

# Proof, Power, Pleasure

#0690

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—January 17, 1964

Since we last met in vesper service, the long-awaited report from the committee appointed by the president to investigate the question of tobacco—that report has come out. And most of you are acquainted with the fact that the worst fears of the tobacco companies have been realized and that this committee has given a strong indictment of tobacco.

It stated without any question that cigarette smoking is a definite health hazard. It has dealt with the lung cancer question, but with other things, cancers in other parts of the body, coronary and other conditions.

Well now, it is not that report that I want to study with you tonight. It is the reaction to it that I think is very interesting, very interesting.

Just as a sample, in the Monday afternoon newspaper, one of the headlines is, "Tobacco Growers in State Not Worried."

Now, I want to read it to you, folks. And here as we sit in this little vesper service, I'd just like to have us meditate on the reaction of the public when the scientists of the world come out with a long-awaited report, and they say, "Yes, tobacco kills, it's killing thousands, thousands every year," what's the reaction? "Tobacco Growers Not Worried."

"Tobacco is Tennessee's second-largest cash crop bringing in 90 million dollars a year to farmers in the state. Tobacco growers in Tennessee claim they are not worried by the new report. They say the result had been expected for some time, and more importantly, most smokers don't want to quit. Matt Jennings, tobacco expert for the state department of agriculture, said, 'Seventy-five percent of those smoking haven't the willpower to quit.'"

One man in Chattanooga the other day after the report came said, "Well," he said, "I'll have to die of something sometime anyway. So, I might as well keep on smoking."

You know, if it weren't so tragic, it would be amusing, wouldn't it, friends? But it *is* tragic. It is tragic. But I've been meditating on this, this week, and some things have impressed me very much. And I want to share some thoughts with you and some references before we get through tonight.

The first thing that's very apparent, friends, and that is it takes more than a scientific report to get people to do something, doesn't it? It does. Seventy-five percent of these people, this man said, lack what? The willpower to quit. They're like galley slaves chained to their oars.

And somebody coming in and walking down through those long rows and saying, "Don't you men know you're going to die if you stay here?"

"Yes, we know it, but what can we do about it?"

And that's only half of it, friends. There's a lot of them who have this attitude, and they really believe it. They've been sold on it.

They might express it in these words, "Yes, probably a good man might live longer, but then after all, it's better to get some fun out of life even if you don't live quite so long."

In fact, some have expressed it cynically like this—that people that are good live longer, or maybe it just seems longer, you see—nothing to enliven life, nothing to make it worthwhile; and so even if we could live longer without liquor and tobacco and without a lot of other things, what about it? I'd rather live while I'm living and then die. I've got to die sometime anyway."

And so, I believe, my dear friends, that there are millions of people right now in America that even if you could offer to give them a shot of something which would take away all these habits that shorten their lives, they'd say, "Wait a minute. What am I going to do to have a good time? Just hold that shot, hold that shot."

"I'd rather have a good time and finally die. I've got to die anyway."

And so, you see, the problem is more complex than just the question of lung cancer. It's more complex than convincing people that tobacco kills. There are two things that they've got to see. Not only that somewhere, somehow there's power to break those chains, but that there'd still be something worth living for.

So, I'd like to have us think tonight of these three things—the proof, and the power, and the pleasure, and where do we get them? Where lies *our* proof on the question of tobacco? Where lies our power to lift people away from it? And where lies our pleasure in living without it?

And I say to you very simply, friends, all three of those lie in the Word of God; they lie in the Word of God. Is that where they lie? Yes, that's right, that's right.

Taking that last point first:

"Thy Words were found, and I did eat them; and Thy Word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart..."  
Jeremiah 15:16.

That's what Jeremiah said. And thank God, that testimony has been echoed by millions of the children of God down through the ages since then. Yes, our pleasure is in the Word of God. And we get more real pleasure in this Word than these fellows that are smoking one pack after the other get from their cigarettes. Is that true?

I wonder if there's anybody here that's been on both sides of the fence. Some of us, you know, some would say we're hardly qualified witnesses.

Is there anybody here that used to smoke cigarettes and now you don't, and you have found something in the Word of God which really pleases you and brings you joy more than the cigarettes did? May I see your hands? Oh, yes, here are the witnesses. That's good. Thank you.

