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Double Issue

FATH **ON THE LINE**
DARE TO STAND

Winter/Spring 2019

Welcome



*This edition of Faith on the Line,
includes both winter and spring
editions.*



The More and More Principle

Dear Reader,

I pray your thoughts are being lightened with hope and joy as we move into the spring months and you see the re-awakening of the flowers and trees in your vicinity. This sign of new life always reminds me of the work that God has in store for each one of us. Hearts that may be dead and cold in sin can be brought to life through the ministry of God's Spirit in our lives.

Which leads me to a thought that I have recently come across in my study of God's word. I call it ***The More and More Principle***. Although I am confident that there is even more to this More and More Principle than I have come across, let me briefly explain what God has already shown me thus far in my study.

The Bible is full of emphatic promises. Never does God say He "might" save us, or He "might" listen and answer if we come to Him. He always promises a definite sure word.... "I will..."

As a matter of fact, He goes above and beyond our highest expectations and dreams.

He promises us **more** than we asked for:

Ephesians 3:20



Now unto him that is able to do **exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think**, according to the power that worketh in us,

Romans 8:37

Nay, in all these things we are **more than conquerors** through him that loved us.

1 Corinthians 2:9

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.



Psalms 115:14

The Lord shall increase you **more and more**, you and your children.

continued on page 19 

Our aim is to urge men and women to stand for truth and resist error. We pray that in times of serious compromise our ministry will equip you with solid information on current end-time issues and trends, and encourage you to live a life apart from worldly influences.

FAITH ON THE LINE

DARE TO STAND

Double Issue

Winter /
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In this issue :

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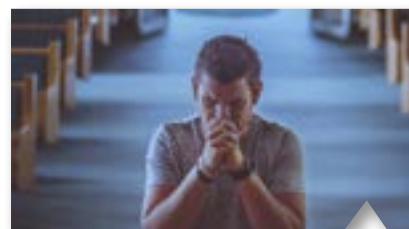
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The Eye of Faith



*By faith they passed through the Red Sea
as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians,
attempting to do so, were drowned.*

by Michael E. Fassbender

W

hat do you see? It is important that we see things, more so that we see things right. In the all-too-familiar story of the Exodus, the Israelites' crossing of the Red Sea was an important milestone in strengthening their relationship with God. What had happened? The Hebrews had been led out of Egypt and were now encamped beside the sea, whose waters presented a seemingly impassable barrier before them. In the south, a rugged mountain range obstructed their further progress. And then? The Egyptian army was approaching.

And the Lord spoke unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, that they turn and encamp before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, over against Baalzephon: before it shall ye encamp by the sea.

Exodus 14:1-2

Pharaoh came after the Israelites:

And he made ready his chariot, and took his people with him: And he took six hundred chosen chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over every one of them ... And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the Lord.

Exodus 14: 6-10

How much faith does it require to believe in a last-minute intervention of the Lord?

And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? Wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt? Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness.

Exodus 14:11-12

It appears that God's people had now come out of their comfort zone. Yes, they had been slaves; they had spent their lives as captives. But, after all, being a captive may not have

been all that bad; it likely meant a regulated everyday life, where basic needs were met and "government" protection gave peace of mind. But now? They were on the run, did not feel much regularity, apparently lacked peace of mind, no longer saw protection.



Is there anything too hard for the Lord? Then why had God maneuvered the Israelites into such a precarious situation? After all, God was in control, or was He? The Spirit of Prophecy gives us some additional clues on the background of this dilemma:

*Instead of pursuing the direct route to Canaan, which lay through the country of the Philistines, the Lord directed their course southward, toward the shores of the Red Sea. "For God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt." Had they attempted to pass through Philistia, their progress would have been opposed; for the Philistines, regarding them as slaves escaping from their masters, would not have hesitated to make war upon them. The Israelites were poorly prepared for an encounter with that powerful and warlike people. **They had little knowledge of God and little faith in Him**, and they would have become terrified and disheartened. They were unarmed and unaccustomed to war, their spirits were depressed by long bondage, and they were encumbered with women and children, flocks and herds. In leading them by the way of the Red Sea, the Lord revealed Himself as a God of compassion as well as of judgment. PP 282.1 (emphases supplied)*

Why were the Israelites led into this “hopeless” trap? The answer is surprising: it was still the better option! It was God’s protective mercy. Their faith was not strong enough for the straight alternative. They were not prepared to mess with the Philistines. So what does that mean for us? The way God leads us depends on what? On how well we know Him. A seemingly hopeless dead end emergency may still be the better option God has for us. God helps in the last minute; whenever we are on the verge of desperation, God is there for us. In the New Testament, the Red Sea crossing is presented as a case of demonstrated faith:

By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned. [Hebrews 11:29](#)

***A seemingly
hopeless dead
end emergency
may still be the
better option
God has for us***



***Ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall
search for Me with all your heart***

So what do we see?

*And Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand still, and **see** the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you **see** today, you shall **see** again no more forever. The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace. [Exodus 14:13,14](#)*

Do we see through our physical eyes the trials and threats that seem to devour us? Or do we see the salvation of the Lord with the eye of faith?

When the mind has been long permitted to dwell only on earthly things, it is a difficult matter to change the habits of thought. That which the eye sees and the ear hears too often attracts the attention and absorbs the interest. But if we would enter the city of God, and look upon Jesus in His glory, we must become accustomed to beholding Him with the eye of faith here. [LHU 144.2](#)

It almost seems that the **eye of faith** is like a sixth sense, a capacity to perceive the spiritual world. The basics of faith are spelled out in the Book of Hebrews:

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. **Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God**, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. [Hebrews 11:1,3](#)*

Then where does faith start? With believing in creation. If we don’t believe in creation in the first place, we will have a hard time believing in redemption, which is re-creation.

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. [Hebrews 11:6](#)

Without faith, nobody can please God; without faith, there is no reward from on high.

*Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. The eye of faith will discern God very near, and the suppliant may obtain precious evidence of the divine love and care for him. **But why is it that so many prayers are never answered?** Says David: “I cried unto Him with my mouth, and He was extolled with my tongue. If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.” By another prophet the Lord gives us the promise: “Ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart.” Again, he speaks of some who **“have not cried unto Me with their heart.”** Such petitions are prayers of form, lip service only, which the Lord does not accept. [Testimonies for the Church 4:533 {Pr 263.2}](#)*

Apparently there is “lip service” and there is “service of faith.”

*For unto us was **the gospel** preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. [Hebrews 4:2](#)*

Without faith, the Gospel has no power; without faith any religious culture is just a waste of time; any church attendance is of little use if not based on faith. Cultural Adventists attend the weekly church service because they “grew up” in the system and exercise the empty habit of church-going. The believing Adventist, on the other hand, goes to church to meet and worship the Lord. In the year 1893, Ellen White penned a rather scary statement on the spiritual condition of the Seventh-Day-Adventist Church even back then.

*It is a solemn statement that I make to the church, that **not one in twenty whose names are registered upon the church books are prepared to close their earthly history**, and would be as verily without God and without hope in the world as the common sinner. They are professedly serving God, but they are more earnestly serving mammon. This half-and-half work is a constant denying of Christ, rather than a confessing of Christ. [ChS 41.1](#)*

Reports on SDA membership growth may appear impressive, but what fraction of the more than 20 million worldwide members is really prepared to meet their God today? Is it more or even less than the 5% in Ellen White's time?

For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. [Matthew 8:9](#)

This tells us that faith is an acknowledgment of God's ultimate power; it is the channel through which God's power is accessed.

And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee. [Matthew 9:2](#)

This is significant. Was physical healing important to Jesus? Yes it was, but there was something even more important. Physical healing was a typology for healing from sin. God's teaching style is typology. Many hidden truths in the Bible are unlocked if we see the typology in the stories and in the people of the Bible with the eye of faith. One of the great typologies is “healing”. All of us long for physical healing; but our greatest need is healing from the disease of sin; and



since this is so hard to understand, Jesus came to heal the sick, the lame **and the blind** to teach us typology and, at the same time, to open the **eyes of faith**.

*Then touched he their eyes, saying, According **to your faith** be it unto you. And their eyes were opened.*

[Matthew 9:29](#)

How then do we obtain faith and increase it? Romans 12:3 tells us: “...God hath dealt to every man the **measure of faith**.”

In Galatians 5:22, we learn that faith is one of the fruits of the Spirit. So faith is both a gift from God and a fruit we develop.

*But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

[Galatians 5:22-23](#)

From this we understand that every man has been given a measure of faith, whether small or large. God calls us to exercise the faith that He has given us, and if we need more, we can be as the father who asked for more:

*And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; **help thou mine unbelief**. [Mark 9:24](#)*

God can multiply our faith, if we ask Him to. But when we don't exercise the faith we've been given, God is displeased.



But without faith it is **impossible to please him**: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Hebrews 11:6

We have no excuse for not having enough faith, for God has given us enough to get started and is willing to give more as we exercise it.

And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?

And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Matthew 17:18-20

The Lord says:

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, **and ye shall find**; knock, **and it shall be** opened unto you: Matthew 7:7

In Luke, the apostles asked Jesus to strengthen their faith:

And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith. And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you. Luke 17:5-6

God's will is that we should have faith – even as a mustard seed – to be able to move mountains, and if we ask for this, which we know is according to His will, He will hear us.

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing **according to his will**, he heareth us:

1 John 5:14

Jesus had much to teach the disciples about faith. Although they were closest to Jesus, He chided with them over their lack of faith.

And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith?

And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, what manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him? Mark 4:39-41

The question we have to ask ourselves is, Who is in our boat? If it is Jonah, we better make sure to get rid of him. But if it is Jesus, why worry? Perfect faith will extinguish all fear if we know that Jesus is in the boat of our lives.

Law, Judgment, Mercy and Faith

When will the righteous Judge come? The Lord tells us this parable:

And he spoke a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Luke 18

And then Jesus closes with a question - a rhetorical question, to which the answer is implicit:

Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, **shall he find faith on the earth?** Luke 18:8b

Adventists have been waiting for the Lord. But what kind of people will the Lord find when He returns? The context of this parable is clearly about judgment and about the people



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of God, His own elect, calling upon God to execute judgment, or to make manifest His judgment. But this parable also provides clues as to how we deal with delay, which links it to a passage in the Book of Revelation:

*Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? For thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; **for thy judgments are made manifest.** And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened: And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles. [Revelation 15:4-6](#)*

What will be happening on earth when the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony is opened in heaven? Are there clues elsewhere in Scripture? Let's go to Exodus 31:

*And the LORD spoke unto Moses, saying, Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily **my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD** that doth sanctify you ... Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD: ... **It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever:** for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed. And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God. [Exodus 31:12-18](#)*

We know that Moses had a "one on one" meeting with the Lord Himself on Mount Horeb; and the final words of the Lord to Moses, before He gave him the tables of testimony, was ... about keeping the Sabbath! And in the preceding chapters, from Exodus 25 to 30, the Lord "opened the tabernacle" to Moses in a sense that He instructed him how to set up everything from furniture to service rules according to the original in heaven. Thus, the tabernacle was opened, and the Sabbath law was given, Moses was given the testimony, the communion concluded, and Moses came "back to earth". What did he find?

And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me. And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron. And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. [Exodus 32:1-4](#)

What was the result of worshiping the false gods in the form of the golden calf?

So the Lord plagued the people because of what they did with the calf which Aaron made. [Exodus 32:35](#)

Let's get back to Revelation 15:

*And I saw another **sign in heaven**, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God. [Revelation 15:1](#)*

Thinking typologically, what was the sign Moses learned when he communed with God? It is mentioned twice in Exodus 31:12-18. It's the Sabbath - the sign of the people of the Lord. When Moses met the Lord on Mount Horeb, nobody was allowed to follow him to the top of the mountain. Similarly, **no man can enter the Heavenly temple**:

And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled. [Revelation 15:8](#)

In this context, Moses was a type for Jesus:

The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken [Deuteronomy 18:15](#)

And this is the typology of the golden calf: **While the eternal law and the eternal sign** was handed to Moses, the people got tired of waiting and danced around the golden calf; God had to "plague" many of them, and history will repeat itself, when the Father will hand over the eternal authority to His Son, the righteous Judge.

Man will have to make a decision as the Israelites of old had to:

Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the LORD'S side? Let him come unto me.

[Exodus 32: 26](#)

Likewise Jesus will ask before the close of probation: Who is on the Lord's side? Who has kept faith? Will the Son of Man find faith?

The Mount Horeb typology also shows that the Sabbath will be getting attention just before the return of the Son of Man, because the Father will commune with the Son about the eternal sign, just before the Son descends from the heavenly sanctuary to planet earth.

That's why it is important to bring the Three Angels' Messages to the world; to make sure that Jesus will find faith on earth. And Adventists have been waiting since 1844 for the Lord to come back. How can we avoid that trap of losing patience and dancing around the calf? In other words, how can we be counted among the five wise virgins?

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

Revelation 14:12

Combined with faith in Jesus, we can get a renewed understanding of the Sabbath as a protective guard if we see it as

an eternal sign of God's ownership of His people. And if we remember how the Lord concluded His "one-on-one" meeting with Moses, it appears that the Sabbath is in that sense a special Commandment standing out from all other nine.

He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

Revelation 13:10

This goes back to the widow and the judge: the saints will see final justice if they have patience and if they have faith.

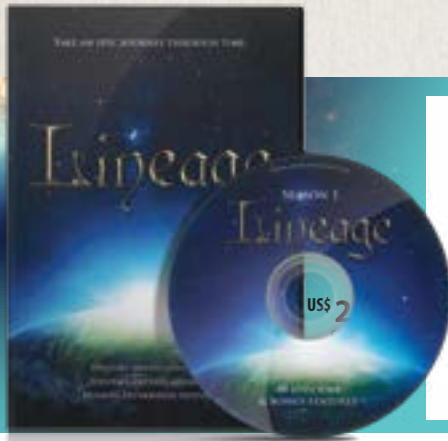
For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. 1 John 5:4

Faith is the rope that connects us to the Anchor of eternity. When you meet the Lord Jesus, will He find faith in you? **AD**

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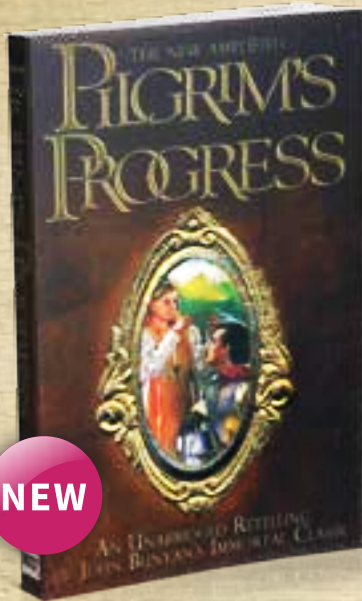
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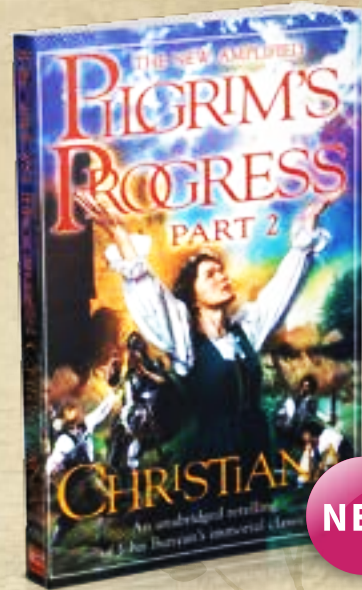
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God Has Promised

by Ellen G. White

ARE YOUR TRIALS MORE THAN YOU CAN BEAR?

The fact that we are called upon to endure trial shows that the Lord Jesus sees in us something precious which He desires to develop. If He saw in us nothing whereby He might glorify His name, He would not spend time in refining us. He does not cast worthless stones into His furnace.

The Ministry of Healing, p. 471

Seek the Lord for wisdom in every emergency. In every trial plead with Jesus to show you a way out of your troubles, and your eyes will be opened to behold the remedy and to apply to your case the healing promises that have been recorded in His Word.

In this way the enemy will find no place to lead you into mourning and unbelief, but instead you will have faith and hope and courage in the Lord
....

Every draught of bitterness will be mingled with the love of Jesus, and in place of complaining of the bitterness, you will realize that Jesus' love and grace are so mingled with sorrow that it has been turned into subdued, holy, sanctified joy.

Selected Messages, book 2, pp. 273, 274.

God's love for His children during the period of their severest trial is as strong and tender as in the days of their sunniest prosperity.

The Great Controversy, p. 621.

God has a purpose in sending trial to His children. He never leads them otherwise than they would choose to be led if they could see the end from the beginning, and discern the glory of the purpose that they are fulfilling.

Prophets and Kings, p. 578.

The precious Saviour will send help just when we need it. The way to heaven is consecrated by His foot-prints. Every thorn that wounds our feet has wounded His. Every cross that we are called to bear, He has borne before us. The Lord permits conflicts, to prepare the soul for peace.

Colporteur Ministry, p. 116.

A Poem from A to Z

by Erland Gerlinde

Although things are not perfect
Because of trials or pain
Continue in thanksgiving
Do not begin to blame
Even when times are hard
Fierce winds are bound to blow
God is forever able to save
Hold on to truth you know
Imagine life without God's love
Joy would then cease to be
Keep thanking Him for all the things
Lord imparts to thee
Move out of "Camp Complaining"
No weapon that is known
On earth can yield the power
Praise can do alone
Quit looking at the future
Redeem the time at hand
Start every day with worship
To thank is a command
Until we see Christ coming
Victorious in the sky
We'll run the race with gratitude
Xalting God Most High
Yes there'll be good times and some
will be bad, but
Zion waits in glory - where none are
ever sad!

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GOD HAS PROMISED by EILEN G. WHITE

Our heavenly Father has a thousand ways to provide for us, of which we know nothing. Those who accept the one principle of making the service and honor of God supreme will find perplexities vanish, and a plain path before their feet.

The Desire of Ages, p. 330.

Those who are finally victorious will have seasons of terrible perplexity and trial in their religious life; but they must not cast away their confidence, for this is a part of their discipline in the school of Christ, and it is essential in order that all dross may be purged away.

Messages to Young People, p. 63.

If received in faith, the trial that seems so bitter and hard to bear will prove a blessing. The cruel blow that blights the joys of earth will be the means of turning our eyes to heaven. How many there are who would never have known Jesus had not sorrow led them to seek comfort in Him!

Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing, p. 10.

We need not keep our own record of trials and difficulties, griefs, and sorrows. All these things are written in the books, and heaven will take care of them.

The Ministry of Healing, p. 487.

The Saviour is by the side of His tempted and tried ones. With Him there can be no such thing as failure, loss, impossibility, or defeat.

The Desire of Ages, p. 490.

ARE YOU LONELY?

We need never feel that we are alone. Angels are our companions. The Comforter that Christ promised to send in His name abides with us. In the way that leads to the City of God there are no difficulties which those who trust in Him may not overcome. There are no dangers which they may not escape.

There is not a sorrow, not a grievance, not a human weakness, for which He has not provided a remedy. . .

He who took humanity upon Himself knows how to sympathize with the sufferings of humanity. Not only does Christ know every soul, and the peculiar needs and trials of that soul, but He knows all the circumstances that chafe and perplex the spirit. His hand is outstretched in pitying tenderness to ever suffering child.

The Ministry of Healing, p. 249.



Never feel that Christ is far away. He is always near. His loving presence surrounds you.

The Ministry of Healing, p. 85.

Jesus knows us individually, and is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. He knows us all by name. He knows the very house in which we live, the name of each occupant. He has at times given directions to His servants to go to a certain street in a certain city, to such a house, to find one of His sheep.

The Desire of Ages, p. 479.

At all times and in all places, in all sorrows and in all afflictions, when the outlook seems dark and the future perplexing, and we feel helpless and alone, the Comforter will be sent in answer to the prayer of faith.

Circumstances may separate us from every earthly friend; but no circumstance, no distance, can separate us from the heavenly Comforter. Wherever we are, wherever we may go, He is always at our right hand to support, sustain, uphold, and cheer.

The Desire of Ages, pp. 669, 670.

We are never alone. Whether we choose Him or not, we have a companion. Remember that wherever you are, whatever you do, God is there.

The Ministry of Healing, p. 490.

To those who ... acquaint themselves with Christ, the earth will nevermore be a lonely and desolate place. It will

be their Father's house, filled with the presence of Him who once dwelt among men.

Education, p. 120.

God will not suffer one of His true-hearted workers to be left alone, to struggle against great odds and be overcome.

The Ministry of Healing, p. 488.

Not a sigh is breathed, not a pain felt, not a grief pierces the soul, but the throb vibrates to the Father's heart. God is bending from His throne to hear the cry of the oppressed. To every sincere prayer He answers, "Here am I." He uplifts the distressed and downtrodden. In all our afflictions He is afflicted. In every temptation and every trial the angel of His presence is near to deliver.

The Desire of Ages, p. 356.

Every step in life may bring us closer to Jesus, may give us a deeper experience of His love, and may bring us one step nearer to the blessed home of peace.

Steps to Christ, p. 125. 

CREATION BY GOD or evolution...from nothing?

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This series offers an insightful look at the evolution-creation debate and will provide food for thought for even the most ardent supporter of the phylogenetic approach to origins. Nicolene has succeeded in highlighting the issues that make this debate even more relevant in our time in spite of the almost superhuman efforts by the evolutionary camp to sell their concepts to the world via every available media.

OUR GREAT COMMISSION

by Roy Davies

*"Here is the patience of the saints,
here are they that keep the com-
mandments of God and have the
faith of Jesus"*

Since 1844, we've been given the task to preach the Three Angels' Messages into all the world so as to prepare the world for the Second Coming of Jesus. "Here is the patience of the saints, here are they that keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus" (Revelation 14:12). This is an awesome task and responsibility. God gave to the parents of John the Baptist a great commission to prepare for the first coming of Jesus. Luke records the fact that they were "righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the LORD blameless" (Luke 1:6). They are a type of the people of the Advent movement who will be walking in all the commandments of God blameless. God will have a people on the earth when He returns who will live blameless lives. (See 1 Corinthians 1:8.) He will have a church that is holy, without blemish. (See Ephesians 5:27.)

The parents of John the Baptist were living such lives as is required of this last generation. The last message of Malachi is present truth for God's people: "And he shall turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; lest I come and smite the earth with a curse" (Malachi 4:6). These words of the holy prophet Malachi are a solemn warning to our generation that God means business and will not be trifled with when He comes to judge His people.

In Volume 6 of the *Testimonies* the servant of the Lord wrote one powerful chapter entitled "Teaching Home Religion." She concludes this

chapter with this wonderful promise: "Religion in the home is our great hope, and makes the prospect bright for the conversion of the whole family to the truth of God" (6T 119). What godly parents would like to see the fulfillment of this wonderful promise? In the same chapter she gives counsel to ministers to do their part in making this happen in the church by precept and example. Then again, she observed in her day that genuine conversions were a rare experience. What would she say today? We serve a very patient God who desires His saints to be patient with one another. (See Revelation 14:12.) It is a well-known saying, "As goes the home, so goes the church." I teach a class of Juniors at our local church. I asked the class of twelve students, "How many of you have morning and evening worship?" Only one member raised their hand. I was surprised, seeing that we attend a conservative church. And to make matters worse even in our large church of over a thousand members only a very small number attend the mid-week prayer meetings. Do we really believe that "prayer is the key in the hand of faith that opens heaven's storehouse where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence"? (SC 94)

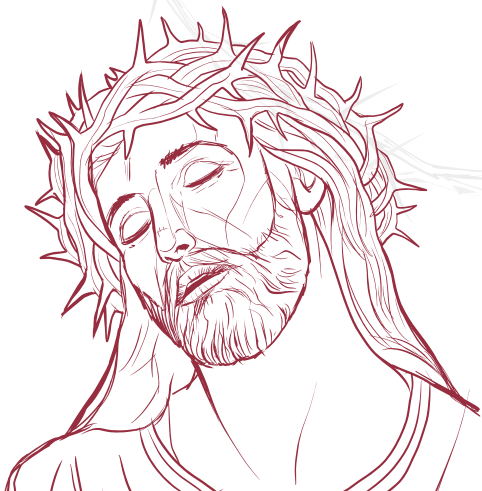
Pentecost came as a result of earnest prayer, when they put away all their differences and desire for supremacy and position in the church.

Someone has said that the Christian army only advances upon their knees. Our revival of primitive godliness will only come as an answer to prayer. The victory gained by Jesus on the cross, when He cried out, "It is finished!" came as a result of the hours spent in earnest prayer in dark Gethsemane. We cannot complete our great commission without recognizing that the source of our power with God is at the throne of grace. We are not only to exalt the law of God, especially the Sabbath truth, by our preaching, but by directing the people to the Lord of the Sabbath who died for us as the worst of criminals, as shown by His placement between the two criminals. The triumphant words of Christ, "It is finished!" was a death knell to Satan and was heard by the watching universe. We are told by the Spirit of Prophecy in *Desire of Ages* that He could have destroyed Satan at that time, but he was spared for our benefit. This is the quote: "Yet Satan was not then destroyed. The angels did not even then understand all that was involved in the great controversy. The principles at stake were to be more fully revealed. And for the sake of man, Satan's existence must be continued. Man as well as angels must see the contrast between the Prince of light and the prince of darkness. He must choose whom he will serve" (DA 761). The sealing of the 144,000 will forever determine the destiny of the devil. (See TM 445-446 and COL 69.) We must strive with God through prayer, as did Jacob, that He will empower us to be among the 144,000 who will be sealed with the seal of the living God. (See 7BC 970 and Rev. 7:1-3.)

Before Jesus can return again to earth, mankind must make a decision. Will they follow the Lamb of God or will they follow the beast and receive his mark on their forehead? They must hear the Three Angels' Messages so that they can make an intelligent decision as to the issues at stake in the great controversy. We serve a wonderful God, who is not willing that any should perish without being warned. Jonah and Nineveh are a classic example of God's mercy. While the four angels are holding back the winds of strife, we should not be like the reluctant prophet and delay to proclaim the most solemn warning ever committed to mortals. We don't want anyone to say to us as a church and as individuals, "Why did you not give us warning?" when the plagues are being poured out upon the wicked.

Jesus and His Great Commission

Jesus had great faith in the twelve humble disciples that He chose to proclaim the tidings of the Gospel to the then-known world. He was not disappointed, as the disciples were willing to lay down their lives to fulfill their mission. It was especially true of the apostle Paul who labored more than all the apostles in proclaiming the Gospel to Jew and to Gentile. He wrote most of the New Testament to encourage the saints to persevere in their mission. Should we be less diligent in completing our great commission? In order to accomplish that goal, we must exercise the faith of Jesus. He exercised an invincible faith in his Father's care for thirty-three years and left us a perfect example to follow. God's benediction and blessing is on His end-time church. "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14). "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" (Revelation 14:12). We must never forget that the One who gave us the great commission has the power to fulfill His words through us. "And Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 28:18-19). **AD**



How Should I Follow Him?

by JOSIAH CONDER, 1836



How shall I follow Him I serve?

How shall I copy Him I love?

Nor from those blessed footsteps swerve

Which lead me to His seat above?

Lord, should my path through suffering lie,

Forbid that I should e'er repine;

Still let me turn to Calvary,

Nor heed my grief, remembering Thine.

O, let me think how Thou didst leave

The heavenly home of pure delights,

To fast, to faint, to watch, to grieve,

Through toilsome days, through lonely nights!

All this Thou didst, then died for me!

Thou earnest not Thyself to please;

And dear though earthly comforts be,

Shall I not love Thee more than these?



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continued from page 2

And the promises to overcomers are magnificent:

Revelation 3:21

To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God,

(I will) give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it, to him will I give **power over the nations**,

(and I will) grant to **sit with me in my throne**, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

Not only is this more and more principle embedded in every promise of God, but His entire attitude and kingdom is based on this principle. There is an ever-expanding, ever-growing future before His people. The good He desires to give us has no limit. And it's not only in heaven, but also here on earth

Psalms 40:5

Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, **they are more than can be numbered**.

Psalms 139:17 - 18

How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!

If I should count them, they **are more** in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee.

Proverbs 4:18

But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth **more and more** unto the perfect day.

Isaiah 13:12

I will make a man **more precious** than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.

Isaiah 54:1

Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for **more are the children of the desolate** than the children of the married wife, saith the Lord.

Matthew 6:30

Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not **much more** clothe you, O ye of little faith?

Matthew 7:11

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, **how much more** shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?



continued on next page 

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Matthew 10:31

Fear ye not therefore, ye are of **more value** than many sparrows.



Matthew 13:12



For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and **he shall have more abundance**: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.

He does not want us to bemoan that we have received "only" one gift. Even if we are given only one gift, we can use it and double it and grow it.

2 Corinthians 4:17

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a **far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory**;

You will see the same principle in the brain article in this magazine. Our brains have a built-in mechanism for nerve re-growth. If treated well and used wisely, our brains are able to expand and improve in our capacity for emotional and mental health. Our bodies likewise can improve and become stronger with the wise investment of our time and energy and the care we give our bodies. Yes, we are subject to death, as is every son and daughter of Adam. But even in this limited world we live in, God doesn't want us to stagnate and die, but to do all we can to improve and better ourselves and those around us.

2 Peter 1:19

We have also a **more sure word of prophecy**; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:



John 10:10

...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it **more abundantly**.

When we look at the parable of the three servants who were given talents, we see this more and more principle also at work. The servant with one talent that buried it was condemned by the master, whereas the first two servants who wisely invested their talents and doubled them were commended. Why? Because God's kingdom **is based on growth and improvement**. God expects us to take whatever He has given to us, and to expand it, and grow it, and nurture it, and make it work for Him. He does not approve of stagnation.

John 15:2

Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth **more fruit**.

These verses show us that God's plan for us includes more good things as we grow in His grace and knowledge, and stay connected to Him. (2 Peter 3:18)

But there are a few other "more" passages that are worthy of our attention. Besides God giving us more and more, He also expects us to commit fully to following Him.

The more principle also contains some serious admonitions:

Hebrews 2:1

Therefore we ought to give the **more earnest heed** to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.



Hebrews 10:25

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and **so much the more**, as ye see the day approaching.

Because God is committed to our growth, He admonishes us how to achieve it:

John 15:4

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no **more can ye**, except ye abide in me.

The *More and More Principle* does not exclude trials, but God promises that even through trials we can experience growth:

1 Peter 1:7

That the trial of your faith, being **much more precious than of gold** that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.

God expects us to take whatever He has given to us, and to expand it, and grow it, and nurture it, and make it work for Him.

John 12:43

For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

Do we care more about what people say than what God says? From whom should we receive our approbation? This verse reminds us that we should be seeking for God's approval in all of our words and actions, despite what others may think of us. Sometimes we may not even realize we are worrying about what others think. Sometimes what God may approve of may go against everything our friends or family are telling us. We may even suffer censure or reproach by caring only for what God thinks of us. In this verse, we see that God does not approve of living our life according to what others think and that we should be willing to accept the censure of those we love, in order to receive the blessing God desires to give us.

Matthew 10:15

Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrhah in the day of judgment, than for that city.

Matthew 11:22

But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you.



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SACRED TIME

unRemembered

EXCERPT

BY DANIEL KNAUFT



CHAPTER 1

CREATING ORIGINAL LOVE

The weekly cycle is God's idea. In the Genesis Creation account, the seventh day is mentioned three times, while the previous six days are individually mentioned only once. Only one of the week's seven days was "blessed" and distinguished as being "hallowed"-it is the seventh. By "resting" on that first seventh day, the Creator inaugurated a weekly cycle of rest for the human family made in His image (Genesis 2: 1-3).*

Seminary professor Jiri Moskala noted that while the creation of human beings is the crowning act of the

physical Creation, the **seventh day** is Creation week's climactic event because this day puts humans in relationship with their Maker. He wrote: "Sabbath is first of all about a relationship of beauty and splendor, of God with humans and humans with God."¹ Author Des Cummings, Jr., described the pathos of this day as "original love" and portrayed the Sabbath as "our personal Mount of Transfiguration-the place where we hear our heavenly Father say, 'This is My beloved child.'"² Dr. Norman Gulley, author and specialist on last-day events, called the Sabbath experience "God close up."³

* Unless otherwise specified, all Bible references are from the New King James Version (NKJV), © 1979, 1980, 1982 edition, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Inc., Nashville, Tennessee.

1 Jiri Moskala, "The Sabbath in the First Creation Account," *Perspective Digest*, vol. 12, no. 2 (Spring 2007), p. 48. At the time of this writing, Moskala was professor of Old Testament at the Andrews University Theological Seminary, Berrien Springs, Michigan.

2 Des Cummings, Jr., *Original Love* (Fallbrook, California: Hart Books, 2001), p. 112.

Jesus reminds us: " '... the Sabbath was made for man' " (Mark 2:27)-for the whole human family. Two institutions originating prior to the entrance of sin survive to this day-marriage and the Sabbath day. They were designed at the Creation to maintain wholesome human happiness. These sister institutions, created within hours of each other, fulfilled human relationships horizontally and vertically.

While the physical creation characterized the first six days, what was created on the **seventh day** is of a different nature-it was sacred **time**, a reality that cannot be tasted, touched, seen or heard. **Time** is the element in which we experience relationships. God designed the Sabbath day to enable humans to know Him intimately. He refers to it as His sign (Ezekiel 20:12, 20). Like a lover wooing the heart of his beloved, He passionately urges us to "remember"-remember the sacred, intimate, protected time He wants us to spend with Him (Exodus 20:8).

Christian author and former secularist Clifford Goldstein wrote:

*Holy cities can be burned ... Holy shrines can be looted. But **time** is beyond the fire and the knife. No man can touch, much less destroy it. Therefore, by making a special time holy, God has made His Sabbath invincible, placing it in an element beyond the reach of any devices of mankind. Armies can sack cities. Rulers can ban pilgrimages. But no military tank-no swirl of ink-can keep away the seventh day. We can no more stop the Sabbath than the sunset. God protected His memorial to His created objects in space-which are vulnerable to man-by placing it in time, which is not. (Heaven's Tender Touch, Hart Research Center, Fallbrook, California, 1993)*

The Creation event, as described in Genesis 1 and 2, is like a copyright or patent of the Creator. The Creator's signature is embedded in every cell and atom. God has no competitor as Creator of this planet of interrelated complexity of living forms. There is no alternative explanation that merits notice for the origin of the

earth and its vast variety of exquisitely designed organisms and creatures. An orderly Creation is reality, and it is the springboard for understanding genuine science. Believers who weekly observe the seventh-day Sabbath of Creation testify to their noble, purposeful origin at the hand of their loving Creator, and they declare that the deeper meanings of life can only be found in an active relationship with Him-"God with humans and humans with God."

Brandeis University professor Nahum Sarna agrees: "Its observance is a declaration of faith . . . that the universe is wholly the purposeful product of divine intelligence, the work of a transcendent Being outside of nature and sovereign over space and time."⁴ Professor Jiri Moskala noted: "By living Sabbath, believers are showing total devotion and respect to the holy Creator."⁵ Australian writer Aleta Bainbridge wrote: "By worshiping on the seventh-day Sabbath, His people proclaim their allegiance to God as the rightful ruler of the universe, their Creator and Redeemer."⁶

To those who would cherish refuge in their Maker's weekly temple in time, God Himself has promised that they will " 'ride upon the high places of the earth' " (Isaiah 58:13, 14, KJV). To "ride high" with God-to revere and enjoy Him-is the greatest experience humans can have.

God has never withdrawn this promise. Has He transferred it to another day of the week-specifically to Sunday?

WHY WOULD SUCH A TRANSFER BE NECESSARY?

Christians have long answered this question by maintaining that they observe Sunday in honor of the resurrection of Christ. Truly, the Resurrection is the divine ratification of Jesus' victory over sin and a divine promise that all the universe ultimately will be secure from God's enemy. Christ's tomb is empty! He is risen! Let Him be glorified!

³ Norman Gulley, *Satan's Trojan Horse-God's End-Time Victory* (Hagerstown, Maryland: Review & Herald Publishing Association, 2004), pp. 39, 195.

⁴ Nahum M. Sarna, *Exodus, The JPS Commentary* (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 1991), p. 201. Sarna is Professor Emeritus of Biblical Studies at Brandeis University. This statement is quoted by Sigve K. Tonstad, *The Lost Meaning of the Seventh Day* (Berrien Springs, Michigan: Andrews University Press, 2009), p. 115.

⁵ Moskala, "The Sabbath in the First Creation Account," p. 53.

⁶ Aleta Bainbridge, "The Cosmic Conflict," *Adventist World*, May 2013, p. 23.



With all due kindness, we must ask every Christian believer, whether pastor, professor, priest, pope or Bible student: *Why would Christians need to abandon the sacred, seventh-day Sabbath of Creation and the fourth commandment, which magnifies the redeeming Creator God, in order to honor the resurrection of Jesus? Why should one cancel out the other? Do not Creation and Redemption walk hand in hand? Do they not both stand as the transcendent handiwork of our merciful and loving God?*

For millions of Christians throughout the centuries, Sunday has been the day on which to express devotion and worship to Jesus through preaching the gospel, Bible teaching and Christian fellowship. Through God-fearing ministries and worldwide missionary services on that day, untold thousands have found their way to Christ and His saving power.

Yet, during these same centuries, many earnest, Bible-believing scholars and honest-hearted devotees of Jesus have recognized that there is a major biblical disconnect in the institution of Sunday as the "Lord's day." Note these three brief points of Bible reasoning:

FIRST, Jesus Himself designated the particular day of His choosing by declaring that He, the Son of Man, bears this divine title-" 'LORD of the Sabbath' " (Mark 2:28).

SECOND, the fourth commandment, which is part of the universal and perpetual law of God, has already designated the seventh-day of the weekly cycle as the **Lord's day** (Exodus 20:8-11; Isaiah 58: 13). As such, it bears the credentials of the Most High God.

THIRD, immediately following his conversion, Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, was led to Arabia and then to Damascus for a period of three years, during which time he was taught by the LORD through "the revelation of Jesus Christ" (Galatians 1:11-20). Throughout Paul's New Testament writings, which are drawn from his personal instruction from Jesus, there is not a single line of thought tying weekly recognition of the resurrection of Jesus to the first day of the week. Rather, Paul directly connects the death, burial and resurrection of Christ-which is the heart of the New Testament gospel message-with baptism (Romans 6:3-6). Upon being "filled with the Holy Spirit," Paul immediately affirmed Christ's death and resurrection through water baptism (Acts 9:17, 18). And, interestingly, Paul himself provides the most prominent example of on-going Sabbath observance among Jewish and Gentile believers in the early church (see Acts 13:42-44; 16:13; 17:2; 18:4).

With this in view, the question of the authority by which Sunday has been designated the "Lord's day" is significant.

WHO HAS AUTHORITY OVER DIVINE INSTITUTIONS?

The question of authority is well established in Scripture. Every human who has ever lived on this planet is indebted to the LORD Jesus Christ for having bought us with His shed blood and bearing the sins of the whole world upon Himself at the cross (1 Corinthians 6:20). As Sovereign LORD, He is the "Chief Cornerstone" (Ephesians 2:20; 1 Peter 2:6). All human leadership, whether domestic, intellectual, political or ecclesiastical, is obligated to act in submission to His lordship.

One of the last things Jesus said before returning to the courts of heaven was: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth" (Matthew 28:18). In modern parlance, this means that the risen Christ is the CEO of all the universe and, in particular, of this planet. His credentials no one can rival.

In speaking to the religious leaders, Jesus earlier referred to Himself in metaphor as the "Shepherd" of the sheep and as the "Door" of the sheepfold. He declared that all who attempt to gain access to the sheepfold

some other way are impostors-they are thieves, robbers, hirelings or strangers (John 10:1-18).

Only one Person has been authorized to officially represent and carry forward Jesus' mission of providing salvation on earth-the Holy Spirit, the divine equal of Jesus. Even still, He leads within the parameters that Jesus set forth: " ' ... when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, ... He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you' " (John 16:13, 14).

This leads us to ask: *Has Jesus-"the Good Shepherd"-authorized in Scripture the dismantling of the "blessed" and "hallowed" seventh-day Sabbath and the instituting of Sunday in its place, or is this change the cunning deed of a "hireling or a stranger," in the words of Jesus?*

We must answer this question according to Christianity's only true authority. Jesus identified what this is in the simple but profound words: " 'I am the good shepherd My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers' " (John 10:11, 27, 5).

HOW SHOULD IT BE DECIDED?

Many who have been led to investigate this matter are moved by an honest desire to know the facts of the Bible and church history. I recognize that most people reading these words have long-standing religious traditions and deep-seated emotions tied to their observance of Sunday. However, serious Bible students, in their search for the truth, must courageously discard the religious pluralism and relativism of our modern culture.

Individually, we must each decide how we will determine issues of faith and belief. Will it be by what feels right, by a hunch, or by cultural leanings? And are we merely to pass on to the next generation centuries-old cherished traditions? One contemporary Christian radio commentator wisely counseled: "We should be asking: Is this true or is this just what you were taught?"⁷

Is the Bible not still Christianity's highest authority and only authoritative source of absolute truth and the expressed will of God? Biblical scholar Clinton Wahlen offered this reason for the unique status of Scripture:

*(The Bible) stands above and independent of organized ecclesiastical authorities because it is a revelation of God Himself. In obeying its precepts we obey the God who is the author and revealer of those principles, and grant to His words and to His person the respect their transcendent authority deserves.*⁸

With this in view, will we then allow Scripture to have the "right to impose obligation on the human conscience," as theologian R. C. Sproul has put it?⁹ Will the revealed will of God override mere human inclination, speculation and invention?

Referring to the struggle between the subjective and objective in deciding issues of faith, highly respected British theologian and author, the late John R. W. Stott advised: "Our emotions are a fluctuating, unreliable guide to truth and must not be exalted to the place of supreme authority in determining it. As a committed Evangelical, my question must be-and is-not what my heart tells me, but what does God's word say?"¹⁰ AD

⁷ Dr. James Dobson, from the introduction promo for the radio talk show *My Family Talk*, spring of 2010. This was a statement of general application not related to the subject at hand.

⁸ Clinton Wahlen, "What's to Believe About the Bible?" *Adventist Review*, August 25, 2011, p. 24.

⁹ A statement with reference to the authority of Scripture, used by Dr. R. C. Sproul on his daily radio program *Renewing Your Mind*.

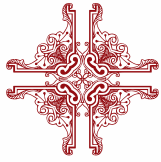
¹⁰ John Stott and David L. Edwards, *Essentials: A Liberal-Evangelical Dialogue* (London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1988) pp. 319-320.

Smokescreens

Excerpt from the book

UNDERSTANDING THE DANGERS OF TODAY'S CALL FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

CHAPTER 6



by JACK CHICK



Cover Up

When World War II ended, the Vatican had egg all over its face. Pope Pius XII, after building the Nazi war machine, saw Hitler losing his battle against Russia, and he immediately jumped to the other side as

he saw the handwriting on the wall. General Eisenhower saved his neck. Pope Pius XII should have stood before the judges in Nuremburg. His war crimes were worthy of death. But the Vatican was pulling every string she could, and Pope Pius XII came out smelling like a rose.

Too many people knew that the Vatican was responsible for World War II so it was time for a face lift. Time to start up smokescreens. The Vatican II Council came into existence and the mother of harlots put on a new make-up job. She wiped her mouth with her bloody hands and said, "I've changed. Now I like the Protestants. I'm not going to call them heretics any more, but separated brethren." She told the Protestants to forget the past. It was now time to push the love gospel. A time of healing. Just like in France and Ireland. Remember.

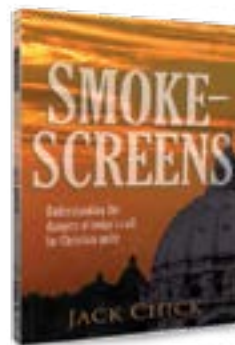
There were so many books in the gospel book stores exposing the whore that the Vatican had to create a common enemy for both Catholics and Protestants to unite against. Bishop Fulton J. Sheen launched the anticommunist attack, and behold, like mushrooms, we saw anti-communist ministries popping up exposing the monster in Moscow.

The Jesuits were busy on many fronts. The John Birch Society blossomed, aided by the Jesuits, because it served their purpose to have attention of the Protestants shifted from the Vatican to Communism. At this time, Senator McCarthy was riding high. Publishers stopped publishing books exposing the whore and turned their attention to Communism. Some Christian publishers were bought out, others didn't want to make a stand because it would raise eyebrows.



So the Vatican was succeeding in their goals. Their boys, planted in Protestant denominations, frowned on anti-Catholic sermons and discouraged them across the nation. We were locked into a cold war with Russia. Hollywood, influenced by a powerful Catholic lobby, furnished us with films like "Song of Bernadette" and "Going My Way," and a number of exciting films glorifying the Catholic faith. On the other hand, they pushed movies like "Elmer

Gantry" showing crooked Protestant evangelists. Do you remember "Dragnet" on television? The Christian was always pictured with a big Bible, smiling after he had strangled Grandma up in the attic. And always, the priests were the good guys. Just like in the popular television series called MASH. You see, we are hit psychologically on many fronts. **AD**



Jack Chick

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My Escape

from the Auto de Fé at Valladolid

*October 1559 * Don Fernando de la Mina*

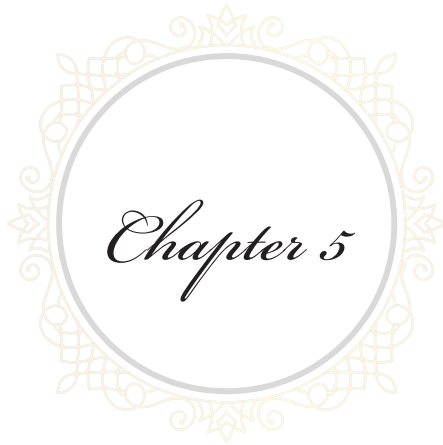
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Chapter 5 & 6

Summary

Don Fernando de la Mina, a nobleman of Spain, was arrested for his sympathy with the Protestant faith. Sentenced to death, he miraculously escaped during a thunderstorm, and happened upon a poor peddler in a hut who had been killed in the storm. Quickly changing clothes with the peddler, Fernando narrowly escaped his pursuers. Now disguised as the peddler, Fernando makes his way back to town, to attend the Auto De Fe (Act of Faith) - the burning of other Protestant sympathizers in the hopes of obtaining mercy from the King and finding his beloved, the Dona Rosa de Riello.





The Auto de Fé

When I woke up in the morning the sun was shining gloriously. It was Sunday morning - the morning of the Grand Auto de Fé - and, as I lay thinking awhile, I remembered that, but for the intervention of Almighty God, I should have been one of the thirty victims condemned to be burned at the stake that day at the Quemadero. Burned alive in the presence of the King and his Court!

"The King!" - thought I - "the King!"

And then I recalled how graciously the Regent Princess Joanna had received my obeisance to the King two years ago. The King! "Yes," I resolved, with a sudden inspiration, "Yes, I will, as a buhonero, attend the Auto de Fé. I will get there early and take my stand near the royal platform and, as soon as the King arrives, I will approach him, and I will reveal to him God's marvelous intervention and then openly confess myself to His Catholic Majesty. I will plead my father's valor and sacrifice for Spain. I will avow my loyalty to my King and Country and then throw myself upon the leniency and protection of His Majesty.

So, early on that Sunday morning, I took my place in the crowd of common people in the Great Square of Valladolid, just as the dismal bell began to toll its ominous signal. The soldiers were clearing a passageway for the priests and martyrs and, in the disturbance, I gradually elbowed my way right up to the royal platform just as the King arrived. His Majesty was followed by his sister, the Princess Joanna, his son the young Don Carlos, the foreign Ambassadors, and the ladies and gentlemen of the Court. Many of these had been my personal friends; some, indeed, had shared my recent birthday hospitality! But all of them - both friends and strangers - now knew unquestioningly

that Don Fernando de la Mina, who had escaped from prison yesterday, had been caught and killed by the vengeance of God in the Church of Arroya de la Encomienda, and, in that belief and at the command of the Church, they had now come to witness the burning of his dead body at the Auto de Fé that day!

There was a hush and then a stir among the crowd as the procession marched into the plaza, led by the Dominicans carrying the crimson banner of the Inquisition. These were followed by sixteen "penitents," those who, at the last moment, had abjured their heresy. A somber company! Should I have been one of these? I dare not speculate; I can only thank God that He spared me the penitents' terrible trial of faith.

A great cross was now carried into the square and then appropriately following the cross, there came the twelve men and two women martyrs, who now advanced to the Tribune to receive their sentence of death. Some of these victims were scholarly folk of noble rank. The very flower of Spanish manhood and womanhood. But all of them were barefooted; they had rope round their necks and all but one were garbed in the san-benito - that hideous yellow smock with flames and devils painted on it. After this "noble army of martyrs" had marched past, there filed into the square twenty or thirty lay fanatics, who bore between them the seven black coffins that I had assisted to paint with the symbols of Hell in the prison courtyard yesterday; and in one of which it was now universally believed the divinely stricken body of Don Fernando de la Mina lay.

I will not dwell upon the final horrors of that Sabbath-day drama. Let it suffice that, after the Bishop of Zamora had preached a sermon upon the true faith, sentence of confiscation of property and varied terms



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of imprisonment were pronounced upon the sixteen penitents, who were then conducted back to prison, some for years and some for life.

The staunch and unrepentant fourteen martyrs were next arraigned before the Inquisitors, and a final appeal was made to them to renounce their heretical faith. At this last dread moment the awful fear of suffering overcame the courage of twelve of those fourteen martyrs, and to these twelve was accorded the solace of the garrote; that is to say, they were permitted to be strangled before they were thrown to the flames.

Then the two Christian heroes advanced who had scorned to compromise with conscience and whose constancy had triumphed to the last. They were sentenced to be burned alive!

One of these was Father de Roxas, a Dominican monk, the son of the Marquis de Poza. He advanced proudly towards the royal and the official platforms, and, having received his sentence, he was stripped of his priestly robe and dressed in the san-benito. Then, standing there with head erect and outstretched hand, he began an oration in defense of the Reformed Doctrines. But before he had spoken more than a few words he was silenced, gagged, and removed to the Quemadero and burned alive!

Then the second Christian hero advanced. He was my old friend and first instructor in the Faith, a Florentine nobleman who had married my cousin and lived in Valladolid. A pure, kindly, brave Christian soul. His name rang out from the Tribunal: "Senor Don Carlos de Seso!" and he advanced quietly, proudly, firmly, until he came to the royal seat.

There he stood still for a moment and then, looking up to the King, he said, with a loud, clear voice: "Sire! Why do you consent to have your innocent subjects thus burned at the stake?"

The King looked scornfully upon him and replied in slow, measured words: "Yo trahere la lefia para quemar a mi hijo, si fuere tan malo como usted."

My son, I heard the King reply to Don Carlos de Seso's rebuke in these very words: "I would bring the faggots to burn my own son, were he as wicked as you."



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Do you wonder that my heart sank within me when I heard these unkingly words? I had come to the Auto de Fé on that Sabbath morning hoping to win the clemency of my sovereign. But now I knew, only too well, that I had no hope of pity or justice from the blind and heartless bigotry of my priest-ridden King.

Henceforth, my only assurance of safety was to be sought in an escape from Spain. I must escape from Catholic Spain swiftly and secretly and seek safety beyond the Pyrenees in Protestant Navarre; and there await the arrival of my beloved Dona Rosa de Riello and start my life anew in an alien land.

Chapter 6

Plazuela del Hospicio

With a heavy heart I walked away toward the river.

A forlorn and solitary outcast - and there I tried - but tried in vain - to formulate my plan of escape. Gradually I began to realize the awful truth that I was alone, an unknown stranger in the midst of kindred and friends - but with no hope of help or pity from a single living soul. I could not think clearly. I was too bewildered and depressed by the awful scenes that I had so recently witnessed; and now a deepening sense of my own utter loneliness increased my misery as I began to realize my true position. I had become a new creature without a history and without a friend! Oh! How I longed for companionship and sympathy, if I had but one friend to whom I could confide my sorrow and my secret! And my heart burned with a feverish desire to acquaint my beloved with the fact of my marvelous deliverance and safety. My heart ached as I thought that, at that very moment, she was mourning my death and the loss of all the sweet happiness we had so fondly dreamed and hoped together.

As I thus meditated, two women drew near to where I was standing. They were dressed in black. One was deeply veiled, and I did not recognize her; but the maid, who was unveiled, I immediately recognized as Ana, the faithful old servant of my beloved. The two women walked a little way beyond me by the

river and then they turned quickly into the Plazuela del Hospicio. There they joined the little group of passengers who had come in from the country that morning to witness the Auto de Fé, and who were now waiting to return home by the galera - the country wagon - that plies between Valladolid and Simancas. I followed my beloved and her maid into the square and stood beside them in the crowd, and as I looked upon the sorrowful face of the Dona Rosa and the weary, hopeless look upon Ana's countenance, I was sorely tempted to reveal myself to them and transform their sorrow into joy. But I dared not - the truth of my escape was so unbelievable! They would, perhaps, think me an impostor, or the perpetrator of a cruel jest; and even should I be able to convince them that it was I, Don Fernando de la Mina, who confronted them, the shock and sudden happiness might overwhelm them and bring us to disaster. Alas! Now that I had the opportunity of revealing myself to my beloved - an opportunity for which I had so fervently prayed - I was unable to use it. In vain I strove to devise some means of arresting her attention, but my heart and my senses failed me.

The passengers were now moving toward the ladder that was being set up against the wagon and, as the passengers moved toward it, each engrossed with his or her own affairs, I drew near to the Dona Rosa and, raising my hat, said: "Senora, will you condescend to hear the simple words of a poor buhonero, a man who, though neither Morisco nor Gitano, possesses the mystic gift of seeing clearly into the future? Believe me, Senora, the darkness of your present hour is but the prelude of a brighter day."

As I spoke she looked tenderly but searchingly upon me, and I knew that she was remarking in my face a strange likeness to one whom she had devoutly loved and whom she now deemed dead to her. But her transient expression of sweet surprise soon faded into a settled look of sorrowful resignation as she replied: "Senor, I thank you for your kindly sympathy, but the light has gone out from my earthly life - the dead do not return!"

Then, opening her purse, she gave me a silver piece and bade me, "Adios, Senor, and may the blessing of God abide with you." And as I stood watching the galera pass out from the square, I strove hard to devise some means whereby I might continue my communication with her. **AD**

to be continued in the following issue!



continued from page 21

Here we see the other side of the “more” principle – a warning that if we neglect the truths we have received and understood, the results could be rather unpleasant. God’s justice demands that the more truth we are exposed to, the more responsible we are.

Young men and women, you are accountable to God for the light that He has given you. This light and these warnings, if not heeded, will rise up in the judgment against you. Your dangers have been plainly stated; you have been cautioned and guarded on every side, hedged in with warnings. In the house of God you have listened to the most solemn, heart-searching truths presented by the servants of God in demonstration of the Spirit. What weight do these solemn appeals have upon your hearts? What influence do they have upon your characters? You will be held responsible for every one of these appeals and warnings. They will rise up in the judgment to condemn those who pursue a life of vanity, levity, and pride. {3T 363.1}

As we have followed down the chain of prophecy, revealed truth for our time has been clearly seen and explained. We are accountable for the privileges that we enjoy and for the light that shines upon our pathway. Those who lived in past generations were accountable for the light which was permitted to shine upon them. Their minds were exercised in regard to different points of Scripture which tested them. But they did not understand the truths which we do. They were not responsible for the light which they did not have. They had the Bible, as we have; but the time for the unfolding of special truth in relation to the closing scenes of this earth’s history is during the last generations that shall live upon the earth. {2T 692.2}

Special truths have been adapted to the conditions of the generations as they have existed. The present truth, which is a test to the people of this generation, was not a test to the people of generations far back. If the light which now shines upon us in regard to the Sabbath of the fourth commandment had been given to the generations in the past, God would have held them accountable for that light. {2T 693.1}

Matthew 10:37

He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

Just as God’s promises are more and more to us-ward, so God would have our love for Him be more and more – so that He is the highest in our life, the dearest and the best.

Closer than father, mother, brother, friend, or lover is the Lord our Saviour. “Fear not,” He says, “for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art Mine.” “Since thou wast precious in My sight, thou hast been honorable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.” Isaiah 43:1, 4. {DA 327.3}

When Christ dwells in the heart, the soul will be so filled with His love, with the joy of communion with Him, that it will cleave to Him; and in the contemplation of Him, self will be forgotten. Love to Christ will be the spring of action. Those who feel the constraining love of God, do not ask how little may be given to meet the requirements of God; they do not ask for the lowest standard, but aim at perfect conformity to the will of their Redeemer. With earnest desire they yield all and manifest an interest proportionate to the value of the



Fear not," He says, "for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art Mine.

Philippians 4:11

object which they seek. A profession of Christ without this deep love is mere talk, dry formality, and heavy drudgery. {SC 44.2}

Love to Christ must be the ruling principle of the being, controlling all the emotions and directing all the energies. Redeeming love should awaken all the tender affection and self-sacrificing devotion that can possibly exist in the heart of man. When this is the case, no heart-stirring appeals will be needed to break through their selfishness and awaken their dormant sympathies, to call forth benevolent offerings for the precious cause of truth. {3T 396.2}

Matthew 10:25

It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, **how much more** shall they call them of his household?

Just because God wants us to have life more abundantly, it does not mean that this life will be free of pain or suffering. Often we are beset with trials, and these trials work for our good. But even within our trials, we can learn to be happy. James writes:

James 1:2-4

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

And Paul writes:

.... for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

This means that whatever we are experiencing in our life, God has provided a way for us to be happy. Through trust and faith in Him, we are able to rise above our life struggles and choose to be happy. Through the memory of what God has done for us, as well as the promises that God has made to us for the future, we are able to maintain a calm and trustful spirit even in the face of trials.

"Blessed are the meek." The difficulties we have to encounter may be very much lessened by that meekness which hides itself in Christ. If we possess the humility of our Master, we shall rise above the slights, the rebuffs, the annoyances, to which we are daily exposed, and they will cease to cast a gloom over the spirit. The highest evidence of nobility in a Christian is self-control. He who under abuse or cruelty fails to maintain a calm and trustful spirit robs God of His right to reveal in him His own perfection of character. Lowliness of heart is the strength that gives victory to the followers of Christ; it is the token of their connection with the courts above. {DA 301.3}

When temptations assail you, when care, perplexity, and darkness seem to surround your soul, look to the place where you last saw the light. Rest in Christ's love and under His protecting care.

When sin struggles for the mastery in the heart, when guilt oppresses the soul and burdens the conscience, when unbelief clouds the mind, remember that Christ's grace is sufficient to subdue sin and banish the darkness. {AG 109.4}

WORLD CHURCH AFFIRMATION SABBATH

Standing by a Purpose True

BY SHAHBAZ



Therefore thou shalt love the Lord thy God, and keep his charge, and his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments, alway

Daniel had been asked by the king of Babylon to eat of the portion of the king's meat, but Daniel was a Jew. He had never touched any unclean meats before. He was a foreigner in a strange new land and Daniel was facing one of the greatest challenges of his young life. What was at stake for him? Remember at this time Daniel was but a teenager, perhaps no more than 16-17 years of age, and as far as years were concerned he was inexperienced. Nevertheless as far as faith is concerned, Daniel stands with other Bible characters such as Abraham, Jacob, Isaac, Moses, and other great men of faith. By his decision not to eat of the king's meat Daniel showed an integrity that reached beyond his years. What was at stake? Most probably he would have been sent to the gallows, for scarcely any could refuse the king of Babylon and live to tell about it.

Today more than ever in the history of this world, as we see all around us immortality gaining the ultimate foothold, we are in need of men and women who like Daniel will make the decision and purpose in their hearts to stand for God and not defile themselves with the portion of the world's spiritual meat no matter what the cost.

From the history of Daniel we may learn that a strict compliance with the requirements of God will prove a blessing, not only in the future, immortal life, but also in the present life. Through religious principles, men may triumph over the temptations of Satan and the devices of wicked men, even though it costs them a great sacrifice.¹

Therefore thou shalt love the Lord thy God, and keep his charge, and his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments, alway.²

Staying true to our religious principles

The greatest want of the world is the want of men,—men who will not be bought or sold; men who in their inmost souls are true and honest; men who do not fear to call sin by its right name; men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole; men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall.³

Wow, what a statement! The world is waiting to see such men “who will not be bought or sold,” “whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole.” But too often we hear from our ranks the cry that our custom and traditions with which we grew up cannot be parted with or compromised, that God understands these things are important to us and our people. So many are replacing their religious duty with custom and tradition. But I am here to tell you that whenever custom and tradition competes or blatantly opposes the Scriptures it is time to oppose those customs and traditions and embrace the Word of God. When I first became a Christian, one of the things I quickly learned was this truth. I understood that all my previous upbringing and national customs and traditions were of no value as long as they opposed the way of God in the Scriptures. I was learning a new custom and tradition, one of heavenly origin. Praise be to God!

Teaching Biblical values begins at home

The Bible clearly reveals to us the shortness of time, and those who have genuine faith in the third angel's message will show their faith by their works. They will endeavor to keep their children separate from worldly influences, and to give them such instruction and training as will enable them to form characters that God can approve. The meekness and simplicity of Christ

¹ Signs of the Times, November 4, 1886

² Deuteronomy 11:1

³ Colporteur Ministry, 54

are the very first lessons to be interwoven with the children's life. They should be taught to imitate the Saviour's example of self-denial and sacrifice. The reason why these precious lessons are not given to the children is that parents themselves have not learned them. They do not bring Christ into their religious experience. They are controlled by worldly principles. Custom and fashion are followed far more closely than are the teachings of Christ.⁴

"Worldly principles, custom and fashion are allowed more closely than are the teachings of Christ." This is truly the condition of many Adventist families. They have so long compromised and pushed away conviction that it is now easy for them to see worldly custom and traditions as normal and acceptable.

What if Daniel had made a compromise with those heathen rulers, and had denied his God? What if, on first entering the court, he had yielded to the pressure of temptation, by eating and drinking as was customary among the Babylonians? That one wrong step would probably have led to others, until, his connection with Heaven being severed, he would have been borne away by the power of temptation. But while he clung to God with unwavering, prayerful trust, he could not be forsaken. The divine protection is pledged to those who thus seek it, and God cannot forget his word.⁵

Among the viands placed before the king were swine's flesh and other meats which were declared unclean by the law of Moses, and which the Hebrews had been expressly forbidden to eat. Here Daniel was brought to a severe test. Should he adhere to the teachings of his fathers concerning meats and drinks, and offend the king, and probably lose not only his position but his life? or should he disregard the commandment of the Lord, and retain the favor of the king, thus securing great intellectual advantages and the most flattering worldly prospects? Daniel

did not long hesitate. He decided to stand firm in his integrity, let the result be what it might. He purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank.⁶

Satan's plans for God's people are in the works

It is Satan's plan to weaken the faith of God's people in the Testimonies. Satan knows how to make his attacks. He works upon minds to excite jealousy and dissatisfaction toward those at the head of the work. The gifts are next questioned; then, of course, they have but little weight, and instruction given through vision is disregarded. Next follows skepticism in regard to the vital points of our faith, the pillars of our position, then doubt as to the Holy Scriptures, and then the downward march to perdition. When the Testimonies, which were once believed, are doubted and given up, Satan knows the deceived ones will not stop at this; and he redoubles his efforts till he launches them into open rebellion, which becomes incurable and ends in destruction.⁷

It is Satan's studied plan to make the workers weak in prayer, weak in power, and weak in influence before the world, because of the defects in their characters,—defects which in no way harmonize with the truth.⁸



Staying true to our message

As a people of destiny we are called at a time of great apostasy and spiritual declension to proclaim the most solemn message ever given to this old sin-sick world. The Third Angel's Message specially must be prominent in our minds. We must faithfully exert ourselves and warn the world no matter what the cost. As we keep our focus on our duty we will find ourselves lifted above this old world. We will be faithful in exerting ourselves in the cause of God.

As the ministration of Jesus closed in the holy place, and He passed into the holiest, and stood before the ark containing the law of God, He sent another mighty angel with a third message to the world. A parchment was placed in the angel's hand, and as he descended to the earth in power and majesty, he proclaimed a fearful warning, with the most terrible threatening ever borne to man. This message was designed to put the children of God upon their guard, by showing them the hour of temptation and anguish that was before them. Said the angel, "They will be brought into close combat with the beast and his image. Their only hope of eternal life is to remain steadfast. Although their lives are at stake, they must hold fast the truth." The third angel closes his message thus: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."⁹

Friends have we been faithful to our duty? How have we exerted our energies in the proclamation of this great and fearful message?

We must make the observance of the Sabbath prominent

We are to give to the world a manifestation of the pure, noble, holy principles that are to distinguish the people of God from the world. Instead of the people of God becoming less and less definitely distinguished from those who do not keep the seventh-day Sabbath, they are to make the observance of the Sabbath so prominent that the world cannot fail to recognize them as Seventh-day Adventists.¹⁰



The people of God are to expose the wickedness of the man of sin and boldly proclaim the last message of mercy to a world that is dying

In the very time in which we live the Lord has called His people and has given them a message to bear. He has called them to expose the wickedness of the man of sin who has made the Sunday law a distinctive power, who has thought to change times and laws, and to oppress the people of God who stand firmly to honor Him by keeping the only true Sabbath, the Sabbath of creation, as holy unto the Lord.¹¹

We are to give to the people the warnings contained in Revelation. But many workers are engaged in a line of work that is disqualifying them to preach the word and do the very work God has appointed them to do. The truth in regard to the Sabbath of the Lord is to be proclaimed. The seventh-day is to be shown to be the seal of the living God. People are to be shown what they may expect from the papal power. The time has come when the Protestant churches are reaching out to grasp the hand of the power that has made void the law of God...This is the message Satan would have silenced...Shall this message be considered an inferior matter?¹²

I then saw the third angel. Said my accompanying angel, "Fearful is his work. Awful is his mission. He is the angel that is to select the wheat from the tares, and seal, or bind, the wheat for the heavenly garner. These things should engross the whole mind, the whole attention."¹³

Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine.¹⁴ **AD**

⁴ The Adventist Home, 447

⁵ Signs of the Times, November 4, 1886

⁶ Fundamentals of Christian Education 77-78

⁷ Testimonies for the Church Vol. 5, 672

⁸ The Review And Herald, November 10, 1885

⁹ Early Writings 255

¹⁰ Manuscript 162, 1903

¹¹ Testimonies to Ministers 1903, 118

¹² Manuscript Releases Vol. 4, 426

¹³ Early Writings 118

¹⁴ Exodus 19:5

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Sowing in the Land

JOHN TRIPLETT

reprinted from Faith on the Line, winter 2008



928 CROWN OF GLORY

The stories of David are types of the battle that rages between Christ and Satan. What can we learn from these stories about Satan's attempts to destroy us? (58 min)

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956 LEADERSHIP AND END-TIME PROPHECY

What can we learn from Old Testament stories when God was the sovereign, supreme leader? (75 min)

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247 THE THIRD TEMPLE

Will the building of the third temple usher in the Messiah's earthly reign? (67 min)

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929 EXCEPT YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS EXCEED

In this presentation, Walter Veith looks at justification by faith and Christ's standard of righteousness. (41 min)

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957 COUNTING AND KEEPING YOUR MEMBERS

How do we keep our membership from dwindling, and instead get it growing and vibrant again? (63 min)

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The situation of our planet and the prophecies of the Bible indicate that we are definitely living in tremendous times—times in which we will need a supernatural measure of faith. When we look in the Bible, we see stories of people who were just like us. They were weak and made mistakes, but were also willing to be led and taught by God. Their lives can help us understand God better and grow in our faith.

In the book of Genesis we find a story of a time not much different from our own.

And Genesis 12:9-10:

**AND THERE WAS A FAMINE IN THE LAND:
AND ABRAM WENT DOWN INTO EGYPT
TO SOJOURN THERE; FOR THE FAMINE
WAS GRIEVOUS IN THE LAND.**

From this account, we can infer that the land of Egypt had plenty of food. We can know this for certain from Genesis 41:46-47, which states,

"And Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt. And in the seven plenteous years the earth brought forth by handfuls."

And Genesis 42:1-2:

"Now when Jacob saw that there was corn in Egypt, Jacob said unto his sons, Why do ye look one upon another? And he said, Behold, I have heard that there is corn in Egypt: get you down thither, and buy for us from thence; that we may live, and not die."

NEW



954 CORPORATE IDENTITY

Our corporate identity is wrapped up in Christ. What then is your contribution? (82 min)



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NEW



958 GIVE US A KING

This lecture contrasts Saul and David and examines the types and shadows of the King of kings as illustrated by the first two kings of Israel. (57 min)



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7737 THE SCIENCE IN SALVATION

There is a science behind creation and salvation, and our Creator is the answer to the big five questions that govern our lives. (60 min)



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955 BOOKENDS

An appeal to all Christians in all denominations to seriously consider this life and death issue: Are you a heretic? (75 min)



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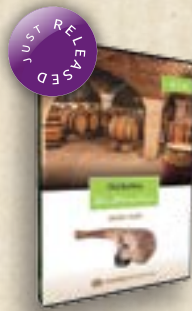


959 FINDING GOD

Walter Veith explains how our extremities are God's opportunities to teach us how to trust Him. (58 min)



Single DVD / MP4 \$9.00



7738 OLD BOTTLES, NEW WINESKINS

Old wine cannot go in new wineskins without consequence. Christ can help us have new wine in new bottles. (44 min)



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Egypt was a land of fruitfulness; it was a land of prosperity. It sounds very similar to the prosperity of the West today, doesn't it? When Abraham's son Isaac came onto the scene, he also faced a famine. And, just like his father, Isaac received a word from the Lord about how to deal with the circumstances he found himself in:

And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar. And the Lord appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of: Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swore unto Abraham thy father (Genesis 26: 1-3)

Here God appears to Isaac to tell him, "Don't go to Egypt. Don't go to the land where everyone wants to go. But rather dwell in this land." God asks Isaac to stay in the land that has been struck by famine and poverty—a land void of life. God called Isaac to do the illogical thing and stay in a land of death, rather than flee to Egypt—a place of life. This logic does not make sense to the carnal mind, but we need to be prepared for God to call us to do even the illogical thing, as he called Isaac to do.

Sometimes God calls us to do full-time ministry when we have a good career. Sometimes God asks us to love when the world would naturally hate. Sometimes God asks us to give a difficult message that puts us into painful and unpopular positions. Sometimes God calls us to continue working for Him, even when it seems like nothing is working and like we are complete failures. Sometimes God calls us to do things that, quite frankly, do not make sense. And to those around us we may really look like we are doing the illogical thing, but if God is behind it, however strange it might be, it is logical in the eyes of heaven. What constitutes "success" in the world's eyes is often something completely different in God's eyes.

"Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the Lord blessed him" (Genesis 26:12). Isaac chose to obey God and to sow in the land of famine and death. Today we are in a famine

of hearing the Word of God like the one described in Amos 8:11. And sometimes we can become disheartened and discouraged when all we see is a vehement hostility toward the things of God.

But, in the exact same way that God called Isaac to sow in that parched land, God is calling you and me to sow in this land. This is not a work that your local pastor can do on his own. God calls each and every one of us, the whole Church, to focus on sowing the seeds of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We can reap a reward in this land of spiritual death, just like Isaac did—a reward of precious blood-bought children of God.



Genesis 26:13–14 says that God blessed Isaac tremendously, making him the envy of the Philistines. This is significant because the Philistines were usually the ones that loaned money to the Israelites! Isaac was asked to trust in God in the face of famine—when it looked as though nothing could work out and he became the envy of the Philistines, a witness that God was with him.

How can we apply this today? If we trust God and continue to be faithful to what God has told us to do, He will bless us and use us to further His kingdom.

We know that Christ is coming soon—the signs in the world today proclaim it loudly. The lessons of trust in God and faithfulness to what He has called us are lessons we need to learn if we are to stay faithful through the trials ahead. God is calling people to a new and higher experience of trust and faithfulness in the face of difficulties and even despair.

We may very well soon face situations similar to the trials faced by Daniel and his three friends. Because Daniel was faithful, God exalted him to be a great ambassador, a great witness, to all those around. Daniel and his friends were exalted on three separate occasions to be ambassadors for the God of Heaven—after hearing the king's dream (Daniel 2), in the fiery furnace (Daniel 3), and in the lion's den (Daniel 6). These three scenarios have one thing in common: a death decree.

Let us take a look at Revelation 13:11-17 and compare the end-time trials with the trials of Daniel.

And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he...causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed....saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

I used to think that this was a scary passage, and in some ways I still do, but now I see it a bit differently. During the Beast crisis there is going to be an escalation, an increase of pressure, an increase of intensity, just as there was in Daniel's day. During the time of the unveiling of the golden image, Daniel's three friends were not thrown into the furnace immediately. Instead there was a step-by-step increase of pressure levied against them to abandon their allegiance to God.

After the death decree was issued in Daniel 3, the circulation of God's message sped up. Everyone was at

the dedication of the image, and everyone was a witness to the power of God and the faithfulness of His servants. Every person there took home an unbelievable firsthand account of the power of Daniel's God.

The death decree in our time will be a means of telling the whole world the Three Angels' Messages in a very short amount of time. Then Jesus will come, and we will be with Him for all eternity. But until then, God is giving us trials everyday to prepare us for the time when we will have to stand against the whole world as people that "keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" (Revelation 14:12).

This is a time when many are beginning to faint or even to wonder if they shouldn't go down to Egypt, to wonder if "drought" and "famine" is really where God wants them to be, especially as the economy is failing and financial stability is collapsing. Instead, this should be the time for us to hold on even tighter. The devil wants to destroy every single one of God's people. I am so thankful that Jesus wants to save us even more than we want to save ourselves. Let us hold fast to Him in these closing moments of Earth's history. **AD**

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Charcoal

the Natural Healer

by Jon Zwayer

Reprinted from Faith on the Line, spring 2004.

The flu is a highly contagious viral infection of the upper respiratory tract. What is commonly called “stomach flu” is technically not really the flu, but rather is, most times, gastroenteritis, which is an acute inflammation of the stomach lining.

Because of this, I thought I would share with you something that has helped me greatly over the years whenever my stomach starts that unusual gurgling sound that precedes nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chills, and fever. Several of these symptoms have hit me over the past few years (the most recent last week), and the very first thing I do is get out my jar of activated charcoal powder.

You may laugh at this because it sounds too simple or because you think the powdery but gritty black particle is intolerable. But even though it can be a little messy if you're not careful,

activated charcoal powder works wonders for many conditions. It has worked for me many times and I've even been an eyewitness to it saving the lives of many people.

For several years I worked in a hospital emergency room and one curious thing that I observed was something that few people are aware of. Whenever an overdose patient was brought into the emergency room the very first thing a doctor would do is make the patient drink activated charcoal powder mixed with water. During those years of seeing many overdose patients come into the ER, I never saw an overdose patient die who was conscious and who was able to drink the charcoal slurry.

Because of my experience in the ER, I have, over the years, done some research on activated charcoal and discovered many beneficial properties bordering on the miraculous that makes me

wonder why the benefits of it are not more well known.

The FDA rates activated charcoal as being a safe and effective treatment for acute toxic poisoning. It is recognized as a universal antidote.ⁱ The Poison Control Center also recommends activated charcoal for use in poisoning.

How Activated Charcoal Works

Activated charcoal works by adsorption, which is an electrical action, rather than absorption, which is a mechanical action. Activated charcoal adsorbs most organic and inorganic chemicals that do not belong in the body, but no studies have been able to prove that it adsorb nutrients, as some people are afraid of. It will adsorb any medications however, and, other than in the case of an

i Science news 119:3 (1981)

ii David O. Cooney, *Activated Charcoal* (New York: Marcel Dekker, Inc., 1980): 63.

overdose, activated charcoal needs to be taken two hours before or after any medications.

Charcoal added to the diet of sheep for six months did not cause a loss of nutrients, as compared with sheep not receiving charcoal. Blood tests showed no significant difference between the two groups of animals, and there were no visible signs of any nutritional deficiency. At autopsy, no differences could be detected. A level of 5% of the total diet was given as charcoal. It did not affect the blood or urinary levels of calcium, copper, iron, magnesium, inorganic phosphorus, potassium, sodium, zinc, creatinine, uric acid, urea nitrogen, alkaline phosphatase, total protein, or urine pH.ⁱⁱ

The form of charcoal used in modern medical science is activated charcoal USP, a pure wood charcoal carbon that has no carcinogenic properties. Activated charcoal is an odorless, tasteless powder. One teaspoonful of it has a surface area of more than 10,000 square feet. This unique feature allows it to adsorb large amounts of chemicals or poisons. The powder must be stored in a tightly sealed container, as it readily adsorbs impurities from the atmosphere.

to help them ignite. Activated charcoal is not charred food such as burnt toast! Charred food is a product of charred proteins, fats, carbohydrates, and mineral salts, which have an adverse effect on the body. Activated charcoal is made from insoluble carbonized wood that has been oxidized by gases like steam or air at high temperatures.

This oxidative process erodes the charcoal's internal surfaces to greatly increase its adsorption capacity by creating an internal network of very fine pores. This process makes it possible for the charcoal to adsorb almost 100 times its weight in toxins, bacteria, chemicals, and unwanted medications. The charcoal attaches to the foreign bodies so that they are passed out of the body by elimination and prevented from replicating or being absorbed into the blood stream.

Scientific experiments over many years attest to the effectiveness of charcoal as an antidote. In one experiment, 100 times the lethal dose of Cobra venom was mixed with charcoal and injected into a laboratory animal. The animal was not harmed. In other experiments, arsenic and strychnine were mixed with charcoal and ingested by humans under

laboratory conditions. The subjects survived even though the poison dosages were five to ten times the lethal dose.

Activated charcoal has no side effects or known cases of any allergic reactions. It has an infinite shelf life if the container is kept closed to prevent adsorption of caustic fumes.

Studies show that activated charcoal is harmless when it comes in contact with the skin. In rare cases, charcoal may mildly irritate the bowel in sensitive persons, but no allergies or side effects have been recorded. Activated charcoal powder will not cause someone to have constipation, but if a person has a problem with constipation and then drinks charcoal slurry, the activated charcoal will back up the colon due to blockages already present in the colon. Research has shown that if a person has a problem with constipation and does a colon cleanse and addresses the cause of constipation, then that person can drink charcoal slurry without having the activated charcoal build up in the colon.

continued on page 45



What is Activated Charcoal?

Charcoal from burnt food is not effective, and charcoal briquettes can be dangerous because they contain fillers and petrochemicals



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He will give you grace to be patient, He will give you grace to be trustful, He will give you grace to overcome restlessness, He will warm your heart with His own sweet Spirit, He will revive your soul in its weakness.... Then stay your soul in confidence upon God. Roll all your burdens upon Him. {AG 109.5}

The soul that loves God, rises above the fog of doubt; he gains a bright, broad, deep, living experience, and becomes meek and Christlike. His soul is committed to God, hid with Christ in God. He will be able to stand the test of neglect, of abuse and contempt, because his Saviour has suffered all this. He will not become fretful and discouraged when difficulties press him, because Jesus did not fail or become discouraged. Every true Christian will be strong, not in the strength and merit of his good works, but in the righteousness of Christ, which through faith is imputed unto him. It is a great thing to be meek and lowly in heart, to be pure and undefiled, as was the Prince of heaven when He walked among men. {AG 109.6}

John 8:11

She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin **no more.**

Here is a promise of victory for the struggling soul. God's Word has creative power. Whatever He speaks comes into being. His commands are His enablings. They are promises that we will no longer kill, lie, steal, etc. Go and sin no more – as we submit to Him in our thoughts and in our choices, we may, through His Spirit and power, become victors and overcomers over our inherited and cultivated tendencies.

The heavenly intelligences will work with the human agent who seeks with determined faith that perfection of character which will reach out to perfection in action. To every one engaged in this work Christ says, I am at your right hand to help you. {MYP 101.1}

As the will of man cooperates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent. Whatever is to be done at His command, may be accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enablings.—Christ's Object Lessons, 331-333. {MYP 101.2}

Whatever may be our inherited or cultivated tendencies to wrong, we can overcome through the power that He is ready to impart. {MH 175.1}

Praise God that through His more and more principle, our future need not be bleak or dark or depressing. There is hope – never-ending and abundant hope – provided and promised by our Saviour who knows no defeat, and is never discouraged, even by our frequent failings. (Isaiah 42:4) He has the power to help us grow and increase in grace and knowledge, and He promises that if we allow Him, each day will bring us one step closer to His likeness and fitness for heaven.

Dear Reader, if you would like the more and more principle to work in your life you can have it! Choose today to believe that God has more in store for you than you could ever imagine. Believe that today He can give you a fresh supply of grace to overcome and new growth in the areas in which you are weak. May these thoughts of hope lift your spirits and inspire you to run the race before you with courage and anticipation of what God will do for you and through you. **AD**

Wendy

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What Charcoal Can Do

Activated charcoal is required by law in many states to be part of the standard equipment on ambulances for use in poisonings. Mushroom poisoning, brown recluse spider bites, and snakebites can all be treated with activated charcoal. Doctors also use activated charcoal to prevent and treat intestinal infections, and as cleansing and healing agents.

Jaundice of the newborn, bee stings, poison ivy reactions, and many other illnesses can be helped with activated charcoal. Many pediatricians and pediatric handbooks recommend that activated charcoal be kept on hand as an antidote in the family medicine chest, especially in households that include small children.

Activated charcoal can be purchased in tablets, capsules, or powder form. Tablets have one-half the potency of the powdered charcoal and the capsules are expensive but are easy to use. About 14 capsules equals a tablespoon of powder. It is most easily mixed in a small portion of water and is most effective if one tablespoon is used with one to two glasses of water. It should be taken only as needed to reduce dependency although it is definitely not addictive.

Some drugstores sell activated charcoal tablets. The most economical way to purchase activated charcoal is in powder form.

AD

Activated charcoal can be used internally and externally for humans and pets for the following:

Antidote for food poisoning or accidental ingestion of poisons, poisonous spider, snake, or bug bites, or poison ivy.

Eliminate toxins that can contribute to anemia in cancer patients.

Filter toxins from blood, in cases of liver or kidney disease.

Deodorize colostomies and disinfect wounds (shouldn't be used on open wounds or you may end up with a tattoo).

Remove tartar and plaque buildup when used as toothpaste.

Alleviate allergy headaches, minor arthritic symptoms, menstrual pains, diarrhea, painful urination, flatulence, sore throat irritation, flu-like symptoms, drug overdose, cold sores, tooth abscesses, and toxin from foods.



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HEALING THE BRAIN

BY WENDY GOUBEJ

I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. Ps 139:14

The Bible says that we are fearfully and wonderfully made, and as we look into science and the intricacies of our human body, this is confirmed over and over again. Take the brain, for example. Neurologists now believe that the brain alone has something like 100 billion brain cells. Within those cells, there are about 100 trillion interconnections. If we used thirty thousand new connections every second of our life, we would not be able to use them all.

According to evolution, we developed capacity and equipment only as and if needed, but in the brain we see that we have problem-solving capacity far beyond any need in our lifetime. Why would we have so much capacity, if we were not created to live forever?

Scientists tell us that we lose brain cells as we progress in life. According to a 28-year study, brain cells die if we don't use them. The proverb "Use it or lose it" applies here. But the good news is that the brain doesn't like brokenness. Our brains are able to heal in amazing ways. The brain has processes built in to stimulate nerve growth. If we put forth continuing and appropriate efforts to activate and energize our bodies, the brain is stimulated to heal.

But is there anything we can do as we live our daily lives that will regenerate our brains, and improve our thinking and brain activity?

The Bible says that "...God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a **sound mind**. 2 Tim 1:7

God usually requires cooperation of us so that His Divine power can work together with our human effort. This is a standard operating procedure for God's work in us. Sometimes our cooperation involves only submission and faith. Sometimes, our cooperation involves obedience to known duties.

"When people exercise faith, their immune system rallies, wiping out destructive foreign invaders. At the same time, the faith flowing through the neuro-chemical pathways shuts down the pathways that would trigger debilitating doubt." *Healing the Broken Brain, Elden M. Chalmers, p. 65.*

So how can God give us a sound mind, and how can we cooperate with Him in this process? There is one guiding principle that can help us:

Bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.
2 Corinthians 10:5

By an act of our will, by choosing to change our thoughts, we are able to submit

ourselves to God's way and truth.

Our will is the key to any act or decision we make. Whether we realize it or not, we are making choices with our own free will.

They may be habitual choices now, but at some point, they were a decisions we made.

Ellen White writes:

"The mind and nerves gain tone and strength by the exercise of the will. The power of the will in many cases will prove a potent soother of the nerves." *AH 252*

"The power of the will is not valued as it should be. Let the will be kept awake and rightly directed, and it will impart energy to the whole being, and will be a wonderful





aid in the maintenance of health. It is a power also in dealing with disease. Exercised in the right direction, it would control the imagination, and be a potent means of resisting and overcoming disease of both mind and body." *MH 246*

“By steadfastly keeping the will on the Lord's side, every emotion will be brought into captivity to the will of Jesus. You will then find your feet on solid rock. It will take, at times, every particle of willpower that you possess, but it is God that is working for you, and you will come forth from the molding process a vessel unto honor.” *MYP 153*



Ways to Strengthen Your Will For Better Mental Health and Control:

#1 Practice deciding things—making up your mind positively, immediately after you have weighed the facts—and stick by your decision, willing to change only when the contrary facts are overwhelming. It is often better to make a mistake, than to sit on the fence of indecision! Sometimes writing the choice or decision down helps a person stick to the decision they make.

#2 Complete each job before you begin another. Don't flit from one thing to another and from one room to another, traveling in a circle.

#3 Sometimes games can help develop the ability to decide.

#4 Do something disagreeable that needs to be done by somebody every day.

#5 Roll out of bed as soon as you awaken after your planned hours of sleep. Make the decision the night before and stick to it in the morning.

#6 Read deeply and thoughtfully, and stretch your mind to understand and retain what you read. Excessive reading of emotional fantasies weakens the will.

#7 The will is strengthened by exercise through the practice of self-denial and self-control.

#8 Link your will with Divine Energy by asking God to empower your will.

#9 Make a habit of operating your life by plan, not impulse.

#10 Practice healthful living with good nutrition, exercise, and rest.

Source: *Healing the Broken Brain* by Elden M. Chalmers



But how can we strengthen our will so that we have improved mental health and better control over our thoughts and decisions?

Ellen White tells us the only sure way to improve our will is if our meditation and focus is on the Word of God.

“Why is it that our youth, and even those of maturer years, are so easily led into temptation and sin? It is because the Word of God is not studied and meditated upon as it should be. If it were appreciated, there would be an inward rectitude, a strength of spirit, that would resist the temptations of Satan to do evil. A firm, decided willpower is not brought into the life and character, because the sacred instruction of God is not made the study and the subject of meditation. There is not the effort put forth that there should be, to associate the mind with pure, holy thoughts, and to divert it from what is impure and untrue. There is not the choosing of the better part, the sitting at the feet of Jesus, as did Mary, to learn the most sacred lessons of the divine Teacher, that they may be laid up in the heart, and practiced in the daily life. Meditation upon holy things will elevate and refine the mind, and will develop Christian ladies and gentlemen.” *MYP 425*

God desires man to exercise his reasoning powers; and the study of the Bible will strengthen and elevate the mind as no other study can. Yet we are to beware of deifying reason, which is subject to the weakness

and infirmity of humanity. If we would not have the Scriptures clouded to our understanding, so that the plainest truths shall not be comprehended, we must have the simplicity and faith of a little child, ready to learn, and beseeching the aid of the Holy Spirit. A sense of the power and wisdom of God, and of our inability to comprehend His greatness, should inspire us with humility, and we should open His word, as we would enter His presence, with holy awe. When we come to the Bible, reason must acknowledge an authority superior to itself, and heart and intellect must bow to the great I AM. *SC 109*

FOOD AFFECTS THE MIND

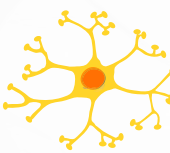
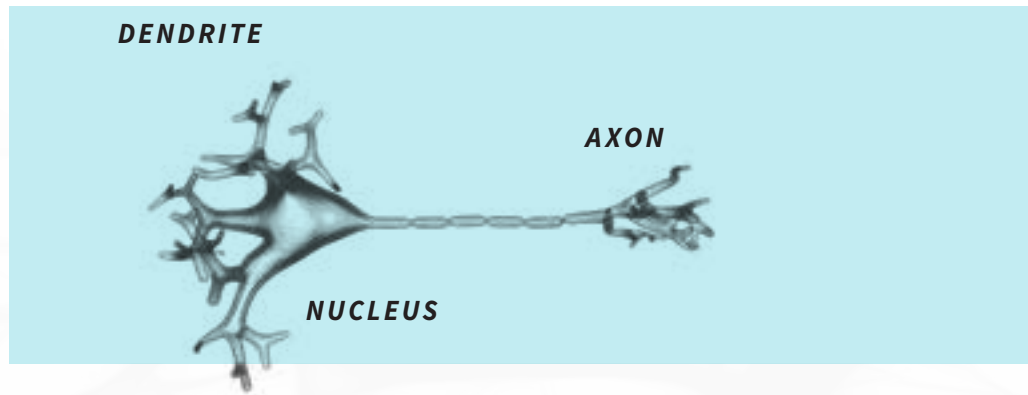
If we are serious about keeping our minds as clear and as healthy as possible, we will adhere to the 8 laws of health, we will avoid a diet of dairy, meat and even sugar as these tend to clog the mind, and we will choose to limit our exposure to harmful substances – whether electronic or dietary. This includes caffeine and chocolate, which contains

theobromine a substance that also alters the brain, as well as TV and video games. Keep a record of your past week’s health activity and see if it was balanced. If not, resolve to improve your balance today.

MAKING IT PRACTICAL

Remember that our warfare is not with worldly weapons. We are in a spiritual war and the war is about our minds. This is why television watching, excessive exposure to blue-light from laptops and mobile devices can also contribute to the deterioration of our minds.

How can we reverse bad habits and actually undo some of the damage we have done to the way our brains function?





Every time we have a thought or perform an act, we fire nerve cells, and the nerve fibers that are involved in that thought or act are strengthened. Any thought or action often repeated strengthens and builds the nerve fibers so that it becomes easier to repeat that thought or action next time. These thoughts or actions create pathways that either bless or curse us once strongly established.

“What the child sees and hears is drawing deep lines upon the tender mind, which no after circumstances in life can entirely efface. The intellect is now taking shape, and the affections receiving direction and strength. Repeated acts in a given course become habits. These may be modified by severe training, in afterlife, but are seldom changed.” *CG 199*

The best way to change habits is to develop new habits that are stronger than those we wish to overcome. There are some ways to increase our effectiveness when attempting to replace wrong habits.

If someone offers you a cake, for example, your first thought may be “That looks so good.” Immediately

your brain sends a message with a certain number of millivolts of energy saying “Fire”, in other words, “Take the cake!” But if at that moment, you tell yourself, “No, I shouldn’t!”, your brain sends a number of millivolts of energy saying the opposite “Don’t fire! (or “Don’t take the cake!”). Your brain calculates the difference in millivolts of energy that those two messages contained, and if the latter message contains more millivolts of energy, your brain goes with the “Don’t fire!” message. Now if the difference in energy is only 10 millivolts for example, your response will be very weak, albeit, a “No thank you”. It takes at least 10 millivolts of energy to cause a brain cell to fire. And the devil, who is behind all the temptation we receive, when he sees that you hesitated weakly, will know that next time, if he lays better plans, he will win. If however, your No response is firm, and contains greater energy or emphasis, you will strengthen your will that much more.

If we act decisively, say an emphatic “No!” or a positive “I will do it!” anytime we speak of our new desires, the nerve currents travel faster because they have been triggered more strongly. The stronger our decisiveness and the more energy we invest in our actions, the faster the nerve impulses will travel down the paths of our brains to build a new habit or to prevent an old one from repeating.

This coincides with the verse:
“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; ...
Eccl 9:10



As we make these decisions, one by one, we move closer to the goal of a stronger will, and a sound mind. Every little decision can move us into the realm of an addicted sinner, or a saint in the moral sphere, or an expert in the practical sphere. By so many separate acts, and always in cooperation with Divine Power, we can become what God has intended for us.

“We shall be individually, for time and eternity, what our habits make us. The lives of those who form right habits, and are faithful in the performance of every duty, will be as shining lights, shedding bright beams upon the pathway of others; but if habits of unfaithfulness are indulged, if lax, indolent, neglectful habits are allowed to strengthen, a cloud darker than midnight will settle on the prospects in this life and forever debar the individual from the future life.” *4T, 452*



WHAT IF WE FAIL?

Now suppose that you have been successful for the past few months in your new habit forming, and then one day, you slip, and act just as you used to, or indulge in something that you had vowed to avoid. This is when the devil comes in to whisper in your mind, that you are a failure, and that you haven't changed at all. The devil would like you to give up right then and there, and to tell yourself that after all your trying, you have made no progress, and that it is utterly hopeless. This is not only the devil's tactic, it is scientifically incorrect. Each victory you have had prior to this fall has strengthened the new pathways. There have been physical and chemical changes that have taken place in your nervous system. The devil would like you to keep this information from, but if you understand the power of every little choice made, you will realize that it's a trick.

When you experience a failure or fall, you must get up immediately and start working on the new pathway again. You have not lost any ground by the occasional fall. Every success in the right pathway is one time that you have not failed. Eventually, you will have developed such a strong habit in the right way that it will be very unlikely that you will respond in the old way.

"For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again ..."
Prov 24:16

TOYING WITH DESTRUCTIVE THOUGHTS

Another secret to good habit forming, especially when it comes to thoughts we'd like to change, is to cut off the old impulse immediately when it arises, and not to allow it to fully form. This takes practice, especially to catch it quickly. If we are dealing with a habitual thought or a very strong impulse, we may respond slower than we'd like. But with practice, our responses can become swift and deadly. As soon as a thought arises in your mind that you know you should not have, or that is not edifying, immediately replace the thought with something better. The most powerful replacement is to turn to God in prayer and praise. Praise Him for the victory He is going to give you. Thank Him for what He is already doing for you, and tell Him you are coming to Him for victory. Let your mind focus and linger on the opposite thoughts. For example, if a critical thought comes into your mind, replace it with a cheerful thought, a thankful thought focused on God or what He has done or is doing. Even something simple such as the bird song outside your window, or the beautiful view or sunshine, can be used as a stepping stone away from the destructive thoughts, and back to God. Repeating a Scripture that expresses the opposite thought that has come into your mind, is also extremely helpful. Psalm 103 is a fantastic psalm that can be repeated to lift the thoughts out of depression to the light of

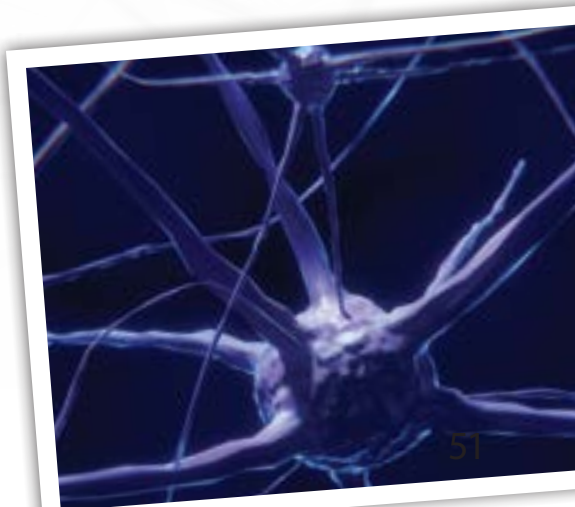
God's love and the hope He offers. This mental practice works for innumerable instances including, depression, anxiety, pornography and more.

Toying with destructive thoughts strengthens them. According to Elden Chalmers, "The best way to nip the impulse in the bud is to go right back into the mind, uproot those character-destroying motives, plant the seed of your new purpose, and cultivate the new habit of thinking."

Healing the Broken Brain, p. 38

This means that instead of saying "I wish I could do it, but I shouldn't", say truthfully, "I really don't want to do it, and I won't." If you have trouble saying that truthfully, ask God to give you the desire to do what is right. Practice the opposite of the destroying habit you are trying to replace. Instead of criticizing, compliment, instead of being idle, plant a garden or go for a swim, instead of complaining, sing. Practice your new habit at every opportunity. Any time you have an emotional prompting to do right, do it. Don't silence it or postpone it. New habits grow with exercise.

"For as [a man] thinketh in his heart, so is he:..."
Prov 23:7



"For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

Matthew 12:37:

"Our words make a feedback loop to our brains and body centers that prompted them, compounding or intensifying our deep-seated thoughts and feelings." *Healing the Broken Brain*, p. 57

What we say reinforces our thoughts, which reinforces our behaviour. Do not allow yourself to express depressing or untrue thoughts, or you will be reinforcing them and adding to your troubles. Express hopeful and truthful thoughts. God loves you. He wants to save you. He has promised and is able to save you to the uttermost. (Heb 7:25) His plans for you are of hope and an expected end, not destruction and failure. He wants to give you the victory. (Jer 29:11) He has promised to never leave you nor forsake you. (Heb 13:5) Fill your mind with the promises of God, both from God's Word and the Spirit of Prophecy, and recite these to yourself whenever you feel yourself drifting, or even just as a precaution.

Ellen White confirms this when she speaks of putting our doubts and negative thoughts and feelings into words:

Every word of doubt you utter is inviting Satan's temptations; it is strengthening in you the tendency to doubt, and it is grieving from you the ministering angels. When Satan tempts you, breathe not a word of doubt or darkness. If you choose to open the door to his suggestions, your mind will be filled with distrust and rebellious

questioning. If you talk out your feelings, every doubt you express not only reacts upon yourself, but it is a seed that will germinate and bear fruit in the life of others, and it may be impossible to counteract the influence of your words. You yourself may be able to recover from the season of temptation and from the snare of Satan, but others who have been swayed by your influence may not be able to escape from the unbelief you have suggested. How important that we speak only those things that will give spiritual strength and life! SC 119

Many, walking along the path of life, dwell upon their mistakes and failures and disappointments, and their hearts are filled with grief and discouragement. While I was in Europe, a sister who had been doing this, and who was in deep distress, wrote to me, asking for some word of encouragement. The night after I had read her letter I dreamed that I was in a garden, and one who seemed to be the owner of the garden was conducting me through its paths. I was gathering the flowers and enjoying their fragrance, when this sister, who had been walking by my side, called my attention to some unsightly briars that were impeding her way. There she was mourning and grieving. She was not walking in the pathway, following the guide, but was walking among the briars and thorns. "Oh," she mourned, "is it not a pity that this beautiful garden is spoiled with thorns?" Then the guide said, "Let the thorns alone, for they will only wound you. Gather the roses, the lilies, and the pinks."

Have there not been some bright spots in your experience? Have you not had some precious seasons when your heart throbbed with joy in response to the Spirit of God? When you look back into the chapters of your life experience do you not find some pleasant pages? Are not God's promises, like the fragrant flowers, growing beside your path on every hand? Will you not let their beauty and sweetness fill your heart with joy?

The briars and thorns will only wound and grieve you; and if you gather only these things, and present them to others, are you not, besides slighting the goodness of God yourself, preventing those around you from walking in the path of life?



It is not wise to gather together all the unpleasant recollections of a past life,—its iniquities and disappointments,—to talk over them and mourn over them until we are overwhelmed with discouragement. A discouraged soul is filled with darkness, shutting out the light of God from his own soul and casting a shadow upon the pathway of others.

Thank God for the bright pictures which He has presented to us.
SC 117, 118

PRAY

Use prayer as a way to reinforce your good habits and desires, not the bad ones. E. Chalmers writes again:

“When you ask God for victory over some bad habit, ask Him to bless you with those gifts that are the opposite of the habits you want to overcome. Don’t dwell on your bad habits in prayer!”
Healing the Broken Brain, p. 39

When praying, dwell on the emotions and habits you wish to experience, and allow the emotions of those new habits to touch you. Remember to ask in faith, expecting to receive, for if we ask anything according to His will, He will give it. (Matt 7:7; Mark 9:23, John 14:13) If we dwell on our failures, we will not be developing pathways of victory. But if we pray in faith, focusing on the positive promises of God, and not the weaknesses of our human flesh, God can strengthen our minds and our will. And as we dwell on the noble qualities we wish to develop,

as we pray for them, our brain will send impulses to establish habit tendencies in harmony with our lingering thoughts and intents

DEPRESSION AND YOUR THOUGHTS

Depression is a very common problem many of us experience and is a tool whereby Satan can bring us to distrust God and rob us of the joy God wants His children to have. Thinking negative thoughts can cause us to spiral into more and more negativity or depression until our whole life seems to be one long, sad journey. Our trust in God also diminishes and our problems seem insurmountable. But often our perspective is a faulty one, and without realizing it, we are giving Satan access to our minds.

Satan is exultant when he can lead the children of God into unbelief and despondency. He delights to see us mistrusting God, doubting His willingness and power to save us. He loves to have us feel that the Lord will do us harm by His providences. It is the work of Satan to represent the Lord as lacking in compassion and pity. He misstates the truth in regard to Him. He fills the imagination with false ideas concerning God; and instead of dwelling upon the truth in regard to our heavenly Father, we too often fix our minds upon the misrepresentations of Satan and dishonor God by distrusting Him and murmuring against Him. Satan ever seeks to make the religious life one of gloom. He desires it to appear toilsome and difficult; and when the Christian



presents in his own life this view of religion, he is, through his unbelief, seconding the falsehood of Satan. SC 116

The techniques in this article can help towards combatting depression. You may want to seek additional professional help or research additional resources on treating depression, such as Neil Nedley’s book *Depression—the Way Out*.

Another technique that can help whenever depressing feelings or thoughts hit, is to physically move out of the spot where you are and to start thinking about something you can do with your hands. A change of environment can help you gain hold of your thoughts. Bring your mind to some physical activity – scrubbing, digging, planting, whatever you are able to do. Drink a glass of water. Breathe deeply in fresh air. Wash your face and back of your neck with cold water. Take a hot and cold shower to improve circulation. Any of these mechanical methods can help shift the firing patterns as well as improve the circulation of your blood. As you do these things, think new invigorating thoughts. This will trigger more new thoughts. Just as one depressing thought can lead to another, until we are spiraling into depression, so one positive thought, however, small, can trigger another one, until we have climbed out of the pit.

This may seem like a never-ending struggle, but have hope. There are many who struggle with the same fight. The fact that you have these struggles does not mean that you are less of a person, or somehow disabled permanently. The devil would have you believe that, but it is just a temporary state, from which God can give you the victory if you cooperate with Him.

Remember also the victories you have had. Recite them, and praise God for them. Remembering how God has helped you will strengthen your faith and help you to move forward.

“We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and his teaching in our past history.” *9T p. 10*

Jesus does not ask us to do anything He did not Himself practice. He practiced these techniques even on the cross.

“Amid the awful darkness, apparently forsaken of God, