



# *Faith* on the line

*A Journal for Those Who Dare*

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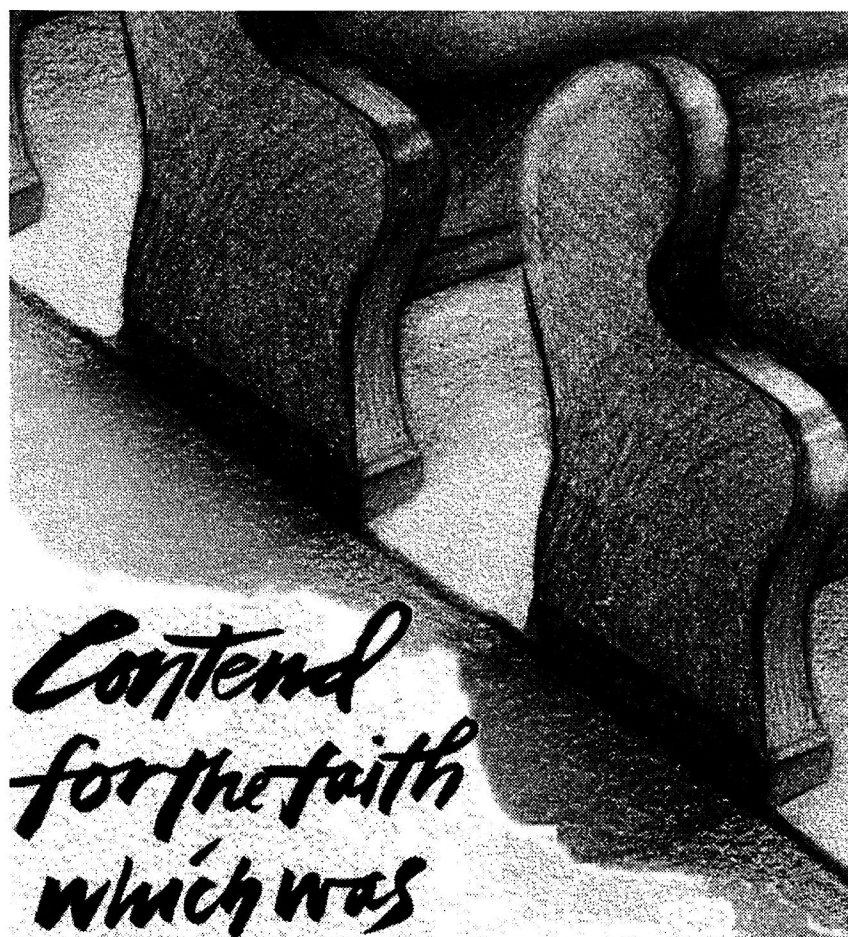
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*Contend  
for the faith  
which was  
once for all  
delivered to the saints  
Jude 1:3*

## From the Mailbox...



We welcome your comments and opinions. If something in our newsletter or material has impacted you, we'd like to hear from you. We can be contacted by fax, mail or email. Please see the last page for this information.

I found your site a week or so ago and I have been drawn back to it on a daily basis. I find what I'm reading fascinating and at the same time scary, because I'm married to a devout catholic. What will happen to those like my grandmother who had a very strong faith in Christ but never knew about the Sabbath deception that was instituted by the Catholic Church. In our Apostle's Creed (United Methodist) we affirm the holy Catholic Church universal. This is what I was brought up to believe as have millions of others living and deceased. What would God do with those who have not had the privilege of reading what you have to say? In a Bible study I took a few years ago I raised the question of the change of the Sabbath to Sunday. I never was quite satisfied with the answer I received and I knew when I found your site that I finally had the answer to my question. But I would like to hear your response to what will happen to those like my grandmother who went to church to worship Jesus Christ nearly every Sunday of her life and died

believing she was saved. Please respond. Thank You - C.M.

Editor's Reply: *You are right. There are millions who have never come to the knowledge of the change to God's law as instituted by the Catholic church. Even Martin Luther himself did not receive that light. And there were many martyrs who died for their faith, who were put to death by the Catholic church, because they refused to believe that the "host" was actually Christ's body, which is another unBiblical teaching of the Catholic church. These martyrs died for that one thing - not for all the unBiblical teachings of the Catholic church, such as Sunday, or image worship. Does that make their sacrifice, their stand for God's truth as they knew it, to be worthless? I don't believe so. The Bible teaches that we are responsible for the knowledge we have - not for the knowledge we don't have. God is fair and just. He takes into consideration what a person knows. Acts 17:30 states: "Truly these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent." Also, God will take into consideration where a man (or woman) is born, as it states in Psalm 87:6. This means that He will consider the opportunities you had to hear truth - the kind of family you were born into, etc.*

*That doesn't mean though that one can use these texts to justify not learning the truth for themselves if they are given the opportunity today. In fact, if one has the opportunity to understand truth today, and he or she chooses to postpone that option, or to ignore that opportunity, they are putting themselves in danger. That opportunity may never come again. We may even die before it comes again. We will be judged not only on the basis of what we knew, but also on the basis of what we could have known, if we had continued to study - choosing to spend time in God's word, rather than watching that movie, for example. Filling our minds with the treasures found in God's word, instead of being lukewarm Christians.*

*There will come a time when the Sabbath-Sunday question will become a question of salvation. When the US institutes a law requiring that all mankind*

*keep Sunday as a day of worship, then people everywhere will have to choose between God's law as it is written in the Bible, and man-made decrees. There are some who think such a law could never happen. But the agitation in the United States to join church and state (such as what happened in Washington D.C. in Oct 2002 with the Christian Coalition) and the papal decrees issued recently make this all the more likely with each passing year. When this "Sunday law" takes place, everyone will have to make their choice, and they will understand what they are doing because there will be many who, like Shadrach, Meschach and Abednego, will not bow the knee to a law that goes against the law of God as given by God. These faithful ones will make the issues clear to the world. At this time, everyone will be given their final opportunity to choose to follow God or man.*

*But now as we still have opportunity to learn of God's word in freedom, and to live as our conscience through the work of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, dictates, let us take this opportunity to find God's will for us as found in His word. Whenever we are confronted and convicted of truth, we must act upon it, or we will be guilty. If we are not exposed to a point of truth, we will not be held accountable for it, but if we are, then it is God who is calling us into the light of His truth, and if God is convicting us, must we not respond with our whole hearts? Let us not be ashamed or afraid to take our stand on God's side. Let us thank Him that He is still sending His Holy Spirit into the world to pull aside the deceptions that cloud the minds of so many. He doesn't want anyone to be in ignorance, and He provides ways for His truth to be brought before the people who are searching for it. Let us act upon our convictions, come what may. Don't let anyone stop you from following God's truth. God bless, AD*

Thank you so much for this series. I just hope the Lord can use me in some small way so people will be aware and can make a decision for Jesus.

-RW

I have adopted a vegan diet recently, and my parents are worried to see me thinner than I used to be. I am now 48 kg. I am aware that I am less than my recommended weight (height = 170 cm). I am not aware of having any medical problems. I exercise almost every day. I am wondering whether there is anything I can do to gain a little weight, or advise me on the kind of diet I should take. I would like also to know when a vegan needs to have B<sub>12</sub> supplements. Thank you.

*Hi! You need to take more energy foods such as nut creams and soymilk creams that you add to your foods. Make mayonnaises with sunflower seeds, soy milk powder, or nuts, and so increase your fat intake. The vegan diet does not consist of only leafy foods. You need the grains, seeds, and nuts as well. Use a fortified soy milk to get B<sub>12</sub> or use a supplement. Hope this helps.*

- Dr. W.J. Veith

I'm so grateful to God for bringing your website and message to my life. I'm just thrilled with the message of truth that you are presenting for these last days of this earth's history. I believe that God is using the internet to speak and spread the truths to his "remnant" .... Keep up the great work and keep producing and offering these materials.

Thank you for all the informative info on refined sugar and its effects on our bodies and our minds. I am addicted to sugar in the form of Colas. I swore off sugar today and it hit me like a rock, but I will keep on keeping on. Again, thank you.

-AW

Thank you for all the information given by Walter Veith on the web, in books, in videos too. It helped me to find a standpoint especially concerning certain topics at school. I hope other young people also use this source of information. You do not often find such clear explanations, answers, facts, to explain to others what you believe. God bless,

-MD (Germany)

## From the Editor...



### Prepare To Meet Thy God Part 1

"John [the Baptist] was to go forth as Jehovah's messenger, to bring to men the light of God. He must give a new direction to their thoughts. He must impress them with the holiness of God's requirements, and their need of His perfect righteousness... In preparing the way for Christ's first advent, he was a representative of those who are to prepare a people for our Lord's second coming." DA p. 100,101

Just as John the Baptist prepared the way for Christ's first advent, we - the generation living at the end of time - are to prepare the way for Christ's second advent. If we wish to succeed in this mission, it would seem logical to prepare ourselves and our children for this mission in the same manner that he prepared.

**What kind of man was John the Baptist and what kind of life did he lead that prepared him for his great work?**

When we study the Bible and Ellen White's writing about John the Baptist we find some significant state-

ments that could be applicable to our lives today. Let us take a summarized look at some points concerning John the Baptist and his similarity to our work.