Are there any others? Any other witnesses? Yes, all over the world. Men and women that know by experience that whatever the pleasures of sin for a season may be, that there is more downright satisfaction, more actual pleasure in the things of God than in the things of this world.

And where lies our power? Oh, it's in this Word.

“...As many as received Him...” John 1:12.

The Word (John 1:1–14).

“...As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name” John 1:12.

But now, back to this first point, the truth. I want to ask you a question. Did Seventh-day Adventists have to wait till the surgeon general's report came out to be settled, sure, satisfied that tobacco is a health hazard? Did they? Did a single Seventh-day Adventist? Not a one. Why not? Because, my dear friends, a hundred years ago last summer an angel came down from heaven, *the* angel came down from heaven, Gabriel, to a little farmhouse in Otsego, Michigan, and to the Lord's messenger, Sister Ellen White, was communicated great principles of health and healing.

Was tobacco mentioned? Yes. Were its effects delineated? Yes. And for a hundred years, the remnant church has known something of the nature of tobacco, enough so that no true Seventh-day Adventist has been using tobacco for a hundred years. Is that right? Isn't that wonderful, friends?

We'd had some light on tobacco even before that, but that was the great outstanding opening vision on the question of health reform.

I wonder, friends, if this isn't the time (whether it was the time before or not is another question, but that time's gone; that's water under the bridge), but I wonder if now of all times isn't the time to let our friends know how it is and why it is that we

escaped the use of tobacco and its effects for these hundred years. I wonder if it wouldn't be a good thing.

I wonder if it wouldn't be a good thing to place in their hands this wonderful book, *Ministry of Healing*, and call their attention to the statement here on tobacco (written nearly 60 years before the surgeon general's report) that says:

"Tobacco is a slow, insidious, but most malignant poison"  
*Ministry of Healing*, page 327.

Some of you know that since this tobacco scare has come out, I don't mean just this last week. You know that for several years now they've been bringing out reports one after the other on this tobacco and lung cancer question. Some of you know that the *Reader's Digest* came out with an article entitled "The Case of the Wise Abstainers."

Who were the wise abstainers? Seventh-day Adventists. What were they abstaining from? Tobacco. Why were they wise? Oh, because a research project had just shown that they didn't have all the lung cancer that other folks had. In fact, I think in one whole series of investigations, they only found one Seventh-day Adventist with lung cancer, and he was a recent convert. But that article didn't tell *why* we've been without tobacco for a hundred years.

And do you see, my dear friends, in the light of what I've given you from the press here tonight that merely (watch this point!), merely helping people to see that tobacco causes lung cancer and heart attacks is not in itself going to get them to stop. Do you see that? That's the thing.

Oh, some of them will stop, but there'll be two people running to grab the cigarette they throw in the gutter, friends.

In England, the government has put its influence and its power behind an educational program to try to get people to quit using tobacco because of the health hazard. Well, what happened? Well, when the report came out, the consumption of tobacco dropped, but you know what's happening? It's climbing back again, climbing back again. And so firmly rooted in the minds and bodies of people are these facts, as this man said, the tobacco growers aren't worrying too much about it.

I don't suppose the Devil got jittery the other day when that report came. Oh, friends, the proof and the power of our position come from heaven, not from the surgeon general's office. So, don't misunderstand me. I'm glad for the surgeon general's report, aren't you? Sure. I've already ordered a copy. And there are facts there that will help people to see how science agrees with revelation. But don't forget this. The power is in the revelation. That's where the power is.

Now, I want to take this book, *Ministry of Healing*, 129, the same book that tells us about tobacco. It tells us about how to overcome not only this but every other poison and problem.

“The foundation of all enduring reform is the law of God”  
*Ministry of Healing*, page 129.

What’s the foundation? The law of God.

Why brother, even if the problem is to get people to eat whole wheat bread, I think we’re going to need something more than a scientific report if they stick to it. What do you say? Yes.

Otherwise, a lot of them will say, “Oh well, give me the white bread and pass the vitamin pills.”

Won’t they? Sure.

“The foundation of all enduring reform is the law of God”  
*Ministry of Healing*, page 129.

Why do you suppose that word “enduring” is put in there? Why, people will make temporary changes, transient reforms, but:

“The foundation of all enduring reform is the law of God”  
*Ibid.*

Next page, 130, listen:

“Apart from divine power, no genuine reform can be effected” *Ibid.*, page 130.

