God and one hand on the people who need help can act as the connecting link between the need and the One Who fills the need, between the Savior and the one who needs the salvation. This is the high privilege of every medical missionary.

But there is another reason why “the work of the true medical missionary is largely a spiritual work”; even when we come to problems that are entirely physical, often we must have spiritual help, or the problem cannot be solved.

As one outstanding example, take the problem of tobacco. This habit, as we here tonight are well acquainted with, is responsible for such things as lung cancer, ulcers of the stomach, coronary heart attacks, and other conditions. Now, does mere knowledge of that fact, does it enable people to break with the tobacco habit? We know that it doesn't.

Only this week, a friend of mine was telling me about an experience in a large medical center where one of our young physicians was taking a residency in surgery. The particular surgeon that he was working with at the time was going over quite a number of cases where they had done stomach surgery. And in the course of the analysis of these, the study of them, the information came out from this surgeon that tobacco had quite a bit to do with a number of these. But the surgeon himself was a tobacco user.

And our young resident asked him about it, and this was his reply.

He said, “I would rather give up my stomach than give up my tobacco.”

That's an educated man, a top-flight surgeon. Do you see, then, what I'm getting at? That even in those areas where the cause of disease is what we might call physical rather than spiritual, we still need a spiritual motivation in order to change the physical habit which is producing the pathology. And without that, we may spread a lot of information.

We may be like that Surgeon General of the United States who a few years ago called a press conference and gave out that startling information that sent the tobacco stocks for a few days going down. He announced that the United States government, after study of the available information, had decided that there was sufficient information to make this announcement, that there was a definite connection between tobacco and lung cancer. And there he stood puffing away while he made the announcement. Yes, yes.

What do we need, men and women? Apparently, we need more than scientific information and professional skill. We need a spiritual motivation. And

what greater motivation could be supplied than not only the knowledge but the experience of being linked with God in the care of this body temple?

To know that the body, as well as the soul, is formed in the image of God, to know that this body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, to know that we were not only made in God's image but bought with the blood of Calvary, oh this, my friend, enables people to break with the tobacco habit and every other damaging thing.

And so, if we are to help our patients or any that we may reach in other relationships, if we're to really help them break these various habits, what do we need? We need a spiritual experience that we may impart to them.

"The work of the true medical missionary is largely a spiritual work" *Counsels on Health*, page 540.

In a similar setting, think of some of the other problems like overweight. Is there a relationship between overweight and heart attacks, for example? You know what the statistics are, not only as relates to coronary heart attacks but quite a number of other conditions. But merely publishing the life insurance figures and mortality statistics doesn't accomplish in many individuals a change of weight, does it? No.

And we're familiar with the fact that many people are losing weight and then gaining it, and losing it and gaining it, and losing it and gaining it, until someone smiles and says, "Yes, he's lost a hundred or two hundred pounds over the years."

Well, what do we need, friends? Well, we need more than some statistics; we need more than some nutritional information. We need motivation, right? And thank God in the Gospel and the third angel's message there *is* motivation. But the work of the true medical missionary, largely a spiritual work, does *more* than supply information. It provides that motivation. Oh, I'm thankful for that. What do you say? Thank the Lord, friends, for true medical missionary work.

But you know, there's another reason why the work of the true medical missionary is largely a spiritual work. And I hope you'll all think this one through with me just now. Tell me, friends, if you love a man enough to try to add 10 years to his life by getting the tobacco out of him, and the liquor, and the other habits that are dragging him down, if you love him enough to try to add 10 years to his life, what would you do to add a million years to his life?

Do you agree with me that whatever reason we have for trying to add 10 years to his life, whatever reason we have for that, if we can find some way to add a million years, we'd certainly jump at the chance? What do you say? Is that right? Well, that's exactly what the spiritual work offers.

There is nothing we can do in the hospital from a mechanical, or chemical, or any other standpoint other than spiritual, which will add very many years to a man's life. There is no drug, no surgical procedure, and no change of habits of men that can of itself lengthen life very far.

But oh, through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, through this wonderful message that God has given us, men are offered the opportunity of living forever. And this is not merely eternal life in one dimension. It is not merely the extension of existence. That by itself might be a misery rather than a blessing. But it is eternal life in *all* dimensions. It is eternal life in which we enter into a breadth and height and depth as well as length that is like the life of God. He wants to share His life with us. And this is real, this is real.

And so, when we're dealing with the patient, as we're thinking of helping him to get away from those habits which are making him sick, deep in our hearts and so full that it overflows is that longing to help that patient get acquainted with Jesus so that he can not only live a little longer here but live forever in a world without sickness and sin. Isn't that a wonderful privilege we have, friends?

Now, let's think then of this sentence:

"The work of the true medical missionary is largely a spiritual work" *Counsels on Health*, page 540.

Will you recite it with me?

"The work of the true medical missionary is largely a spiritual work" *Ibid.*

Again:

"The work of the true medical missionary is largely a spiritual work" *Ibid.*

And why? First of all, because most of the diseases from which men suffer have their origin in the state of mind, and only a spiritual experience can resolve those conflicts.

Second:

"The work of the true medical missionary is largely a spiritual work" *Ibid.*

Because even when disease is due to physical habits, there must be supplied spiritual motivation in order to change those habits. And not only to change them but get them to stay changed.

And number three:

"The work of the true medical missionary is largely a spiritual work" *Counsels on Health*, page 540.

Because he has the great privilege of adding not merely 10 years to life, but a million years, a million years, a million years, and on through the endless ages of eternity.

Friends, I thank God that He called me early in my life to medical missionary work. It's been my life. It still is. And I wouldn't have missed it for anything. And I thank God that He's calling each of you in one way or another. There are many ways to do it. But oh, I thank God He's calling each of you to have a part in this glorious work, the medical missionary work.

Years ago, the Lord's messenger wrote:

"We shall see the medical missionary work broadening and deepening at every point of its progress, because of the inflowing of hundreds and thousands of streams, until the whole earth is covered as the waters cover the sea"
Medical Ministry, page 317.

Is it going to happen? Yes. This earth is to be lightened with the glory of the Lord. This earth is to be covered with the revelation of God's love, and His purposes through medical ministry, as the waters cover the sea. I thank God for all that we see now. I thank God more for what I know we are going to see tomorrow. You and I are called to have a part in it.

Now, I'll say this, friends. Medical missionary work is the most expensive work in the universe. It costs. The One who founded it left a world of ease, comfort, convenience, and wealth and came down to this planet, that He might give us a demonstration of true medical missionary work. Christ, the great Medical Missionary, went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the Devil.

His was largely a spiritual work, and yet He spent more of His time healing than He did preaching. Every occasion of healing was a time for teaching. Healing, teaching, preaching were to Him simply three parts of one program; three sides to one operation. I know this, friends, the nearer we get to the way He worked, the more successful our efforts will be.

May we bow our heads?

Heavenly Father, we thank Thee with all our hearts for the great privilege of having a part in the demonstration of Thy way, Thy saving health. Give each one here tonight the joy of knowing Thy call and knowing the answers, the response of a loving spirit.

Take these hands of ours and use them to minister. Take these lips of ours and use them to teach. Take these hearts of ours and use them to feel with Thee, that the woes of men may be lightened and the problems of men may be solved, and the souls of men saved, through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

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