In order to accomplish his mission, John had to be a holy man. He had to be a temple for the indwelling of the Spirit of God. He needed a sound physical constitution, and required mental and spiritual strength. To acquire these qualities, John was first of all, temperate (self-controlled) in his appetite and passions. From early days, his parents followed the instructions of the angel and fed him as they were instructed to do. John's "diet, purely vegetable, of locusts and wild honey, was a rebuke to the indulgence of appetite and gluttony that everywhere prevailed..." T3 p. 62

In addition, John lived a life of simplicity - a life of self-denial and self-control. These habits he began in childhood, when the habits are forming, when the character is most impressible. "These habits learned early decide whether a man will be victorious or vanquished in the battle of life. It determines the character of the harvest - for this life and the life to come." DA 101

John did not attend regular schools. He learned from nature about nature's God, went out into nature frequently, and there studied nature, revelation, and the lessons of Providence. In other words, the standard for his education was not the standard of the world he lived in. His parents did not consider the philosophy and psychology of the rabbinical schools of the day to be necessary or important for true education. He took his values from the Scriptures and from God directly. "The Lord did not send him to the schools of the prophets and rabbis. He took him away from the assemblies of men to the desert,... God did not desire him to have the mold of the priests and rulers.... The Lord gave him his message. Did he go to the priests and rulers and ask if he might proclaim this message? No, God put him away from them that he might not be influenced by their spirit and teaching." Review & Herald vol. 2, p. 368 "The train-



ing of the rabbinical schools would have unfitted him for his work." DA p. 101

From childhood, his mission had been kept before him. His parents had not let him grow up like an ordinary child. They had impressed him with his mission and his special calling from early childhood.

John lived in the country, actually the wilderness, shut in by God's presence and surrounded by the evidences of His power. And he spent time in solitude and prayer.

And last but not least, John distrusted his own power to withstand temptation, and shrank from constant contact with sin lest he should lose the sense of its exceeding sinfulness.

It stands to reason that as important as John the Baptist's commission was - in preparing people for Christ's FIRST advent, our commission is even more serious in that we are to prepare a world not only for Christ's second coming but also the END OF THE WORLD. Unlike Christ's first advent, from this event, there will be no second chances. One may have been unsure about Christ the Messiah at first, and chosen to accept Him much later after His death, but after this final event, there is no more time left. The urgency for this commission is far greater than that of John the Baptist's.

If we are to prepare ourselves and our children to be the heralds of the loud cry, ought we not to also incorporate the same principles as found in John's life into ours and theirs? How can we do this? Here are some suggestions that I found beneficial for me personally:

1) First of all, we can take the health message seriously, and apply it to our diets and our lifestyle. "For years the Lord has been calling the attention of His people to health reform. This is one of the great branches of the work of preparation for the coming of the Son

of man.... Temperance in all things is to be connected with the message, to turn the people of God from their idolatry, their gluttony, and their extravagance in dress and other things." T3 p 61,62

Eating simple foods in their natural state, drinking pure water, and applying the other laws of health is important for gaining victory over sin in our life. Ellen White states that "it is impossible for an intemperate man to be a patient man. First temperance, then patience." 2T p. 95 In light of this, along with her many other statements, should not the health message be important to us if we truly desire to live a victorious Christian life?

We can begin to teach these principles in childhood to our children. "The power of self-control should then [in childhood and youth when the character is most impressible], be acquired.... All who would perfect holiness in the fear of God must learn the lesson of temperance and self-control. The appetites and passions must be held in subjection to the higher powers of the mind. This self-discipline is essential to that mental strength and spiritual insight which will enable us to understand and to practice the sacred truths of God's word." DA 101

Could it be that this is one reason why the health message was given to Mrs. White to be practised by God's remnant people? - Because self-control in appetite and passion is to be a characteristic of God's last-day people. I believe it is. "For this reason temperance finds its place in the work of preparation for Christ's second coming." DA 101

2) We can practice self-denial in our daily lives - not adding riches to riches, or clinging to our possessions, but by sacrifice generously giving to the cause of God and to those more needy around us. Teaching our children this principle, is a necessary prerequisite not only for the Christian life, but for the kingdom of heaven. Showing them by our own actions that one should not come before the Lord empty-handed and fostering a generous spirit will go a long way to-

ward helping them to incorporate Christian principles in their adult lives.

3) We can begin in childhood training our children. Modelling and instructing habits of self-denial, kindness, dependance upon God, and unselfishness will go a long way to helping our children find the path that will lead them to become a part of God's last-day work. If they have grown up already, we must do what we can with their remaining years.

4) We can keep before our children their important mission - their calling of God to be a part of His plan to proclaim the loud cry of His soon return. Each one of us has a special role to fill in service to God, and helping our children to choose careers that will put them in positions where they can do so is important. When our children choose careers, do they use the criteria of "how well they pay" or what status the job will give them, rather than choosing jobs according to how useful they can be in spreading the three angel's message? As parents we can begin early in helping our children to have godly criteria in choosing their lifework.

5) We can consider seriously where we educate our children and how they are being educated there. If we can homeschool our children, or provide them with an education at a Christian school that will have the same principles we uphold, then our children will be better off. It is important, however, that as parents, we don't take it for granted that just because a school is "Adventist" or "Christian" it will automatically provide our children with the ideals that we wish to foster in their lives. A parent's duty is to investigate the school to which they are planning to send their children and to remain interested and interactive in their child's education at all times. Does it ever happen that parents think that because their children attend a "christian" school, their "christian" teacher will provide them with all the christian education they require? Are we as parents lulled into sat-

isfaction because we think we have done our duty by depositing our precious trusts from God in the hands of an institution run by our church? I believe rather that we are in danger of being neglectful of our duty, if we do so.

6) We can choose to make our dwelling in as natural a setting as possible - preferably in the country. It is interesting to note, that John the Baptist was not surrounded necessarily by beauty. The landscape where he lived was harsh and unforgiving in many ways. From this we may learn that it is not necessary to live in a beautiful location, and if one does not, to feel that one has not opportunity to learn from God's nature. John the Baptist learned from the dry environment object lessons that pointed him to the people's condition. All around him he saw barrenness, and he likened the gloomy, terrible aspect of nature in his wilderness home to the condition of Israel, "the fruitful vineyard of the Lord [which] had become a desolate waste." DA 103 But in all this, he also saw the mercy of God. "The clouds that gathered in tempest, were arched with the rainbow of promise." DA102 Above the desert, the heavens bent bright and beautiful, and the rain made the hidden blooms come forth.

An application that I make when I study this aspect of John's life, is that I should provide my children with good reading material containing godly, Biblical principles or true to life human experiences, rather than making make-believe or worldly philosophy their main fare. Coming from a public school background, these principles are important to me because I have experienced first hand this kind of reading material and its effects. Perhaps after all, Ellen White was not so "old-fashioned" when she said the following: "Resolutely discard all trashy reading. It will not strengthen your spirituality, but will introduce into the mind sentiments that pervert the imagination, causing you to think less of Jesus and to dwell less upon His precious lessons." MYP 273

Although John the Baptist lived in the wilderness, he did not isolate himself selfishly. "From time to time, he went forth to mingle with men", observing them, keeping up to date with current events, studying the character of people so he could understand "how to reach their hearts with the message of heaven." DA 102

7) We have seen that John the Baptist shrank from constant contact with sin. Why? He did not wish to **lose the sense of its exceeding sinfulness**. Have we lost that sense?

"The forerunner of Christ did not expose himself to evil conversation and the corrupting influences of the world." R & H vol. 5, p. 287 By bringing television into our homes, radio into our cars, through all the filthy pictures and magazines one encounters even at the supermarket standing at the cashier (where the pictures are at eye-level for children sitting in the cart), are our sensibilities being benumbed?? I can only think "yes".

Some may argue, "Well, that's the real world. We have to equip our children to handle the real world, therefore they must be exposed to the real world." Have you heard such an argument? I have many times. But as I studied the life of John the Baptist, I realized that this argument was not true. The #1 reason why our children should NOT be exposed to the "real" world, contrary to popular belief, is that if they are, their sensibilities will be benumbed, sin will be made to look attractive, normal, ("everyone is doing it"), and our children will have a harder time choosing between good and bad. Their religious experience could even be made shallow because of it, and I for one, do not want to be an accomplice of Satan's tactics to destroy my children.

John the Baptist tried to close every avenue by which Satan could enter. Despite his efforts, he was still assailed. Can we do the same for our children? They will have to fight Satan many times in their lives, can we not make his

entrances into their lives as minimal as possible? Because of his strong and decisive character, with his clear spiritual perceptions, and with the aid of the Holy Spirit, John the Baptist was able to *detect* Satan's approaches and to resist his power. Perhaps if our minds and the minds of our children were not so bombarded by Satan's deceptions, we too would be able to *detect* Satan's *approaches* rather than to realize we had been hit by temptation *after* we had succumbed to it and realized too late that we had again failed.

In order to recognize the counterfeit, one must study the genuine, rather than the counterfeit. This applies even to common things such as counterfeit money. Tellers study genuine money in great detail, so that they can recognize counterfeit money when it crosses their wicket.

As John the Baptist studied the genuine, he was unawed by the human, because he had looked at the divine. Perhaps this is the best "self-esteem" building we can give our children. As he studied the scriptures and found scriptures to apply to what he saw around him, he became personally acquainted with Him, so that he became awed, self was forgotten. As he beheld the majesty of holiness, he felt inefficient and unworthy.