You see, the proof is what God says, and the power is in what He says.

“Apart from divine power, no genuine reform can be effected” *Ibid.*

Will you repeat that with me?

“Apart from divine power, no genuine reform can be effected” *Ibid.*

Once again:

“Apart from divine power, no genuine reform can be effected” *Ibid.*

Oh, I thank God, friends, for our glorious opportunity, don’t you? Praise God for the opportunity of this hour.

Now, here’s an interesting thing in this same newspaper that I was quoting from here, the Monday afternoon newspaper, right here on the front page in big headlines it says, “One Thousand Two-Hundred Smokers Go To Five Day New York Clinic—Plan devised by Adventist Church for group therapy and ending habit.”

Say, if somebody had told you 25 years ago that there would come a time when the Seventh-day Adventists would be on the front page of the great city newspapers, and the thing they would be on the front page cover for would be helping people to quit tobacco, could you have believed it?

“Plan devised by Adventist Church for group therapy and ending habit.”

I think that’s pretty fine, don’t you?

Now, I want to ask you another question. Do you think there’s anything besides quitting tobacco in God’s beautiful plan of life? You know, that’s one nice thing the brethren are doing in this. They’re helping these people to learn that there are some other things they need to quit along with tobacco. Isn’t that right?

But for a little while tonight, I’d like to have us think of the whole plan, the whole program of life. And I’d like to ask you a few questions.

First, are you any surer of the no-tobacco way of life than you were before the report came out from the surgeon general? No. You were just as sure as you could be before? All right. Why? Because our confidence was based not on some scientific report of some authority, and by the way, do these authorities differ? Are there some men that are supposed to be authorities, and some of them are willing, even with all the evidence, they’re still willing to stand with the tobacco companies today? Isn’t that a strange thing?

So, my question is, is there anything else that you’re just as sure of, as the no-tobacco program just because *Ministry of Healing* or some other one of these inspired books says so? Is there anything else?

You know, just to pick a tiny little thing, and I want you to know that I consider this a tiny little thing compared with the tobacco question. And yet people today think of it in a lot different way than they did when I was a boy and a young man.

You know, when I was a young man, the people that didn’t eat butter in this denomination, if they weren’t fanatics, they were probably called so. That’s right. They were literalists in carrying out the testimonies of Ellen G. White.

You say, “Well, that seems strange.”

Well, it wouldn’t if you’d lived 40 years ago. You’d have understood it perfectly. In fact, friends, there were those so-called authorities that questioned whether you didn’t have to have butter in order to get this that and the other thing that you had to have. And so, there was a serious question of whether extreme health reformers were really doing right by themselves and their families to not have butter on the table.

Any of you ever remember anything like that? How many of you do? Yes, there are several of you.

Well, today are there some people that don't know anything about Ellen G. White and *Ministry of Healing* that doesn't have butter on their table? Oh, yes. Are there world-renowned authorities that have sent out the warning, "Better cut down on the butter, or even cut it out"? Have there? Yes.

It's very interesting to go back and read what Sister White wrote before many of us in this room were born, and it's also interesting to read the apologies that some of our dear people wrote about it. The apologies are out of date, but the words that she wrote aren't out of date at all.

I wonder if it would be a good thing for all of us to dig into the books and see if there's anything that the surgeon general's office hasn't caught up with, and see if we believe it just because the testimony of Jesus says so, and love it just as much as though the scientific report were out substantiating it. What do you say? Would that be a good thing?

Do you know what God intended, friends? I'll tell you what He intended. He intended that as these different scientific reports would come out, that our people would stand out so head and shoulders above the world around them on all these points, that it would be just a marvel, just like He intended Israel to stand out among all the nations back there. Is that right?

Someone was telling me about a very interesting study that a non-Adventist research worker made of some Seventh-day Adventist children in a church school in a Midwestern state. And she was struck with how little tooth decay there was among them, compared with the public school children around them. Should it be that way? Why, of course, it should.

But somebody was very sad to find out that by the time our children got to the academy and college-age, the tooth decay was just as much as the world outside. That's something to think about, something to study.

Has science discovered one or more of the great causes of tooth decay? Yes. Was it anything that *Ministry of Healing* told us wasn't good for us a long time ago? Yes.

