

My Life's Experiences

#0782

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—June 3, 1983

We're going to have another wonderful time tonight lifting up Jesus. He says when we lift Him up, He does what? Draws. Don't we feel His drawing as He's lifted up?

Tonight it's my privilege to share with you some personal experiences. We're told in the Scriptures:

"Whoso offereth praise glorifieth Me..." Psalm 50:23.

"By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually..." Hebrews 13:15.

My mind has been led to what I'm going to present to you tonight by something that's going to happen next Tuesday night. Do any of you know what's going to happen next Tuesday night? Fifty years Helen and I have been married, and naturally, I've been thinking about what to share with you as my little part on the program. But my, there was so much it just bubbled and boiled all over.

And I thought, "My, we've got enough for a whole meeting tonight and then some for the meeting Tuesday night."

So, what I'm going to give you tonight is prelude, a prelude to Tuesday night.

The influence of the Spirit of Prophecy in my life and in Helen's life we thank the Lord for very much. You are familiar with the Scriptural background of our faith in the prophetic gift. You're familiar with the fact that the Seventh-day Adventist Church starting in the 1844 movement, owes its vitality to the leadership of Jesus through this gift.

We think of the words of Christ to His disciples in John 10 that He's the Shepherd and His sheep follow Him because they hear what? His voice, the voice of Jesus. And the testimony of Jesus, John heard the angel say in Revelation 19:10 is what? The Spirit of Prophecy.

Will you repeat that with me?

"...The testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy"
Revelation 19:10.

What is the testimony of Jesus? The Spirit of Prophecy. Then, when we hear the Spirit of Prophecy, we're hearing whose testimony? The voice of Jesus. I think that's wonderful, don't you?

The Bible itself has called for this gift in the last church. And the remnant church, according to Revelation 12:17, not only keeps the commandments of God but has what? The testimony of Jesus, which is the Spirit of Prophecy.

Now, we've been told that there is no method more successful in witnessing for Jesus than the testimony of our own experience. In fact, in *Christ Object Lessons*, page 299, we're told that:

“Far more than we do, we need to speak of the precious chapters in our experience”
Christ Object Lessons, page 299.

And as I've said, as I've been meditating on the providence of God in our 50 years of married life in God's work, my mind has been led back of that to the foundations, the roots of our experience, both my wife and me. And we feel we have so much to thank the Lord for, and tonight I'm going to share just a little of it with you.

I tell you what I've done. I've gone back into my shelves and pulled out some of the old original books, the very books that influenced my life. For instance, here is a little book called *The Great Second Advent Movement*. This was written by Elder John Loughborough, who was one of the pioneers of this movement; been out of print for many years. But this is the book that along with *Daniel and the Revelation* by Uriah Smith, so impressed my father and mother that about the time they were married, they were baptized into this message.

Father had never been in any church. His parents were not particularly religious. Mother had been a Methodist. But when my father came face to face with the prophecies of the Bible as foretold in Daniel and Revelation and as fulfilled in history, and then he came face to face in this book with the fact that in harmony with Bible prophecy in this Seventh-day Adventist Church there was a prophet who had been given these visions just as the Bible prophets were given, this impressed him very much, and my parents accepted this message and were baptized. This is the book right here. It's got no binding on it, but inside it's just the same.

Do you think I appreciate that? Why, sure. That meant I was born into this message. That didn't mean I didn't need the saving grace of Jesus. We all need it. But it's a privilege to grow up in this movement. I wish everyone who has that privilege understood that.

As a result of accepting this message, my father lost his job, a good government job, and we grew up in a poor home. And that's another blessing the Lord gave me. I won't go into that tonight, but I'll say that for years when I was a little fellow about all we had of the Spirit of Prophecy books was *Volume 7* and *Volume 9*. And I have those two volumes, the same volumes that we had in our home (I mean the identical copies), with me tonight. I'm going to refer to them before I get through.

But while I was still a little fellow, we moved from Phoenix, Arizona, to San Diego, California, through a series of providences. Sometimes people call them tragedies, or accidents, or sicknesses, but the providence of God was leading.