As a mother, it is my desire to not only equip my children for this world - its job requirements, skills, and its way of life - but most importantly, for the world to come. It is my desire that I and my children not feel so at home, so comfortable in this world, that we are not prepared to leave it for something better, or not concerned to bring those we come in contact with along as well. May we all "examine" ourselves, whether we are making this temporal world our priority, rather than preparing our hearts, habits, and lives to help proclaim the last and most important message to be given to a world on a collision course with destiny - "Prepare to meet thy God!"







## PROGRAMMED TO FALL

Using the senses  
to control the mind

by Brian S. Neumann

While claiming for himself perfect loyalty to God, he [Satan] urged that changes in the order and laws of heaven were necessary for the stability of the divine government. Thus while working to excite opposition to the law of God and to instill his own discontent into the minds of the angels under him, he was ostensibly seeking to remove dissatisfaction and to reconcile disaffected angels to the order of heaven. While secretly fomenting discord and rebellion, he with consummate craft caused it to appear as his sole purpose to promote loyalty and to preserve harmony and peace. *PP*, p. 38

As we consider what is taking place in the Omega apostasy (dealt with in volume 7 issues 1 & 2 of this newsletter), it may be helpful for us to take a page from the distant past, to go back to the original fall from grace and the method employed by Lucifer to capture the affections of the other angels. In the segment above, from *Patriarchs and Prophets*, we see Ellen White describing the two-pronged strategy used by Lucifer in heaven. One arm of his attack professed and, indeed, promoted loyalty to God and intimated that the changes he envisaged were necessary for stability of the divine government. The other arm – his real intention – was to destroy the government of God and set himself in the position of universal ruler.

In the guise of 'truth', Satan has always operated when trying to deceive and destroy God's people and their efforts. Presenting himself as an angel of light, with the best interests of God's plan at heart, he calculatedly yet subtly uses his skills of mind and organization manipulation to turn the tables in his favour. Only when it is too late, when the fruits have already manifested themselves and worked their 'devilish deeds', is one able to see the results of Satan's skillful use of truth in destroying truth.

In our previous articles, it has already become clear that this is exactly what the enemy is attempting to do. Ellen White writes that, 'So long as we are ignorant of their wiles [Satan and his angels], they have almost inconceivable advantage; many give heed to their suggestions while they suppose themselves to be following the dictates of their own wisdom' - *Great Controversy*, p. 516

It is the studied purpose of this article to expose the devilish devices and cause us to realize that, even though it may be nice to believe our ideas and methods are our own or even God-inspired, they may very well be 'seeds' planted by the agencies of our archenemy. This is why it is of paramount importance to 'test the spirits to see if they are from God'.

Although Satan has honed his skills of deception over thousands of years, he still uses the same principles of deception as he did in the very beginning. Through the powers of suggestion, insinuation and manipulation, he uses

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*"We should feel an intense interest in the advancement of the work of God. This work has already grown to large proportions, but it is to advance still more rapidly. We need many more labourers, and there must be with all a spirit of self-denial, in order to provide facilities for the carrying forward of the message in to new fields. In many places the work has been greatly retarded because of a scarcity of means. In the great work of warning the world, those who have the truth in their heart and are sanctified through the truth, will act their assigned part. Every church member is bound by covenant relation to God to deny himself of every extravagant outlay of means. Let not the want of economy in the home life render us unable to act our part in strengthening the work already established and in entering new territory." MS 103, Dec 6, 1906*

every vehicle possible to gain access, via the senses, to the mind. At first, his methods are subtle, secret, and mysterious, until the human target is fully under control and is found in open rebellion against God.

It is a strange, evil, hypnotic power that he wields over the human psyche. There is no need for his subjects to be in the state of trancelike sleep, commonly associated with hypnotism. Satan has the ability to control and channel our thoughts and actions without us even being aware that we are being subtly and progressively programmed into fulfilling his will.

By suggesting thoughts and planting ideas into our minds, he causes us to make decisions and take actions, that we, for all intents and purposes, consider being the inventions of our own imaginations. In modern, scientific terms, this technique would be called, 'Neuro - Linguistic Programming' (NLP).

In the world of advertising they know that it is possible to create (by using subliminal and hidden techniques), a demand for the product that they are trying to promote. Wilson Bryan Key, PhD, the world's foremost authority on subliminal persuasion in advertising, in the book *The Age of Manipulation*, writes about the fallacy that exists in the modern mind – that 'we think for ourselves'. By using subtle techniques of persuasion on the collective unconscious (a media type of NLP), you can ultimately sell anything at the conscious level.

The *engineering of consent* assaults human perception at both conscious and unconscious levels, especially the latter. Once the group or collective consciousness is programmed into what has been called culture, virtually any bill of goods can be sold at conscious levels. *The Age of Manipulation*, Wilson Bryan Key, PhD, p. 4 – Madison Books

This method of media manipulation is not something that happens by chance. The techniques/methods used are closely guarded secrets within the media industry.

Media technicians cannot, however, develop credible illusions and fantasies accidentally. They must know what they are doing. They must disguise from audiences what they are doing, or that they are doing anything beyond the superficially obvious. *Ibid*, p. 7

The methods used in NLP (both in the media and at other levels) can, in their more recent history, be traced back to Freudian psychology. In fact, the man/inspiration behind NLP, Dr. Milton Erickson, was a disciple of Freud's methods. But, the ancient history of these techniques (from a purely 'world-history' perspective) can be traced back to the time of the Greek philosopher Protagoras (485 – 410 BC). Protagoras was the

most famous of the sophists, known for his dictum, "Man is the measure of all things."

Early Greek sophists were professional teachers of rhetoric, then considered, in the words of Aristotle, to be "all the available means of persuasion" . . . Sophists were attacked by Plato and Aristotle for not seeking objective truths. . . . Sophists sought to understand the structure of human societies, relationships between words and things, between observers and their observations, and between reality and perceptions of reality." *Ibid*, p. 5

The term *sophistry* originates from this Greek word, which according to dictionary definition means, "the practice of deception". It was by observation and experimentation that the sophists perfected their method of persuasion. Today, from the media to church organizations, the sophistry of NLP techniques to reach and manipulate the minds of the unsuspecting public, is practised – not through the plain, undisguised word, but by utilizing 'sophisticated' methods of persuasion.

Sigmund Freud, recognized the ability of the subconscious to assimilate and retain stimuli without any loss of information and to recall and impregnate the conscious in the dream state. Speaking about this ability, he writes that "Nothing can be brought to an end in the unconscious. Nothing is past or forgotten". (Sigmund Freud, *The Interpretation of Dreams*.)

The ability to subliminally affect the human subconscious – through a whole variety of techniques – has been an area of study and concern to the U.S. Treasury Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF). A definition of subliminal embedding (with relation to sexual aspects in advertising) was included in its August 6, 1984, "New Rules and Regulations" document.

One prevalent form of subliminal technique was described as the insertion of words or body forms (embeds) by the use of shadows or shading, or the substitution of forms and shapes generally associated with the body. . . . The consumer does not perceive them at a normal level of awareness, and thus is given no choice whether to accept or reject the message, as in the case of normal advertising. ATF holds that this type of advertising technique is false and deceptive, and is prohibited by law. *The Age of Manipulation*, Wilson Bryan Key, PhD, p. 13

If, as Christians, we turn away from the truth (without mixture of sophistry in any form) and follow after fables (anything that does not give a clear, straight testimony and attempts to 'fudge'/'fog' the facts in any way), Satan will have the freedom to put us under his hypnotic spell:

...Continued on Page 8

...every deception of  
Satan mixes truth with  
error.



## Programmed to Fall

Continued From Page 7

The hypnotic influence of Satan will rest upon those who turn from the plain word of God to pleasing fables. 8T 294 (1904). 2MCP 718.1

If we do not guard the five senses against all deceptive influences, then we will become easy prey to Satan's devices:

Those who would not fall a prey to Satan's devices, must guard well the avenues of the soul; they must avoid reading, seeing, or hearing that which will suggest impure thoughts. The mind must not be left to dwell at random upon every subject that the enemy of souls may suggest. The heart must be faithfully sentinelled, or evils without will awaken evils within, and the soul will wander in darkness. *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 518

**Those who would not fall a prey to Satan's devices, must guard well the avenues of the soul; they must avoid reading, seeing, or hearing that which will suggest impure thoughts. The mind must not be left to dwell at random upon every subject that the enemy of souls may suggest.**

As we study, we will trace the roots of Satan's 'NLP' technique and other related concepts, from their spiritualistic/occult beginnings to their present-day absorption into the secular business world, education, Christianity and, finally, even Adventism.

The roots of 'NLP' can be traced back over six thousand years to Satan's rebellion in heaven.

Leaving his place in the immediate presence of the Father, Lucifer went forth to diffuse the spirit of discontent among the angels. He worked with mysterious secrecy, and for a time concealed his real purpose under an appearance of reverence for God. *He began to insinuate doubts concerning the laws that governed heavenly beings, intimating that though laws might be necessary for the inhabitants of the worlds, angels, being more exalted, needed no such restraint, for their own wisdom was a sufficient guide. Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 37

The first step in the direction of open sin was one of leaving the presence of God – entering into a place or situation, against God's will, where He could not offer Lucifer the full mental protection that he needed. Then, under a guise of reverence for God (false religion and worship), he began to practice his mysterious form of mental programming (NLP) that ultimately led to the fall of one third of the angels.