"Far too much sugar is ordinarily used in food," *Ministry of Healing*, page 301.

But on that point, will all the warnings of the dental association and all the rest on the free use of sugar, is the American public going to cut down on or cut out their ice cream, candy, soda water, pastries and all the rest? Are they going to do it? You know they're not going to. Are they going to quit their eating between meals and their late suppers? No, no, no. They'd rather have their teeth drilled. They'd rather have their teeth fall out, wouldn't they?

But ah friends, before we laugh, is there anybody related to them here tonight? Do you see again, as on the tobacco question, it takes more than scientific proof? Where the power lies is in the Word of God and in our acceptance of a divine revelation.

But beyond that, friends, oh here is the thing that I trust will grip our hearts. There must be a demonstration that life without all these things is still worth living. That somehow, shall I say, we can grin and bear it. Oh, on beyond that, friends, a million miles.

That wisdom's ways:

"...are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace" Proverbs 3:17.

That God shows His children:

"...the path of life... fullness of joy... pleasures for evermore" Psalm 16:11.

Do you believe it? Do you really? Does your table show it? Does your way of life show it? Ah friend, that is where the power lies. That is where the power lies.

Notice this statement here in *Ministry of Healing*, page 132. This is a wonderful chapter. The other two sentences I read were from this chapter.

Now, look at this one:

"It is our practice of the principles we inculcate that gives them weight" *Ministry of Healing*, page 132.

What is it that gives weight to the principles? Our practice of them. That's the thing. Why, one of the officials of the American Cancer Society was smoking a cigarette while he discussed with Elder Nicol the report of the society showing that cancer is caused by cigarettes. He sat there with a cigarette in his hand. And nobody thinks too much about that.

But ah friends, listen. If you and I, because of religious principles, believe and teach these things, then people expect, and they have a right to expect that we practice them, right?

But the question is can we practice them and still have joy? Can we in spite of strictness be happy? And could we get to the place where we're happy *because* of strictness? Ah, that is the thing that we are challenged to in this eventful hour, my friends.

The people who enter into this experience of finding the joy in reform, whether it be diet reform, dress reform, Sabbath reform, amusement reform, educational reform, all reforms, I say the people who demonstrate to the world around them that they have found in this way of life the secret of happiness, they will be God's witnesses in this closing hour. That's why we're born. That's why we're here. Oh friends, let's thank God for this glorious opportunity. What do you say? Let's thank Him for it.



I turn to the little book *Steps to Christ*, page 116. Listen:

“If we do represent Christ, we shall make His service appear attractive, as it really is. Christians who gather up gloom and sadness to their souls, and murmur and complain, are giving to others a false representation of God and the Christian life. They give the impression that God is not pleased to have His children happy, and in this they bear false witness against our heavenly Father”  
*Steps to Christ*, page 116.

What commandment does that break, bearing false witness? What? Which one is it? The Ninth Commandment.

A long-faced, mournful, gloomy Christian is breaking which commandment? The ninth. And listen, friends. The stricter he is, the worse it is. That’s right, that’s right. Do you know the people that ought to be gloomy? The ones whose stomachs are just all just giving them agony because of what they ate and drank. They’re the ones that ought to be gloomy.

But health reformers and all other reformers (I mean the people that embrace all the reforms) ought to be the happiest people in the world. They *are* if they get hold of Jesus. I’d hate to try to carry out these reforms without Him, wouldn’t you, friends? Yes. He’s the heart of *all* of them.

“It is the work of Satan to represent the Lord as lacking in compassion and pity. He misstates the truth in regard to Him... Satan ever seeks to make the religious life one of gloom” *Ibid.*

How does Satan try to make us look at the religious life? Gloom.

“He desires it to appear toilsome and difficult...” *Ibid.*

Who wants it to appear toilsome and difficult? Satan. Now watch:

“...and when the Christian presents in his own life this view of religion, he is, through his unbelief, seconding the falsehood of Satan” *Ibid.*

Now, this takes several forms. Let’s watch. Here’s somebody in jail. You know, years ago I used to go with a band that went to sing at the jail. How many of you ever went to visit? All right. Well, sometimes you get pretty close to the prisoners there. But of course, between you and the prisoners, there are what? Bars.

Now, what would you think—watch this—if those prisoners in there, one of them says, “You can’t come in here, can you? Just think of all you’re missing. You have to stay out there, don’t you?”