And in 1915, we found ourselves in San Diego, California, and met Dr. Henry Tindall, an older brother to Elder John Tindall. He was the chairman of the school board and the first elder of the church. He was an ardent student of the testimonies, and we who were already somewhat boiled in these principles became more and more boiled in them under his influence.

In fact, not long after we got there, my parents were so impressed with the necessity of having all of the testimonies that they got all the rest of the nine volumes, even though we were very poor. And so, from then on, we had all nine volumes, and we began to get other books of the Spirit of Prophecy.

Let me go back of this, back to Phoenix. When I was just a little fellow, my father began to have me memorize the Bible. He knew from what Sister White had written that the Bible had an influence on the memory. He wanted his boys to have good memories, and he wanted them filled with the Bible.

So, he had my younger brother memorize the entire book of Matthew. He had me memorize all the prophetic chapters of Daniel and all the book of Revelation. And we had to hear each other. That was his method of recitation. I had to listen to Titus say Matthew, and he had to listen to me say Daniel and Revelation. Well, that way, I got to where many of those chapters in Matthew I couldn't help but learn, hearing them so often in recitation. So, we got a double benefit out of that, you see.

Now, my father and mother had no idea that we boys would ever grow up because we expected what? Jesus to come. And I don't look upon that as a calamity if they had that idea. I'm glad I grew up expecting Jesus to come soon, soon. I'm still expecting Him to come soon, soon. Oh, friend, I'd hate to lose the sense of the imminence of the coming of Jesus. He's been *at the door* all these years, and I'm so glad that I know tonight the peace and the joy that come through the hope of the soon coming of Jesus. But as I say, I thank the Lord for my parents' influence on me in memorizing the Bible.

Another thing my father and mother had learned from the Spirit of Prophecy and that was the importance of work for children. From the time that Jesus was old enough to handle tools, He was busy doing what? Helping to make the family living. And I had that privilege, too, not as a carpenter but in other ways: in gardening, in helping with washing, for my father and mother took in washings for a while when we were little to make money so we could have something to eat. And then later, in colporteur work, I learned the joy of work.

And I was just thinking of it the other day, you know, there's something about doing something tangible that you can see accomplished that brings a great deal of satisfaction. When I've been studying or meeting in committees or interviews with people, I get hungry for something that no amount of food can satisfy. I want to do something that I can see something accomplished, like splitting some wood, or sawing, or even sweeping the porch. It does something for you, doesn't it?

The people that don't know that crowd around the TVs hoping to get some satisfaction, but it isn't in there. It's in work and work's accomplishment. But that's what came out of these books, dear ones, is that concept of life.

Somebody says, "Well, we ought to know that without the books."

Why of course, the books didn't make any of these truths. They merely reveal what's in them, what's in God's plan.

Another thing that we learned in our association with Dr. Tindall in San Diego was the influence of the Spirit of Prophecy, leading to country living. So, we eventually moved out of San Diego and out into the country on a ranch where we helped to develop ourselves and others in these principles. So, for several years we were living in the country, either in southern California or central California. My mother was a church school teacher.

I want to tell you about a little book, another one that I have here called *Outline Studies from the Testimonies*. *Outline Studies from the Testimonies* came out in 1918. My father got this book and at once started me in it. I was about 12 or 13 years old, and he started me studying this book. This has 150 lessons from the testimonies in it, and each one has a memory gem from the Spirit of Prophecy. So, I had 150 memory gems to commit to memory. And I'm thankful for them, dear friends. Shall I share some of them with you tonight?

"Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God's ideal for His children. Godliness—godlikeness—is the goal to be reached. Before the student there is opened a path of continual progress" *Education*, page 18.

How many of you have heard that? Thank the Lord. I hope you've memorized it. It's one of the 150 I memorized.

Another one was from *Education*, 271. I learned it in this little book before I had the book *Education*. It says:

"With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a soon-coming Saviour would be carried to the whole world! How soon might the end come—the end of suffering and sorrow and sin! How soon, in place of a possession here, with its blight of sin and pain, our children might receive their inheritance where 'the righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein forever;' where 'the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick' and 'the voice of weeping shall be no more heard' *Ibid.*, page 271.