Later we find him practising the same technique on Eve in the Garden of Eden. Through the power of insinuation,

(a step by step process of impressing the mind with thoughts that you intentionally want your subject to imagine) he induced Eve (via the senses) into responding to his suggestions and, finally, pushed her over the precipice into committing human-kind's first sin. Let's turn in our study to the inspired pen of Ellen White, and hear her description of Satan's 'mind-science' and the Edenic fall:

In the hands of Satan, temptation has become a science. He is the god of this world because the world has chosen him as its master . . . In his temptation of our first parents, Satan could not force them to transgress, but he could suggest allurements to sin, and *the mind that is open to his suggestions is the medium through which he works to allure other minds. Signs of the Times*, December 21, 1891

He must insinuate against God's truthfulness and create doubt whether God did mean just what He said; next, he must excite their

curiosity, and lead them to pry into the unsearchable plans of God—the very sin of which Satan had been guilty—and reason as to the cause of His restrictions in regard to the tree of knowledge. *Early Writings*, p. 146

The same process that Satan used in heaven he now put into practice on earth. But, it is interesting to notice that Eve, although having not yet sinned, had ventured into a situation that God had warned her and Adam not to get into. In a sense, she left the direct presence of God and stepped into a zone where she was now open to the introduction of Satan's 'NLP' plan:

When Eve, *disregarding the Lord's admonition concerning the forbidden tree, ventured to approach it, she came in contact with her foe.* Her interest and curiosity having been awakened, Satan proceeded to deny God's word, and to insinuate distrust of His wisdom and goodness. To the woman's statement concerning the tree of knowledge, "God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die," the tempter made answer, "Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." *Genesis 3:3-5 Education*, p. 23

Having awakened her interest by posing as a speaking

serpent (the most beautiful of all the animals), he now began his plan of insinuation. "Did God really say . . ." From Eve's response: ". . . of the fruit of the tree which [is] in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it (God never said that if they touched it, they would die – only if they ate it), lest ye die. . .", he had a clear indication that Eve was open to his next move.

First, he had witnessed her venturing away from the area of safety. He then successfully caught her interest and posed a question (*sense of hearing*), insinuating just enough doubt to cause her response to be less than accurate, and now, having seen her step by step journey into his trap, he was ready to make an outright charge against the wisdom and goodness of God:

*Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.*

In one quick decisive sentence, Satan made God out to be a liar and then, immediately, proceeded to tempt her with the ultimate temptation – the promise of god-realization within one's self (by eating the forbidden fruit). Through this doctrine – that man is his own 'god' and that through some power of 'mind-process' on his own he can gain success – Satan prompted Eve to take the final, irrevocable, step and eat (*appealing to the sense of taste*) from the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

In the King James, *Genesis 3:6*, tells us that Eve saw (*sense of vision*) that the fruit was good for food, and that she took (*succumbing to the sense of touch*) the fruit and ate it (no doubt, the fruit of the tree was also appealing to the sense of smell). The Hebrew in the original text simply states, 'desire'. It can be rightfully concluded that the fruit appealed to the senses of *sight, smell, and touch*.

The final act was the act of the sinner (Eve) becoming an agent for the tempter by causing someone else (Adam) to sin as well. (*Genesis 3:1-6*) Satan attempted to cause the fall of Christ by using the same methods – but failed. He still does this today with great success. Through the media, in its various forms, he directs messages, via the senses to the brain and thus controls, to a large degree, the collective body of humanity.

In ages past, and at present, Satan used massive institutions, like the Papacy, to accomplish his aims. Through her power, riches, beautiful cathedrals and awe-inspiring music, the devil enticed rulers and common people to be sucked into the vortex of her sickly religion.

Protestants little know what they are doing when they propose to accept the aid of Rome in the work of Sunday exaltation . . . Let history testify of her artful and persistent efforts to insinuate herself into the affairs of nations; and having gained a foothold, to further her own aims, even at the ruin of princes and people [THE "DECRETALIA."] {GC88 580.2}

Thus Paul could say, of the man of sin, in 2 Thessalonians 2:9,10:

*[Even him], whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*

It is exactly this same method of 'mind control' that Satan is using on you and I every single day of our lives. Slowly but surely indoctrinating us through the expert use of his 'NLP' technique, until we are willing to commit just about any sin. And, if he cannot get us to do it, he will at least persuade us that it is okay to watch it. Either way, we are programmed for defeat.

Satan will come in a very plausible manner to such as he can deceive, and will insinuate himself into their favor, and lead them almost imperceptibly from God. He wins them under his control, cautiously at first, until their perceptibilities become blunted. Then he will make bolder suggestions, until he can lead them to commit almost any degree of crime. *Conflict and Courage* p. 172

Either the evil angels or the angels of God are controlling the minds of men. Our minds are given to the control of God or to the control of the powers of darkness. *Manuscript 17, 1893*

Satan will insinuate himself by little wedges, which widen as they make a place for themselves. The specious devices of Satan will be brought into the special work of God at this time. *Manuscript 16, 1890.*

Satan will insinuate himself little by little, until he can have a controlling influence on the soul, and induce men gradually to adopt worldly policy. *Review and Herald, January 24, 1893*

In the alpha apostasy, discussed earlier, Satan used Dr. J. H. Kellogg, to capture A. T. Jones and others in the threads of deception that were being woven around them. Here – taken from the Biography series – is some interesting and profound advice that she gave Brother Jones, warning him not to go and see Kellogg. Unfortunately Jones thought that he knew better:

She counselled him (Brother Jones) not to go. He promised her that he would be guarded. She had been warned in vision that such a move on his part would lead to his downfall. She wrote

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of it thus: "In vision I had seen him [A. T. Jones] under the influence of Dr. Kellogg. Fine threads were being woven around him, till he was being bound hand and foot, and his mind and his senses were becoming captivated." Ellen White reported this to Brother Jones just before he went to Battle Creek; she could see "that his perceptions were becoming confused, and that he did not believe the warning given. She said, "The enemy works in a strange, wonderful way to influence human minds." But Jones, a man with a great deal of self-confidence, was sure that he would not fall by the way.

Ellen White watched the inevitable results and agonized for his spiritual welfare. His plan to stay in Battle Creek only one year was soon forgotten as he became more and more entrenched there.

The men who sustain Dr. Kellogg are in a half-mesmerized condition, and do not understand the condition of the man. **They honestly believe that he is to be trusted.** 6 BIO, p. 72

Today we need to guard against the same hypnotic methods that Satan used **during the alpha of SDA apostasies.** If we bring anything into our Adventist 'repertoire' that has roots that are in any way traceable to spiritualism, then we are taking the first steps onto enchanted ground and cannot expect the protection and blessing of Christ.

Take *not a particle of interest* in Spiritualistic theories. Satan is waiting to steal a march upon everyone who allows himself to be deceived by his hypnotism.. *Letter 123, 1904.* See *Ministry of Healing* pp. 242-244; *Medical Ministry* pp. 110-112; 2 *Selected Messages* p. 349,350,353; *EW* 298 for further reading on this subject.

## Occult Origins

Today when we think about the ancient mystic arts, we rarely make any connection between what they practised and what is going on around us today in the guise of modern psychology. In Eastern religion these same practices reveal themselves in labels such as, transcendental meditation, yoga, astral projection, etc. The more technical terms used in the field of parapsychology, like hypnosis (including self-hypnosis), ESP, Visualization, NLP, etc., may give one the impression that these

are studies of true science, but they are not. They are spiritualistic practices that have been exercised for thousands of years in various forms of occultism.

In this part of our study we want to concentrate more on the 'New Age Psychology' origins of NLP (Neuro-Linguistic Programming) and its present-day use, because of the bearing that it has on our own Adventist situation.

Neuro-Linguistic Programming is a proven set of mental techniques designed by studying people who have achieved effectively. NLP was developed in the early 1970's by an information scientist, Richard Bandler, and a linguistics professor, John Grinder, at the University of California, Santa Cruz. From their studies of successful people, they created a way to analyze and transfer human excellence resulting in the most powerful practical psychology ever developed.

Through NLP you can: Learn how to excel in any area ... Develop real rapport with friends; Improve your communication skills and get better response; *Change your feelings* from resourceless to resourceful; Resolve conflicts between people, within yourself and others; Assist others in making changes in behavior, thought and feelings; Achieve many other goals. *NLP Comprehensive resource Guide. 1988, p. 1. - Emphasis supplied*

A superficial reading of this may even lead one to conclude that this sounds like a good program, but consider more carefully what is actually being said and a whole different picture unfolds.

The very term 'programming', as used in the NLP title, tells you that *you* are able to 'program' or 're-program' your brain so that *you* can improve your communication skills, change your feelings, resolve conflicts, assist others in making changes in behaviour, thought and feelings, etc.

In the *New Age Catalog*, under the section title, 'Brain/Mind Technology, there is a report on NLP:

In the early 1970's Dr. Richard Bandler and Dr. John Grinder through a careful study of acknowledged masters of communication and change such as Drs. Milton Erickson, Virginia Satir, Gregory Bateson, and Fritz Perls, discovered what made these individuals so effective and in the process developed the field of Neuro-Linguistic Programming . . . .