And if it's snowing, he might say, "You have to stay out in the cold, don't you? It's nice and warm in here. And we don't even have to worry about our food. It all comes. We don't have to go out and get it. But they won't let you in here. You can't get in here, can you?"

How long would you have to listen to that before you'd begin to feel sorry for yourself?

Now, has the Devil sold millions of people on the idea that the way to prove that you can do anything you want is to slip in and get inside those bars? Has he? Do you believe that lie? Well, if you don't, friends, let's be happy outside. What do you say?

And you know, after the jail service, if I were wandering along there and just looking wistfully inside the bars, "Oh my, you know, I just wish I could get in there at least part of the time."

What would those prisoners be liable to think? That maybe it wasn't so bad in there after all.

Now, I wouldn't want to have to stay inside those bars, friends, even if they would show me a movie every night, would you? Which side of the bars are you on? And are you happy on the side of the bars you are on? Do you wish that you could go in there and spend a while, just to see what it's like? Let's not bear false witness against our heavenly Father. What do you say, friends?

Then, there's another way in which the Devil tempts people, not with the idea, friends, that they are, shall I say, restricted too much, but they've made a great sacrifice. Have you ever heard people tell about the great sacrifices they've made?

Do you know how the Devil talks to people... and he has well-meaning Christians help him sometimes.

They come around and say, "Brother, you're really making a great sacrifice. You're having a hard time, aren't you? You don't even have enough to eat sometimes, do you? You don't get very much money, do you? You have a hard time."

"Well, by and by, if you're faithful, you'll get a crown in heaven. It's pretty hard down here in this world, pretty hard."

You see what I mean, friends? And if that's all there is to it, you know what a lot of people are going to say?

They'll say, "I'll take my pie now. I won't wait till pie in the sky. I'll take my pie right now."

And when they interpret that, that means that they're going to go on with their dances and their skating rinks. They're going to go on with their movies and their

bowling alleys. They're going to go on with their liquor and their tobacco. They're going to go on with all the rest while they can get it.

And if there's some real good soul that wants to go along as a pilgrim and carry that heavy load on his back, well, we'll hope that he gets to the celestial city. But in the meantime, we've got some fun we're sure of.

Do you see what I mean? Now, who is it that's back of that idea? The Devil. But who's helping him? Christians that moan and groan, that have their hand out and say, "Can't you see I'm just poverty-stricken following the Lord? Would you help me out a little?"

"They bear..." *Steps to Christ*, page 116.

What?

"...false witness against our heavenly Father" *Ibid.*

God is not dependent upon the wicked world, friends, to make His children happy, or to make their life tolerable, sufferable, is He? No, no. Thank God:

"...There is joy and satisfaction in the service of God..." *Ibid.*

And listen, the way of life that God has committed to us in this program is not a sacrifice, friends. Is it a sacrifice to leave the cities and live where the air is pure? Tell me, is it?

Is it a sacrifice to eat bread that has some life in it, instead of you know what? Is it a sacrifice? No.

Is it a sacrifice to drink pure water and the sweet juices of the fruit, instead of liquor and all these artificially-colored and flavored things that are going by the millions, yes the billions of bottles? Is it a sacrifice, friends? Is it? Tell me, come right down the line, where is the sacrifice?

Do you know what *Ministry of Healing*, 473, says? And I believe it.

"We are never called upon to make a real sacrifice for God" *Ministry of Healing*, page 473.

Will you say that with me?

"We are never called upon to make a real sacrifice for God" *Ibid.*

Did Moses all the while those 40 years in the wilderness, was he every day or at least once a year telling the children of Israel what a tremendous sacrifice he (Moses) had made in order to be with them? Did he? It isn't written that he ever said it once, friends.

Do you know who I feel sorry for? I feel sorry for the man that feels sorry for himself because he doesn't know what he's missing. He could be happy. He could be happy.

But believe me, the man who enters in God's way of life and is forever feeling sorry for himself, watch him, he's not going to stay with it forever, no sir. He's going to be back there where the things that he wishes he still had abounded; he will be there.

But oh, that God may help you and me to demonstrate that there is joy *in* the strict and sacrificial program that He's given us.

Oh, I wish everybody here tonight could get the implications of that because I fear that sometimes there's a Babylonish garment pulled into the camp or a golden wedge. I fear that there's something tucked into the tent.