Oh, I'm thankful that the call came to my young heart to be part of that army of young people that would help to finish the work. It's true I'm not young anymore, but

I'm still a part of that army, thank the Lord. My point is it came out of these books, these books of the Spirit of Prophecy.

It wasn't all things that I particularly took to like a duck to water or like a boy to a watermelon in this book [*Outline Studies from the Testimonies*]. I found a statement in here that I didn't really understand. You'll find it in the Appendix Note 2 of this little *Outline Studies from the Testimonies*. It and similar statements are now in other books, but let me read it to you. Remember, I was just a 12 or 13-year-old boy when I first read this, and I must say I didn't understand it.

“God ordained that the beings He created should work”
Youth's Instructor, January 31, 1901.

I understood that part all right.

“Upon this their happiness depends. Healthy young men and women have no need of cricket, ball-playing, or any kind of amusement just for the gratification of self, to pass away the time. There are useful things to be done by every one of God's created intelligences” *Ibid*.

I didn't understand that. Now, I spent most of my time in working, but I didn't understand what that said about some of those organized athletic games with a competitive motive. But several years later, when I was taking New Testament history in the high school grades, I studied the life of Jesus in that wonderful book, *Desire of Ages*. And I came face to face with the fact that there are two and only two great motives in this life. One is the motive of love, and the other is the motive of selfishness. Love is manifest in seeking to help others, to lift others. Selfishness is manifest in wanting to beat others. Winning in God's plan means helping everybody else to win; winning in this world's plan, the Devil's plan is to make other people lose so you *can* win. Then, I began to understand some of these things, but in my young life, that was a real test.

I have come face to face many times with this conclusion, dear ones, in my own experience and the experience of others, and as I've had the experience of an evangelist across this continent, north, south, east and west, and seen thousands of people face the decision of keeping the Sabbath, or of other tests. I've come to this conclusion—that conversion usually takes place on the point of a test.

It's a different test with different people. With some people, it's keeping the Sabbath. With some people, it's a matter of adornment and dress. With some people, it's a matter of amusement and recreation. With some people, it's a matter of their stomachs, their appetites. With some people, it's a matter of reading. With some people, it's a matter of giving up irritations and grudges. But whatever the test is, when we're brought face to face with that, if we will seek the Lord with all our hearts, He will so change and convert us as we look to Calvary that we can find a new experience of joy and satisfaction in being delivered from the very things that we thought were necessary.

Now, when I was about 14, we attended an Oakland camp meeting, and I heard Elder Meade MacGuire there. I was just a little boy, a young fellow 14 sitting on the seat taking notes, with my feet in the sawdust. But the Lord spoke to my heart, and although I had given my heart to the Lord before, when there came the call to a new dedication, I responded, and I'm so glad I did.

But that meant taking hold of some of these definite things that I'd been wrestling with in the Spirit of Prophecy. It also meant taking hold of the work of soul-winning.

I want *Volume 1*, page 511, read because after that Oakland camp meeting, I began to study it. And here's my *Volume 1*, the very volume that I was studying at that time, marked up with my lead pencil.

I'm going to let you read it, Homer, *Volume 1*, page 511.

"I saw that Satan is a vigilant foe intent upon his purpose of leading the youth to a course of action entirely contrary to that which God would approve. He well knows that there is no other class that can do as much good as young men and young women who are consecrated to God" *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 1*, page 511.

Now, wasn't that an interesting thing for a 14-year-old boy to read? As Jesus was sending a message to me as a young man, there was a class:

"...There is no other class that can do as much good as young men and young women who are consecrated to God" *Ibid*.

Read on:

"The youth, if right, could sway a mighty influence. Preachers or laymen advanced in years, cannot have one half the influence upon the young that the youth, devoted to God, can have upon their associates" *Ibid*.

Isn't that wonderful? Now, there are young people listening to me tonight, just as I was listening back there years ago. Oh, dear young people, teenagers and younger and older, there's no other class that can do as much good as you can, especially in reaching young people of your own age. I know, for I've been young, and now I'm old. You haven't been old yet, but you're young now. Take the advantage you have while you have it, my dear young friend. You have the glorious opportunity of being mighty soul winners for God now.

Now, I want *Volume 5*, page 112, read because in the providence of God, the two volumes I started to study in 1920 when I had a new awakening was *Volume 1* and *Volume 5*, and this statement here in *Volume 5*, page 112, written to a young man, impressed me very much.