Additionally there is a growing body of patterns for accomplishing specific desired changes in emotions, beliefs, thinking strategies, and behavior. In accomplishing all of this,

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when champions are few - this will be our test. At this time, we must

AMAZING DISCOVERIES  
UPDATE

## NORWAY UPDATE

Sixteen people met on Dec 11, 2002 to evaluate the evangelistic meetings that were held in Honefoss, Norway during the fall of 2002 with speaker Walter Veith. Present at this meeting were representatives from the Norwegian Union, the East Norwegian Conference, Hoenfoss church, Tyrifjord church, Tyrifjord Academy, the Matteson school and the Heartgood Foundation.

It was a blessing that 2 students from the academy had been invited to share their experience. Their report was so enthusiastic and positive that it set the tone for the whole discussion. Gullveig commented, "As youth, we are sick of all the cliches we've heard for so many years. This was totally new, well documented and interesting. Spiritually inspiring!" Jan told us that his spiritual life had skyrocketed. "This was great! Veith is the best lecturer I've heard! He presented the topics in a very interesting way."

Terje Bjerka, ... had received only positive responses about the meetings. He wants to support and encourage Walter Veith and the Heartgood Foundation to have a similar effort next year.

Svein AreLund the pastor of the Honefoss SDA church, said his church had been inspired and blessed by being a part of this. Three young people were baptized in the beginning of the 3-month evangelism course and four were baptized after the meetings. In addition, the pastor is following up four people with Bible studies and EBS students are studying with another six.

Concerning the preaching, Rolf Beckhaug reported that an elderly brother in the Lord had come to him and said, "Tell the ones attending that these lectures are excellent and that they exhibit a true protestant spirit." He had been inspired as he heard the old truths presented in such an enthusiastic and refreshing manner.

## KARI 550 AM RADIO

For more than 4 months now, Amazing Discoveries has been broadcasting the three angel's message on the air from KARI 550 AM at 1:30 - 2:00 pm PST. Pastor Victor Gill has been presenting all of the precious truths from the Bible that are present truth for today. There have been many listening to his Christ-centered messages, and we receive on average about 3-5 calls per week from people requesting tapes of the broadcasts. Many have said they have never heard anything like this before, and want to study it further. Beginning in mid April, Brian Neumann's *Voices of a Dying Planet* series is being aired on the radio, with excellent response from listeners, who are delighted that someone is sharing scriptural insights into worship and music. The radio station reaches from Seattle, WA to Chilliwack, BC and the entire coastal islands off BC and WA. We praise God for this opportunity to provide the people of northwestern Washington and southwestern BC with the message of truth. To listen to the broadcasts out of the broadcast area, you may log in to our website at: [www.amazingdiscoveries.org](http://www.amazingdiscoveries.org) where you will find an archive of every radio broadcast thus far. Plans are underway for more speakers for this project, and we solicit your prayers for this new and important work. Please consider a donation to help support this project, or to help make these broadcasts available on other radio stations around the country. Your support is urgently needed.

**Look for a report on Brian Neumann's 2003 spring tour in the next issue**



## Programmed to Fall

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NLP fosters an attitude of respectful fascination for the unique way in which each person creates his or her own experience.

As Dr. Richard Bandler has said, **"NLP teaches people to run their own brains instead of letting their brains run them."** NLP is about understanding how your mind works, then getting into the driver's seat to **"drive your own bus."** (Written by The New England Institute of NLP, found in New Age Catalog, p. 85 – Emphasis supplied)

Notice that there is the same emphasis in the new age document. NLP, as co-founder Dr. Bandler said, 'teaches people to run their own brains.' YOU are the one that can do it on your own. In Eastern religion this is called the process of 'god realization.' In other words, you are the god of your own destiny. NLP is a form of psychology that focuses on the human ability to change the life. This, according to Scripture, is not the true cure for mankind's deficiencies, as logical and appealing as it may sound to the 'natural man'.

What makes the roots of NLP even more suspect is that it is based on the type of psychotherapy called Ericksonian Hypnosis – developed by Dr. Milton Erickson, founder of the Erickson foundation.

Those who are familiar with Dr. Erickson will tell you that he was a powerful man, and that he could make changes in others without them even knowing it. This is what the 'New Age Catalog' says about his powerful techniques:

... Dr. Erickson also taught us how to utilize and bypass client resistance by embedding therapeutic interventions in seeming casual conversation.

In simple language, this means that you can bypass the conscious mind of an individual (they are not consciously aware of what you are doing) and plant thoughts in the subconscious that you intend to place there. Along with this therapy there are ways of 'anchoring' these thoughts in the mind once they are planted.

Dr. Erickson's psychology relies on a methodology that teaches people to rely more on self than on God. Jesus Himself said: 'I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me' (John 5:30).

Nowhere in Scripture do you hear of Christ or the apostles teaching a course in 'subliminal messaging techniques' so that people could heal themselves from mental, physical or spiritual ills. But, this is exactly what NLP promises can be done by

using a deceptive method of 'mind programming' that will help you change people's beliefs, thinking strategies and behaviour. The Bible teaches that man can only find the answers to his problems in Christ/God.

To study a science that teaches man to capture the mind of another individual (to whatever degree) is tantamount to teaching them the same 'NLP' methods that Satan has used for more than six thousand years.

Men and women are not to study the science of how to take captive the minds of those who associate with them. This is the science that Satan teaches. *We are to resist everything of the kind. We are not to tamper with mesmerism and hypnotism - the science of the one who lost his first estate and was cast out of the heavenly courts.* Medical Ministry, p. 110, 111

In the secular world, NLP is being used by Fortune 100 companies, therapists, consultants, sales people, teachers and health professionals. On the Bennet/Stellar University website, they advertised the eight-day NLP Practitioner Certification course ([www.imagnet.org/NLPC.htm](http://www.imagnet.org/NLPC.htm)). On day one and two of the course they will teach you, among other things, how to: 'change unwanted behaviours, how to quickly establish a connection with anyone, resolve internal conflicts, reveal limiting beliefs and effectively change them'. Dr. Richard Bandler, creator of NLP for this institution, tells you that you will learn, 'how to assist others in changing and how to tailor your own communications to become irresistible'.

Other lessons offered in the course are, 'mind body healing techniques, mesmerizing and healing patterns of Jesus'. They obviously recognize the potential dangers involved in learning and utilizing such obviously subliminal (hidden) methods of mind-manipulation, because they offer this consolation:

As a protection for you and for those around you, the Society of NLP now requires participants to sign a licensing agreement which guarantees that those certified in this technology will use it with the highest integrity.

On the International Teaching Seminars (ITS) website ([www.nlp-community.com/coaching.htm](http://www.nlp-community.com/coaching.htm)), they give UK NLP Coaching Certification Training. They teach that as an "NLP Coach, you are a guide" that will help people navigate their way through the choices that face them in this 21<sup>st</sup> century. (coaching/coach is a common term used in the NLP profession for one who trains and directs others. Guide, is a common New Age term for someone who advises others in their spiritual course).

The 'guide' is taught to elicit the solutions from the real expert – the client. ie. by making the client believe that they had the ideas, when in fact, the guide planted the ideas by asking 'thought-provoking' questions. ITS, also tell us that "there is an

increasing realization that we have the resources we need within us". ('You will be as gods.' Genesis 3:5)

The connection between NLP, New Age and eastern mysticism is unmistakable, and the connection between these philosophies, their mysterious, secret psychology practices and Satan's original method of deception is indisputable. In fact, the very institutions that offer these courses recommend as reading material books such as: *Frogs in Princes, Magic Demystified, Practical Magic, Patterns of Hypnotic Techniques, Trance Formations* and many more. The titles themselves give you clear indication where the roots of this practice lie.

## Bridge to Christianity

Some of the key people who have played an important role in making the transition between NLP psychotherapy and Christianity are John S. Savage and Gene Rooney of LEAD Consultants, Inc. of Reynoldsburg, Ohio. John Savage first came into contact with NLP by reading a journal in 1981. Today, Savage has his certification as an NLP practitioner after taking most of his training from Dr. Gene Rooney, a pastor and his colleague at LEAD Consultants. Mr. Savage has lectured around the world and his books are available in several different languages.

Dr. Rooney teaches seminars and leads workshops on Neuro-Linguistics, Communication Skills, Hypnosis, Visualization and more. Mr. Rooney received his training in Neuro-Linguistics from the Neuro-Linguistic institute in Kansas City, 'Grinder-DeLozier Assoc'. in Santa Cruz, CA, N.L.P. of Colorado in Boulder, and the Dynamic Learning Center in Santa Cruz. Dr. Rooney completed his training with Dr. Richard Bandler, Dr. Wyatt Woodsmall and Tad James.

Savage openly verifies that NLP is based on Ericksonian Hypnosis. He believes that Christian meditation is a form of hypnosis and that there are different stages of altered state, from meditation to that of deep trance. He also sees no difference in the 'psychic' healing of a Christian healer and that of the psychic healers of the Far East.

In the past, some Christian institutions have offered NLP/Lab courses, like the one that was offered by the 'Department of Marital, Family and Child Therapy' of Loma Linda University, and instructed by Doug Moline in Griggs Hall # 206, advertise that "the most important aspect of NLP, as a powerful vehicle for personal, social, and structural change, is that it gets results quickly, dependably, and predictably". Recommended reading for students doing the course were books such as, *The Structure of Magic, Neuro-Linguistic Programming, and They Lived Happily Ever After*.