Oh, I pray that the time may come quickly when this campus shall be clean from one end to the other, clean from compromise, clean from compromise. That instead of studying how to get some of the dainties of the world (and I'm not just thinking about diet, friends; I'm thinking about anything and everything), that we shall rejoice in getting manna from heaven. And again, I'm talking not just about diet. I'm talking about the whole program because if we know it, we have the privilege of living by the books.

Everything we need to know, friends, about our lives, God has put in these wonderful books, the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. Hasn't He? And we can live by these books from the time the sun goes down Saturday night until it goes down Saturday night again. Can't we? That's what this program is for. It's a humble, but I trust, earnest endeavor to live by these books. Let's do it, friends.

And remember, *everything* that God has said is going to be demonstrated as fully as this tobacco report is demonstrating some things. Some people are going to have to wait till judgment day to see it up on the sky.

And then, they're going to rub their eyes and say, "Oh, I see it now."

Everybody will see it, friends. No question about it. They'll see that the happy way, the healthy way, the holy way was God's way. Let's demonstrate it right now. What do you say? We can. This is our glorious opportunity. Oh, that God may put it into our hearts to go *all* the way, not wait for science to demonstrate everything.

But to just say, "Anything and everything God says on any subject, that we will do, and we will find our pleasure in it."

Now, suppose there's something God has told me to do, and I don't find any pleasure in it. Anything I can do about it? Is there? Yes, friends, I can pray about it. And wait until I find pleasure in it to do it?

Some of you shake your heads this way. I wonder why you do. I'm glad you did. Showed you were listening and also thinking, and thinking straight.

No, I am not to wait till I find pleasure in doing something.

Do you remember in this thing of diet, when Sister White had that vision a hundred years ago, and the Lord showed her about what a wonderful thing whole wheat bread was?

Sister White said she couldn't stand a piece of whole wheat bread as big as what? Not as big as a dollar. And so, she ate white bread all the rest of her life, didn't she? Did she? She told her stomach something.

Now, she was wise. Probably she got some wisdom from heaven. She didn't force that whole wheat bread on the stomach. You remember that, don't you? She just let it do what? She just let it wait. That's right. And by and by, it got to the place where it could take a little, you understand.

Doctor was giving us some very fine things the other day on this matter of the transition, helping people in the transition.

Now, a closing thought; then I want to hear from you. There's something else entirely that's keeping some people from being fully happy. But I have a great longing to get rid of everything that makes people unhappy because we are to make what? A demonstration.

And listen, if I'm unhappy, somebody's going to think it's because I'm on too strict a program, correct? I may not think so. God may know that isn't it at all.

But if I'm unhappy, somebody's going to say either, "Well, Brother Frazee, poor fella, he's made such a sacrifice, and it's just getting him down."

Or else they're going to say, "Brother Frazee is just denying himself of too many things, and it's just too hard on him."

But listen, there's something that is more of a thing to burden hearts than all the strictness in the world and all the sacrifice in the world. Do you know what it is? I'll tell you, for I know what I'm talking about. It's uncertainty. It's uncertainty.

So, in these closing moments, I want to share with you something I just got hold of that I wouldn't take a million dollars for. That's right. It's just like what Christian saw on that road that made the burden roll off his back and roll down and down and down and finally into an empty tomb, and he saw it no more.

Turn to Proverbs the third chapter and the sixth verse, and when I read this to you and then the comment on it, you're going to say, "This is wonderful."

Do you have it? Let's read it together:

"In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths" Proverbs 3:6.

He'll do what?

“...Direct thy paths” Proverbs 3:6.

If you do what?

“...Acknowledge Him...” Proverbs 3:6.

Let's do it. What do you say? All right.

Now, I'm going to read you the comment. This is in the Ellen G. White comments in the commentary on this text. It's found in *Volume 3* of the commentary, page 1155, and over on the next page:

“Has not God said He would give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him? and is not this Spirit a real, true actual guide? Some men seem afraid to take God at His Word, as though it would be presumption in them. They pray for the Lord to teach us, and yet are afraid to credit the pledged Word of God and believe we have been taught of Him. So long as we come to our heavenly Father humbly and with a spirit to be taught, willing and anxious to learn, why should we doubt God's fulfillment of His own promise? You must not for a moment doubt Him and dishonor Him thereby” *SDA Bible Commentary*, Volume 3, page 1155.