“One person with pure motives, intent on becoming intelligent that he may make a right use of his abilities, will be a power for good in the school. He will have a molding influence” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5*, page 112.

Thank the Lord.

One morning as I was praying, I was impressed to go down the road before school and meet a young man named Robert, a little younger than myself, and talk with him about this particular reference. I’m looking right now at this book, this very book I had at that time.

I said, “Robert, here’s a wonderful statement that *one* student can have a molding influence in the school if he’ll just give himself to the Lord and let God use him.”

I said, “Robert, what could two of us together do? Will you meet with me in a little prayer band?”

He said he would, and we started meeting in the prayer band, praying for another of the boys.

And *Volume 7*, page 21, will you read. Here’s that *Volume 7* right here.

“Why do not two or three meet together and plead with God for the salvation of some special one, and then for still another? In our churches let companies be formed for service. Let different ones unite in labor as fishers of men. Let them seek to gather souls from the corruption of the world into the saving purity of Christ’s love”
Testimonies for the Church, Volume 7, page 21.

Now, let me ask you something. What’s the mathematics here? What numbers are we talking about? What does it say? Two or three, two or three. Is there a Bible verse about that? Matthew 18:19–20: “If two of you will agree on earth, it’ll be done, for where two or three are gathered together in My name I’m there” [a paraphrase of Matthew 18:19–20].

And this urges us to get together in these little groups.

So, I said to Robert, “Let’s get together in two.”

And pretty soon, we had three of us boys. And then, we got another one added that we’d been praying for, and that made four. And another one made five, and we split up and started over again with two bands, you see. And that went on till we had over a half of a big school in prayer bands.

And the faculty never told us to do that. We read it in the books. And thank God, His Spirit moved on our hearts.

Oh, I'm so glad for the power in these books. It'll do it for anybody that'll read the books and follow them, friend. There's power. There's life in it. It doesn't make any difference how young you are. If you can read, it's for you. It doesn't make any difference how old you are. There's a message here for everybody, young, old and middle-aged.

Well, when I was 17, in the providence of God, I was led down to Loma Linda to take the medical missionary course and get ready for some soul-winning work. And I didn't know that I'd ever been a minister. I hadn't any idea when I went to Loma Linda. You know what I was planning to do? To get ready to go down to Mexico or Central America and have a self-supporting dispensary for the Indians down there—that was what I was getting ready to do. I got there over 40 years later, I think, but in the meantime, some people that I'd had the privilege of helping to train were doing what I'd planned to do. God had other plans for me.

At Loma Linda, I was under the influence of men like Elder R. S. Owen, Elder John Burden, Elder G. B. Starr and others, Elder Luther Warren, all of the people who had had testimonies from Ellen G. White and had been greatly influenced by the gifts of the Spirit of Prophecy.

Those men believed the Spirit of Prophecy word by word, page by page. Anything that Jesus had said to this people through the Spirit of Prophecy they believed. There wasn't any of this theological hair-splitting and doubt sowing, nothing of that kind, thank God. And I am so glad I was at Loma Linda under men of that type. I want Wildwood to always be like that, don't you, dear friends?

I want to show you some very providential statements that came to me at the right time and were used at the right time, *Volume 9*, page 119. This is a reference that Elder Tindall read to my parents and me when he asked me as a young man just turning 20 to come with him and help in the work in San Francisco and be trained in medical evangelism:

“Many young men who have had the right kind of education at home are to be trained for service and encouraged to lift the standard of truth in new places by well-planned and faithful work. By associating with our ministers and experienced workers in city work, they will gain the best kind of training” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 9*, page 119.

What kind of training? The best kind. What's the best kind of training? Read those two sentences again. Now, this doesn't mean just any Tom, Dick and Harry or Johnny. It means people that have had the right kind of training foundation, you understand. But what did it say was the best kind of training?

Read it all.