A number of visualization/self-hypnosis techniques are to be found in the SDA 5 Day Plan to Stop Smoking. In the introduction it states:

... the new plan emphasizes lifestyle-modifi-

cation strategies such as values clarification, modeling, visualization, affirmation, positive thinking, and rewards.

Visualization is not an innocent technique. It is based on the method used in Yoga and is used to create a reality with the mind and achieve union with 'The All' (Brahma). In the book, *The Seduction of Christianity*, it states:

In a recent interview reported in *The Journal of Transpersonal Psychology*, the Dalai Lama declared that "the use of the imagination to generate or visualize an image in the mind's eye" is an integral part of tantric yoga; and he explains how this ancient practice is related to similar techniques recently adopted in modern psychotherapy.

Christian leaders who promote and defend visualization seem unwilling to admit that it lies at the heart of religious beliefs that are demonically inspired and unalterably hostile to Christianity. They suggest that shamanistic visualization is a counterfeit of God's truth that they teach. However there is no true visualization taught or practiced in the Bible for Satan to counterfeit; visualization is as absent from the scriptures as it has always been present in the occult. . . .

Psychic healers Bill Henkin and Amy Wallace stress that "visualization is one of the most potent and widely used techniques in [psychic] healing." Stellar declares that the exercise of "visual imagination is a regular part of the training for psychics and healers in . . . Spiritist Churches. *The Seduction of Christianity*, p. 140-141 (Emphasis Supplied)

Yet in the Breathe Free Plan we read:

You can be the architect of your own self-image. . . . Since the subconscious self-image acts on course, you will tap new strength and energy to keep your life in harmony with your new self-image. . . . Visualize yourself in detail as the person you intend to be... "We create our life with our thought." ... By desiring, visualizing, and believing yourself to be a non-smoker, you can become one. *The Breath-Free Stop Smoking Plan*, p. 28-32

The focus of all our work should be to draw people to

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Satan will insinuate himself by little wedges, which widen as they make a place for themselves.



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Christ, for He will be the strength they need. Today we are opting for a new method of changing lives that focuses on methodologies concocted by man and demons. Practices that are the earmarks of occult religions and that have been part of Satan's manipulation techniques since the beginning.

If you can be 'the architect of your own self-image', then who needs God? If through 'hypnotherapeutic' techniques such as NLP or visualization you can bring people to a greater knowledge and appreciation of themselves, and then in turn teach them how, through a method of mind manipulation, to affect and change the lives of others, then I fear we have missed the whole point of the Christian's dependence on the Holy Spirit.

If I can have this power through a method that quite clearly has its roots in the occult, and that is contrary to all the Spirit of Prophecy instruction given, then perhaps I should just stay in the secular world. Sure, we do need to do the best we can to reach others and not expect God to do for us what we can do for ourselves but, when we start picking fruit from the orchard of Satan to accomplish our Christian ends, then we are making a mistake.

It may be said that we have adapted the whole NLP and Visualization program to fit the Christian program and that the negative aspects of this technique have been removed. It may also be said that there are some very positive ideas regarding human nature, communication skills, etc., that we can take from these teaching – admittedly this may be true – but it is likewise true that every deception of Satan mixes truth with error.

This has been his strategy since the first. If we start to borrow from this area of Satanic deception and trust that we are effectively sifting the good from the bad, then we might as well look into all questionable practices and start to take out what we feel will be fine for us. Unfortunately, this is exactly what we have been doing. In the area of music, worship, outreach methods, new theology etc., we are mixing the sacred with the profane and think that we can, with impunity, disregard the clear teaching of Scripture and the Testimonies.

As innocuous and innocent as many of these ideas seem, we always need to question the origins of these practices. Anything connected with NLP, in any way, should be shunned. Anything that in any way gives you the impression that you are able to be the architect of your destiny and that you are able, through some method, to channel the lives of others, should likewise be avoided.

If a church would publicly advertise that they were training their evangelists in methods of NLP, would the average man on the street trust such a missionary? No church would make it common knowledge that they were training their people in this way, because anyone remotely knows that secular people, already suspicious of religion, would avoid such a person.

How would you respond, especially if you had gone

through this type of training yourself, if someone approached you using a 'technique' that they had been trained in to convert you to their way of thinking?

If one knew that a major factor of influence in my conversion to Christ had been as a result of some 'technique' that someone trained in NLP (LAB I & II) had used, then I don't doubt that they would be highly skeptical and suspicious of the institution that trained people to 'convert' others in such a way.

Christians should be as transparent and honest as possible. The truth must be told in simplicity, love and directness, without any use of psychological technique. It is not our work to convict, convert, or control – this is the job of the Holy Spirit. Our job is to preach the Word and leave the results with God.

To use even subtle mind-manipulative methods to win souls, heal or guide others is, in essence, parroting the sophisticated techniques that Satan used in the past and that are still being used by him and his agents today to steal the minds of people from God. We will indeed, without doubt, pay the price for mixing the wine of Babylon with the fountain of living waters. This kind of spiritual blasphemy has always cost God's people dearly. May God help us to turn from all deceptions of Satan and to refrain from attempting to play 'Holy Spirit'.

"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor." **False speaking in any matter, every attempt or purpose to deceive our neighbor, is here included. An intention to deceive is what constitutes falsehood. By a glance of the eye, a motion of the hand, an expression of the countenance, a falsehood may be told as effectually as by words. All intentional overstatement, every hint or insinuation calculated to convey an erroneous or exaggerated impression, even the statement of facts in such a manner as to mislead, is falsehood.** PP, p. 309

NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW

## THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

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This two part series helps us understand the way in which God communicates to His people through the prophetic gift. The reasons for why God chose this method of communicating with sinful man are explored from a solidly Biblical point of view. Most importantly, the Biblical tools for discerning a true prophet from a false one are clearly and satisfactorily presented. Part two of the series does a very specific study into the prophetic ministry of Ellen G. White and deals with some tough questions regarding the role her messages played and still continues to play in the experience of the SDA Church. **(2 video set) ..... 28.90US**

NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW

CREATION  
TO  
RESTORATION

## Part 3

by Dr. Walter J. Veith

## Evidence for Transformation

We have already seen that the genome is endowed with a vast capacity for variation and that even more variety is possible through the differential expression of the genes. It is thus possible to produce dramatic changes in form and structure by just modifying the way in which the genes are expressed, or by changing the developmental expressions, or by the activation or deactivation of genes within the genome. If environmental conditions were to change, plants and animals could adapt to these new conditions by differentially employing the genes and gene controlling mechanisms available in order to survive. There would be no need to wait for some fortuitous mutation to occur in order to overcome new obstacles because, in a sense, all organisms would have been preadapted to deal with change within the limits set by their genetic composition. Moreover, some animals could survive even drastic changes provided they were preadapted with the tools that would allow them to enter entirely new adaptive zones, such as the transition from a herbivorous to a carnivorous lifestyle.

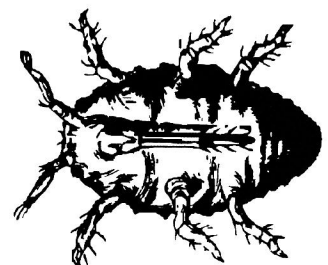
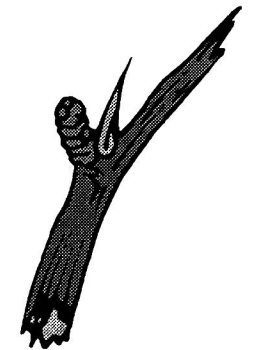
**Plants:** After the fall, according to the Genesis account, the ground was cursed, and plants and animals were transformed. Some plants were to bring forth thorns and thistles, and it is to be presumed that changes in seasons could have brought about deciduous trees in order to cope with the new conditions. Weeds are nothing other than plants that compete strongly with cultivated forms. Isn't it strange that most of the plants that man uses for food are the plants that have to be nurtured and pampered in order to yield their crops, and if left to themselves, they rapidly get pushed aside by other plants which readily out-compete them? If all these plants existed so long before man, why are these food plants still around? It certainly seems as if sweat of the brow is what keeps the food supply coming in, and that hard work is

what is necessary to ensure the survival of the necessary food plants. According to Genesis, work was also necessary before the fall because the plants were to be dressed and kept, how much more so after the fall.

God said that thorns and thistles would appear. **Thorns are really just modified stems in which the growth process has been modified (differential expression of the developmental genes), and spines are modified leaves which have followed the same pattern. There is no new information**

**here, just a modification of the existing pattern.** Originally, according to the Scriptures, plants were watered by rising levels of subterranean water and by a morning mist. Such conditions are often simulated in greenhouses today where it has been found that watering the root systems alone prevents leaf fungus whereas wetting the leaves with sprayers can be detrimental. Misting of plants, however, has beneficial effects, and even micronutrients can be absorbed this way through the leaves. Early in the morning, the stomata of the leaves are open under certain conditions, and this allows for uptake of water and nutrients. **What is very interesting is that even music has an effect on the capacity of plants to absorb moisture and nutrients through their leaves, and soft classical music or the music of birds tends to enhance absorption.** Is it possible that the beauty of nature has been so designed to create such superb harmony, and that in many instances we see only a fraction of the original perfection?

**Parasites and venomous creatures:** Some organisms can become dangerous by just being placed in different habitats to which they are not accustomed. Bacteria, for example, are very specific as to where they live in the gastro-intestinal tract and if they end up elsewhere they can wreak havoc by undergoing physiological changes which could induce them to produce harmful substances such as certain metabolites or proteins that can have negative effects, such as inducing diarrhea.<sup>15</sup> Here is a mechanism for the development



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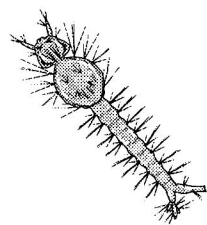
## Creation to Restoration - 1

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of disease organisms. **Originally, bacteria could all have had highly specific roles to play in assisting numerous processes in the body and in the environment, just as the myriads of useful bacteria still do today, and their original role could have been only beneficial.** Moreover, changes in bacteria that are already out of their original habitat could be rapid and ongoing, since the mechanisms for gene modification through plasmid transfers were already in place.

The same could be said for all the organisms that eventually turned to parasitism. A changing environment with a drastically altered habitat could induce organisms to exploit new and different food sources and thus parasitism and carnivory could develop. Protozoa that assist in the nutrition of numerous animals could have been transformed into deadly pathogens and fungi that were to assist in the decomposition of plant debris (remember plants were created as food) could have parasitised living organisms. Parasitic worms show dramatic levels of degeneration of organs, and the tapeworm and numerous other species of parasitic worms have been transformed into little other than reproductive organisms. *Sacculina*, a parasite of crabs, has no digestive tract, but its larva is still a free-swimming nauplius larva. Instead of maturing into a normal barnacle, it is transformed into a mass of filaments in its crab host. The loss of organs is not necessarily the result of mutations, but could just be the result of deactivation of the gene systems that are not required under the new circumstances. There is no evidence here of evolution, only of devolution.

Insects too could have been modified to develop mechanisms of defence and means of parasitism. **Mosquitoes use their syringe-like mouthparts to suck blood from a host, but the male of the species uses the same mouthparts to extract plant juices from plants. Is it possible that plant juice was no longer sufficient to provide the necessary energy that the female needs for the maturation of her eggs, and that the same apparatus that was used for sucking plant juices could be equally effectively employed to suck blood?** The sting of a bee is nothing other than a modified ovipositor. The versatility of a bee's genome is demonstrated by the fact that the type of food that is fed to the larvae will determine whether a bee will develop into a worker or a queen. If a queen should die, then workers can develop into queens

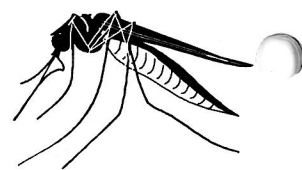


if fed differently, and this obviously activates latent gene systems that enable the non-reproducing worker to be transformed into an egg-producing queen. The various secretions associated with oviposition could equally well have been transformed into the venom that is injected by a bee's sting.

Venom, in general, is nothing other than modified normal secretions. The venom of poisonous fish is a product of the glands that normally produce protective slime to coat the fish, and the spines that deliver the venom are modified fin rays. The venom injected by snakes and spiders could be nothing more than modified digestive proteins. As to what constituted the original diet of spiders and other venomous creatures, that is a question open to speculation. There are spiders such as the orb-weaving spider that subsist on pollen that is captured in their nets<sup>16</sup> and it is quite possible that certain wind carried seeds could also have constituted part of the original diet.

**Carnivores:** Carnivores kill and eat other animals and in the case of carnivorous mammals, they are classified as such on the strength of their teeth. A carnivore is equipped with the necessary weapons to kill and catch other animals, but this equipment need not necessarily have been designed for that purpose. Yes, possessing the equipment pre-adapts an organism to become a carnivore but this need not have been its original disposition. Panda bears, for example, are classified as carnivores on the strength of their teeth, but they eat bamboo. The same type of teeth can kill and tear flesh, but as in the case of the Panda bear, that need not be what they were designed for. The same can be said for the whole family Ursidae, the bears, that subsist largely on a vegetarian diet eating mainly berries. It is true that they will eat fish if available and can be opportunist carnivores, but they are equally at home on the fields grazing alongside buffalo.

Carnivores are not only adapted for meat eating in terms of their teeth, but their intestines are also shorter than those of herbivores. It is very interesting that diet has an amazing effect on intestinal structure. Intestines have a tremendous capacity for growth, and if sections are removed during operations, some parts can regenerate and grow back



to their original length. Carnivores have short intestines because meat does not contain fiber and a short intestine is thus advantageous so that the food does not remain trapped in the intestines for long periods of time. Also, the food of carnivores is high-energy food that is absorbed rapidly. Carnivores whose diets are changed to herbivorous diets adapt rapidly to these diets and subsist very well on them. Lions will also preferably eat the contents of the rumen of a kill first. The rumen contains fermented plant products, and there are numerous accounts of lions and other carnivores that were raised on plant diets such as grains and would not touch meat even if presented to them. Dogs and cats can also subsist very well on vegetarian diets and in fact live much longer and are less aggressive on such diets. The teeth of these animals that act as shears could equally well have been used to shred tough plants in the past, and the fact that they don't do so now could simply be as a result of the destruction of their original food source. There is plenty of evidence in the palaeontological record that far greater varieties of plants existed in the past than exist today.

Destruction of habitat changes the diets of animals even in our day. Chipmunks traditionally eat seeds in the forests, but with acid rain leaving its mark, food sources are often becoming inadequate, and it is not unusual to see these cute herbivorous animals tearing away at road kills to augment their diets with meat. This is a case of a herbivore becoming a meat scavenger as a result of changing circumstances.

Kea parrots in New Zealand ordinarily grub for roots, but dwindling food supplies will encourage them to attack sheep. They will use their sharp weapons, their beaks and claws, to tear open the backs of the sheep so that they can eat the fat around the kidneys.<sup>17</sup> This is an amazing transformation, and if their habitat and food source is restored, they will go back to calmly eating their roots. They have the same equipment as birds of prey (sharp talons and a powerful beak) but they use them for harmless purposes. How did they know that tearing open the backs of sheep would provide the type of food they could subsist on? That is a mystery, but lack of needs normally leads

to aggression and this could be one of the reasons why they aggressively attack a creature that will or cannot defend itself.

A further example of such change is found in the so-called Vampire Finches of the Galapagos Islands. These normally vegetarian birds have recently been shown to raid nests and suck blood from nesting booby birds,<sup>18,19</sup> a change in diet induced by increasing competition for vegetarian resources. The finches feed on these sea birds during extended periods of drought. They peck at the base of the feathers until the blood flows and then they sip it. Other finches queue up and resume the process when the previous finch is satisfied. This is a change in diet and behaviour induced by negative environmental circumstances and did not require millions of years to develop.

Aggression is a trait that potentially exists in all creatures, but it need not have been there in the beginning. Out of the wild species from which the domestic dog has been bred, there have been developed incredibly docile, friendly and lov-

ing dogs of all shapes and sizes. But selective breeding can also produce the most vicious killers out of the same gene pool. Aggressive natures thus have a genetic basis and can be reduced rapidly through selection. The capacity to defend oneself need not ever be displayed if the need for defence should never arise. The Russian scientist Dmitry Belyaev and others who studied the process of domestication of foxes found that changes in behaviour could be selected for rapidly.<sup>20</sup> Out of a variety of foxes, those that responded without fear to humans were selected and the fearful ones discarded, and by the sixth generation the foxes were displaying behaviour patterns similar to domestic dogs, whimpering to attract attention and licking their keepers. This behaviour increased to one pup in 6 by the tenth generation and to 3 pups in 4 by the 30<sup>th</sup> generation. The changes were accompanied by anatomical changes and by a reduction in adrenal hormone secretions (fight and flight hormones) and increases in serotonin levels.

Serotonin is an important chemical (one of the monoamines that functions in neurotransmission, regulation of pain thresholds and modulation of vascular muscle tone) in brain function, and highly aggressive or schizophrenic people in mental institutions are known to have low serotonin levels and are treated to compensate for this condition. The development of aggression and fear of humans need thus not have developed over millions of years but could have come about very rapidly.

Transformation of animals into killing machines, seen

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**...there are numerous accounts of lions and other carnivores that were raised on plant diets such as grains and would not touch meat even if presented to them. Dogs and cats can also subsist very well on vegetarian diets and in fact live much longer and are less aggressive on such diets. The teeth of these animals that act as shears could equally well have been used to shred tough plants in the past, and the fact that they don't do so now could simply be as a result of the destruction of their original food source.**

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## Creation to Restoration - 1

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from a creation perspective, is thus an adaptive condition which points to degeneration rather than evolutionary advance. In evolutionary thinking, the carnivorous condition is an advanced condition through which survival pressures are brought into the playing field, which in turn lead to evolutionary advance, through natural selection, in both the prey and the predator. In a sense, the constant battle for survival brings about strategy and counterstrategy, but any changes would still have to come about through mutations, which happen by chance, and this scenario is highly unlikely. Looking at it from the opposite perspective, carnivory is a sad consequence of the introduction of death and violence into the system. This point is perhaps well illustrated by the famous piranha, the fish renowned for its razor sharp teeth and its capacity to strip an animal to bone should it haplessly end up in the water. There is, however, evidence that the ancestors of the piranha were once plant eaters.

Many species of South American *Pacu* fish, which are closely related to the piranha, use their powerful jaws and strong teeth to eat aquatic plants and fruits that fall into the water. The two groups are morphologically very similar, and it is noteworthy that the piranha will also eat plant material. Young stages (just as in the case of many pelagic fishes) are largely plant feeders and genetically, much to the surprise of researchers, there is no clear distinction between the vicious piranha and the vegetarian species<sup>21</sup>, with some species even merging.<sup>22</sup> It is interesting that the *pacu* species that is most like the piranha in appearance, *Pygocentrus denticulate*, lives on plant foods. Actually, piranhas are not as vicious as most believe, and they generally only clip off pieces of other creatures and don't devour them entirely. It is conceivable that the same scenario as evident for the piranha could apply to all carnivorous fish including the sharks, which also have herbivorous cousins. The modifications of the feeding structures could thus be ascribed to modification or lack of genetic expression and can be considered secondary rather than primary.

As we have seen, sin and the flood have caused dramatic changes that are all perfectly logical and equally possible and supply sound answers to many of the skeptic's questions. We need not allow ourselves to doubt God, as evidence for design is all around us. The fact that this controversy exists, and that despite it, evidence is available to the sincere seeker only shows, I believe, how complex God

is. Understanding Him and His creation will be our eternal study in the earth made new.

Because of our imperfect knowledge here on this earth, there will always be hooks to hang one's doubts upon. But soon that great day will come when all things will begin to be made clear.

"For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known." 1 Cor 13:12

May your faith be strengthened as you look upon God's marvellous creation and may we all continue in faith, hope, love and faithfulness until Jesus comes.

Professor Walter J. Veith

<sup>15</sup> Keusch, G.T. 1974. "Ecology of the intestinal tract". *Natural History*, 83(9):70-77.

<sup>16</sup> *Nature Australia*, Summer 1999-2000, p.5.

<sup>17</sup> Wheeler, G. 1975. "The cruelty of nature". *Origins*, vol. 2(1):32-41.

<sup>18</sup> Weiner, J. 1994. *The Beak of the Finch*. Jonathan Cape Random House, London, UK, p. 17.

<sup>19</sup> "Islands of the Vampire Birds", *ABC TV (Australia)*, broadcast October 13, 1999.

<sup>20</sup> Trut, L.N. 1999. "Early canid domestication: the farm-fox experiment". *American Scientist* 87:160-169.

<sup>21</sup> "Piranha and new DNA evidence", ><http://www.angelfire.com/biz/piranha038/dna.html>>, April 28, 2000.

<sup>22</sup> "sub-family Serrasalmina"e, ><http://www.angelfire.com/biz/piranha038/pg2.html>>, April 27, 2000.

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## THE HEALTH MESSAGE Health Reform

### Indifference Toward Health Reform a Danger

"Let none who profess godliness regard with indifference the health of the body, and flatter themselves that intemperance is no sin, and will not affect the physical and the moral nature." *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 43

"Without health no one can as distinctly understand or as completely fulfil his obligations to himself, to his fellow beings, or to his Creator. Therefore the health should be as faithfully guarded as the character.... Though the facts of physiology are now so generally understood, there is an alarming indifference in regard to the principles of health. Even of those who have a knowledge of these principles, there are few who put them in practice. Inclination and impulse is followed as blindly as if life were controlled by mere chance rather than by definite and unvarying laws." (Ed 195)

### Essential to Spiritual Discernment, Character Perfection and Sanctification

"God requires of His people continual advancement. We need to learn that indulged appetite is the greatest hindrance to mental improvement and soul sanctification. With all our profession of health reform many of us eat improperly. Indulgence of appetite is the greatest cause of physical and mental debility, and lies largely at the foundation of feebleness and premature death. Let the individual who is seeking to possess purity of spirit bear in mind that in Christ there is power to control the appetite." (CD 127)

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Those who overcome as Christ overcame will need to constantly guard themselves against the temptations of Satan. The appetite and passions should be restricted and under the control of enlightened conscience, that the intellect may be unimpaired, the perceptive powers clear, so that the workings of Satan and his snares may not be interpreted to be the providence of God. Many desire the final reward and victory which are to be given to overcomers, but are not willing to endure toil, privation, and denial of self, as did their Redeemer. It is only through obedience and continual effort that we shall overcome as Christ overcame. The controlling power of ap-

petite will prove the ruin of thousands, when, if they had conquered on this point, they would have had moral power to gain the victory over every other temptation of Satan. But those who are slaves to appetite will fail in perfecting Christian character. The continual transgression of man for six thousand years has brought sickness, pain, and death as its fruits. And as we near the close of times, Satan's temptation to indulge appetite will be more powerful and more difficult to overcome." (CD 59)

"God requires that His people be temperate in all things. Unless they practice true temperance, they will not, they cannot, be susceptible to the sanctifying influence of the truth." (CD 451)

### We Must Practice What We Preach

"As we near the close of time, we must rise higher and still higher upon the question of health reform and Christian temperance, presenting it in a more positive and decided manner. We must strive continually to educate the people, not only by our words, but by our practice. Precept and practice combined have a telling influence." (CD 451-452)

### Honor and Obey Our Lord

"The Lord does not give light on health reform that it may be disregarded by those who are in a position of influence and authority. The Lord means just what He says, and He is to be honored in what He says. Light is to be given upon these subjects. It is the diet question that needs close investigation, and prescriptions should be made in accordance with health principles." (CD 294)

### The Lord Cannot Work on Behalf of those who Refuse to Heed His Instruction

"There are those among Seventh-day Adventists who will not heed the light given them in regard to this matter. They make flesh meat a part of their diet. Disease comes upon them. Sick and suffering as a result of their own wrong course, they ask for the prayers of the servants of God. But how can the Lord work in their behalf when they are not willing to do His will, when they refuse to heed His instruction in regard to health reform? For thirty years [now 130 years] the light on health reform has been coming to the people of God, but many have made it a subject of jest. They have continued to use teas, coffee, spices, and flesh meat. Their bodies are full of disease. How can we, I ask, present such ones to the Lord for healing?" (CD 400)

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**Health Message***...Continued From Page 19***God Holds Us Responsible**

"At the time the light of health reform dawned upon us, and since that time, the questions have come home every day, 'Am I practising true temperance in all things?' 'Is my diet such as will bring me in a position where I can accomplish the greatest amount of good?' If we cannot answer these questions in the affirmative, we stand condemned before God, for he will hold us all responsible for the light which has shown upon our path. The time of ignorance God winked at, but as fast as light shines upon us, He requires us to change our health-destroying habits, and place ourselves in a right relation to physical laws." (CD 19-20)

**Be Careful in Opposing the Health Message**

"We have been given the work of advancing health reform. The Lord desires His people to be in harmony with one another.... Beware how you place yourself in opposition to the work of health reform. It will go forward; for it is the Lord's message of lessening the suffering in our world, and of purifying His people. Be careful what attitude you assume, lest you be found causing division. My brother, even while you fail to bring into your life and into your family the blessing that comes from following the principles of health reform, do not harm others by opposing the light God has given on this subject.... The Lord has given His people a message in regard to health reform. This light has been shining upon their pathway for thirty years [now 130 years]; and the Lord cannot sustain His servants in a course which will counteract it. He is displeased when his servants act in opposition to the message upon this point, which He has given them to give to others. Can He be pleased when half the

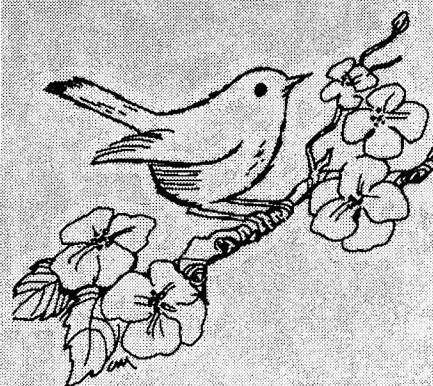
workers labouring in a place, teach that the principles of health reform are as closely allied with the third angels' message as the arm is to the body, while their co-workers, by their practice, teach principles that are entirely opposite? This is regarded as a sin in the sight of God..." (CD 38)

**A Work to Do**

"God requires His people to cleanse themselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord. All those who are indifferent and excuse themselves from this work, waiting for the Lord to do for them that which He requires them to do for themselves, will be found wanting when the meek of the earth, who have wrought His judgments, are hid in the day of the Lord's anger." (CD 33)

"Let no one think that he can do as he pleases in the matter of diet. But before all who sit at the table with you, let it appear that you follow principle in the matter of eating, as in all other matters, that the glory of God may be revealed. You cannot afford to do otherwise; for you have a character to form for the future immortal life. Great responsibilities rest upon every human soul. Let us comprehend these responsibilities, and bear them nobly in the name of the Lord.

To every one who is tempted to indulge appetite, I would say, Yield not to temptation, but confine yourself to the use of wholesome foods. You can train yourself to enjoy a healthful diet. The Lord helps those who seek to help themselves; but when men will not take special pains to follow out the mind and will of God, how can He work with them? Let us act our part, working out our salvation with fear and trembling, lest we make mistakes in the treatment of our bodies, which before God, we are under obligation to keep in the most healthy condition possible." (CD 35)



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or

PO Box 189  
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Canada

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