Now, watch:

“When you have sought to know His will, your part in the operation with God is to believe that you will be led and guided and blessed in the doing of His will. We may mistrust ourselves lest we misinterpret His teachings, but make even this a subject of prayer, and trust Him, still trust Him to the uttermost, that His Holy Spirit will lead you to interpret aright His plans and the working of His providence” *Ibid*.

And when I read that, friends (it came to me the other day just at a time when I needed it so much), and I said, “Lord, that's just what I need, and I'm going to believe it.”

And friends, I thank God He keeps His Word.

Now, that doesn't mean that any of us are going to get infallible all of a sudden. But it does mean, praise His holy name—watch this point and don't lose it—that day by day, morning by morning, and through the day, you and I can ask God to lead and guide us. And then, we can do the thing that we think will please Him moment by moment and believe that it *is* pleasing Him.

What kind of an expression will that put on our face? A smile, a happy one, won't it? That's right, that's right. That's our glorious privilege. Oh, thank God, thank God for this glorious hour to live in and the opportunity of being witnesses.

*Ministry of Healing*, 100, says:

“Our confession of His faithfulness is heaven's chosen agency for revealing Christ to the world” *Ministry of Healing*, page 100.

And so, we're to confess Him moment by moment. You know, in this thing of uncertainty, many are worried, many true, honest Christians, because they're not sure what to do about this or that. It isn't always the question of whether this or that is bad. It's a question, for instance, of where we ought to be.

You know, there are so many good things to do, so many places to go, so much missionary work to do, so many books to read, so many people to see, so many letters to write. You know what I mean? Yes, it can just get confusing and perplexing, and if we're not careful, it leads us to the place where there's a worried look on our faces because there's a worry down inside.

Let's take God at His word in this promise. What do you say?

“In all thy ways...” Proverbs 3:6.

Do what?

“...acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths”  
Proverbs 3:6.

Suppose we were actually walking along a road with Jesus, and we'd come to a fork in the road. What would we do?

Turn to Jesus and say, “Jesus, which way do we go here, right or left?”

Would He tell us? Oh, yes, He would.

“Ah,” you say, “but that's the trouble. I don't know how.”

Well, friends, this says if you and I'll acknowledge Him at every turn of the road, He'll direct us at every turn of the road.

And I say to you, when we come to the turn of the road, it's our privilege to acknowledge Him and then do the thing that we think He wants us to do. That's all, that's all. Just do the thing we think He wants us to do.

But first, we're to do what? Acknowledge Him, acknowledge Him. Not just run on like a dog up the trail, you know. Not guessing what the answer is. Stop and acknowledge Him.

Say, "Lord, which is your way, this way or that way?"

Do the thing we believe will please Him; not worry about the rest at all.

*Ministry of Healing*, 473, again:

"He has reasons for sending us to the place toward which our feet have been directed" *Ministry of Healing*, page 473.

Do you believe that?

Brother, has God a reason for your being here? Not merely this year but tonight? He has a reason for your being right here tonight? Do you believe that? Oh, are you sure that you're supposed to be here tonight?

I'm so glad I'm sure. I don't mean infallibly sure. That isn't necessary. Just sure enough to be here. That's all. And do the work that God has brought me here to do.

Now, the reason some of you are here is that God has something for you to say now more important than anything I've said. I mean, it's more important for *you* to say it. Because it's going to help somebody more than anything I've said.

Some people are going to get some help out of what I've said tonight, but there's somebody sitting here tonight that unless *you* say something, they'll go away either without any help at all or without the extra help they ought to have.

It's your part now. It's your time now to put in your word.

Say, did you ever watch somebody weighing something on scales, a pair of balances? And you know, you can get to the point where it's just so that if somebody will come along and add one ounce, what happens? It settles the whole thing. That's where we stand right now.

What have you to put on? Which side will you put it on? Can you testify truly, honestly, that Jesus keeps His word, that He is a good God? That His way of life is good? Do you really believe that the strict, really strict way of life He has outlined in the Bible and the testimonies is the happy way of life? Have you found it so? And have you found that He keeps His word and guides His children in the path of assurance and peace?

Oh, wonderful Jesus. Let's testify to the glory of His name.

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