“Many young men who have had the right kind of education at home are to be trained for service and

encouraged to lift the standard of truth in new places by well-planned and faithful work. By associating with our ministers and experienced workers in city work, they will gain the best kind of training” *Ibid.*

Thank the Lord. And so, as a young man, I had the privilege of going and carrying Elder Tindall’s briefcase. God had greatly used Elder Tindall in the great cities of America, winning hundreds upon hundreds of souls through a well-planned medical evangelistic program. And I had the privilege of a number of years of training with him there in San Francisco and Oakland and the Bay Area, and God blessed.

But coming back to this Loma Linda experience, I want to show you how the Lord used these books to impress me with something before I had any idea of going with Elder Tindall and before Elder Tindall had any idea of my going with him.

One day I was in the laboratory, and one of the doctors was talking with me about taking the medical course. You know (this is parenthetical), there was another doctor friend who offered to pay my entire way through the medical course. But back to this doctor in the physiology lab, this doctor was encouraging me to take the medical course.

And I said, “No, I can’t now, and I’ll tell you why.”

And so, I read this statement. And here’s the book right here that I read it from.

Will you read it, *Volume 9*, page 172. Listen carefully.

“Workers—Gospel medical missionaries are needed now. You cannot afford to spend years in preparation. Soon doors now open to the truth will be forever closed. Carry the message now. Do not wait, allowing the enemy to take possession of the fields now open before you. Let little companies go forth to do the work to which Christ appointed His disciples” *Ibid.*, page 172.

I don’t know whether the doctor that I read that to was impressed or not, but Elder Tindall happened to be standing by and listening. And God used that experience to impress him to ask me later, a number of months later, to go with him to San Francisco.

And so, friends, don’t misunderstand me. I believe in people taking the medical course. I’m so glad we have doctors that have had their training and can pass the test and be legally qualified and all that. But my point is God didn’t call me to that particular thing, that’s all. God called me to be a medical evangelist without any of that recognition or licensure. God called me to be a health educator and to be a soul-winner. And I’ve had the joy of working *with* doctors and nurses and Bible workers and ministers now for over 50 years in the great cities of America and in other places, and I praise God for it.

So, when I was just turning 20, I was called to go up into San Francisco and be with Elder Tindall. And at this time, I want my wife to come and tell you about some experiences in her life, for a while God was getting me ready all unbeknown to her, He was getting her ready all unbeknown to me.

Oh, I've got some more wonderful things to tell you Tuesday night, but I thought you ought to have this background.

[Helen Frazee] As I was thinking of the impact of the Spirit of Prophecy on our lives today, I had to go back quite a few years. My mother was baptized when I was two years old. Her mother had been a Seventh-day Adventist, but somehow in our country, the Spirit of Prophecy was not stressed. I'm not even sure that we knew very much about it. We knew not to eat pork, and that was about the extent of our knowledge of health reform. And the Lord knew what He was getting us ready for.

So, when my grandmother passed away, my mother went to join her brother in the St. Helena Sanitarium. Her brother and his wife, who was Aunt Ila, were taking the nurses' course, and my mother had the privilege there at St. Helena of learning about the Spirit of Prophecy.

One of her teachers was Dr. Mary McReynolds, a very devout doctor who believed in the Spirit of Prophecy and taught classes in it. And my mother learned to love the Spirit of Prophecy and the principles that are taught along the lines of health reform. And this was a great blessing to us. It meant that my sister and I didn't have the struggles to overcome many things in our diet that my mother had to struggle with because we started eating properly early in our lives, and this was a great blessing. The Lord had several things in mind to teach us as we went along the way. This first impact of health reform and health-related things took several years to work in our lives.

When I was about 15, the Lord led us to a camp meeting. Several things happened at this camp meeting that were quite the turning point in our experience in many ways. There was a young man at this camp meeting who presented some subjects. That was 54 years ago. It isn't often that you remember the text that a minister preached on 54 years ago, but I asked my husband today.

I said, "Wasn't that *Volume 5*, page 112?"

He said, "Yes."

And that was the reference that he led our minds to, *Volume 5*, page 112 (if I can find that in *Volume 5* again). Here it is.

He told us to go home after that meeting, read this reference, and put it into practice.

"Those who will put on the whole armor of God and devote some time every day to meditation and prayer and to the study of the Scriptures will be connected with

heaven and will have a saving, transforming influence upon those around them" *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5, page 112.*

My mother and I both needed very much to get this kind of a foundation in our experience. Neither of us had formed the habit of praying every day and having a devotional period. But after that camp meeting, we began doing this, and this was a great blessing to us as in the next few years, we learned many things that would have been a little difficult to take hold of if we hadn't met the Lord every day in our early morning devotions.

At this same camp meeting, there was a second time that I had heard Elder Frazee speak, and there was another very prominent person at this meeting that was to have a great influence on our lives, Sister G. B. Starr. She had lived many years with Sister White, traveled with her, and she had meetings for the ladies.

And of course, you'll know the subject we were interested in, and she presented in such a beautiful way the principles of Christian dressing that my mother was just eager to get home and make the changes that were necessary in order to get her clothes and wardrobe in the right way to please the Lord. This was a great blessing to us to have learned it from someone that we knew was telling it straight, that had been with the prophet.

Sister White died just a year after I was born, so I never had the privilege of seeing her, but I count it a great privilege to have seen some of these people who lived with her and knew what the things that we read really meant to us today.

After we went home from this camp meeting, the Lord arranged another providence. A woman about my mother's age lived at St. Helena (this is where we were living at the time), who had been for several years with the evangelistic work that Elder Frazee and Elder Tindall were doing in San Francisco. This woman was brought into our lives in a very providential way. She and my mother began having prayer band together. My mother was the hydrotherapy supervisor at the St. Helena Sanitarium at this time. We became very well acquainted with this dear sister, and little by little, she brought to us many principles that were to guide in our lives from the Spirit of Prophecy.

The thing, of course, that helped me the most at that particular time were the things that she studied with me on the matter of the association of young men and women. This was a great guiding principle as she brought it out to us. I was thinking of the experience that we had had in learning about health reform and learning to deny our appetites in certain areas.

Some people think, "Well, that just isn't really necessary that young people need to learn that."

It is very important, and it's important that young people learn it when they're very young because the first thing that the Lord would like young people to meet up with and that starts when they're children is to overcome appetite, and that seems like a big battle.

I can remember in my teens thinking that if I could overcome eating between meals, I was just about ready for heaven. Well, I found after I got over that hurdle that there were a lot of bigger ones ahead. But anyway, I had some interesting tests on eating between meals.

Sometimes during the summer, we teenaged girls would help at the sanitarium by taking care of the children of people who came to visit their relatives that were patients.

And they would give us money and say, "Now, you go to the store and buy little Johnny or Mary an ice cream cone, and of course, get one for yourself."

Well, that's kind of a temptation, and I was just thankful that the Lord had helped me by that time to learn to know *Him* well enough that I could buy the ice cream cone for Mary and not eat one myself.

And I know that that was a help because when Sister Florence Sacket (this woman that was helping us learn God's way better) presented to us the principles of association of young people, I realized that the victories I had gained in overcoming appetite were just the same kind of victories that I needed to gain in overcoming improper associations. And that was the next step that the Lord had for me as a young person to take.

I'm so thankful for the testimonies on many, many points, but I think of all the things that the Spirit of Prophecy has said that I most appreciate personally is the instruction not only in controlling of our feelings but controlling and directing in who we shall marry. It was because of these instructions that my husband and I both were saved from something that would not have been the best plan for our lives, and the Lord led us to each other, which was the best way.

[Elder Frazee] You see, Helen and I, if we had no other reason for thanking the Lord for the Spirit of Prophecy, we'd have a lot to be thankful for just in this, wouldn't we? Fifty golden years. You know, I was thinking about it today as I was walking up the trail. It takes 50 years to get a golden wedding, no other way. It's worth it. It's worth it. Thank the Lord.

You know, this book, *Ministry of Healing*, is another book that God has used to have a tremendous influence on my life. The book I'm using now is one that I bought several years ago. But before that, I was using this book. This is one of the originals of *Ministry of Healing*, the one I used when I was a student at Loma Linda. In fact, this is the third binding on this one, and I wanted to read out of it tonight the instruction that guided my life as I drew near the time of God's plan for me to have a companion, page 359 of *Ministry of Healing*:

"Let a young man seek one to stand by his side who is fitted to bear her share of life's burdens, one whose influence will ennoble and refine him, and who will make him happy in her love.

“‘A prudent wife is from the Lord.’ ‘the heart of her husband doth safely trust in her... She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.’ ‘she openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her,’ saying, ‘many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.’ He who gains such a wife ‘findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor of the Lord’” *Ministry of Healing*, page 359.

Well, my friends, as I’ve said on other subjects at other times, there are many things I believe and enjoy that I can’t comprehend at all. I can’t comprehend the fact that God can give me the best wife in all the world and do it for other men too. But I don’t propose to be so lacking in faith in God’s instructions that I’d settle for anything less than that ideal. And I recommend it to every young man here that’s not married. Don’t settle for anything less than the best woman in all this world, my friends.

And to you who are married, as I have taught in my class and as you can read on my tapes for husbands and wives, no matter how disappointing life may have become to you, if there is a disappointed couple here tonight, let me tell you something. God wants you to make the best of it, and that’s the best. And it’s not the worst. It’s the best. And God’s best is hard to beat, friends.

I want to challenge every married couple with the fact that you can have not merely a golden wedding sometime, but all the golden years on the way. God’s plans are wonderful, dear friends. God’s ideals are beautiful.

But back to this paragraph, now you can call me simple, you can call me foolish, you can call me anything you want to. But I believe that the Holy Spirit had me in mind when that page was written. I believe that. Do you know why? I go back not merely to what Sister White wrote on page 359 of *Ministry of Healing*. I go back to Proverbs the 31st chapter, and I read there. It’s describing a husband who has that attitude toward his wife and who knows his wife is that one for him. And I know that’s me, I know that’s me.

And you say, “Well, it ought to be true for others.”

Certainly, as I repeat, dear ones, God’s plan for each individual is so unique, so individualistic, that there’s no two alike, no two alike. And when I contemplate the fact that God would have sent His Son to die for how many? Just one, then I know that He loves me so much that if I were the only one that needed Him, He would have come for me. Is that right? And:

“Not more surely is the place prepared for us in the heavenly mansions than is the special place designated on earth where we are to work for God”
Messages to Young People, page 219.

Our difficulty so often is that we lose sight of ourselves in the mass. But oh, God's dealings with each individual are as unique and as certain as though that were the only one in all the world.

Both my wife and I, for a number of years before we were married, were not thinking in terms particularly of marriage. We were expecting Jesus to come soon, soon. And I thank God that He had us in the soul-winning work thinking of that.

You know, there are some things that you can see not by looking straight at them but by looking at something else and having that on the side. There are some stars, the only way you can see them best is by looking not at the star but by it. So, this question, if you want to be really happy in marriage and in choosing your marriage partner, I advise you dear young people do not think of it as the great goal of life, for it isn't. The great goal in life is soul-winning. Marriage is a part of that if it *is* a part of it in God's plan. But the greatest thing in all this world is not marriage. It's union with Jesus Christ. And that, instead of making marriage less important, makes it far more important. Instead of making it less successful, it makes it more successful.

Tuesday night, the Lord willing, when we have our golden wedding celebration, there'll be some more on this. This is just the prelude, the introduction. But oh, I thank God with all my heart for Jesus. The glory is all His. I could have spent the whole evening and a lot more telling all about my faults and mistakes and failures both before and after I was married, poor human just like everybody else.

The thing I like to talk about is not how bad we are; it's how good Jesus is. The thing I like to talk about is not our failures; it's His successes. I want to tell you something, friend. Whether that success is in making up human deficiencies or in keeping people from making mistakes, either way, it's His righteousness, not ours. Anything that any human being accomplishes that is right and good, it's God's good Spirit that ought to get the credit, not human beings. And so, we're here Tuesday night not to receive congratulations from our friends, but all unite in a service of praise and thanksgiving to God.

Any couple that stay together for 50 years and really love each other they have a lot to be thankful for. Don't you think so, friends? Yes. And so tonight, I commend to you this wonderful Bible, the anchor of faith and hope. And I commend to you these wonderful inspired volumes of the Spirit of Prophecy, which were foretold in the Bible to come in the last days to magnify the Word of God and fit a people to make ready for the coming of Jesus.

Let us stand.

[Recording ended in progress]

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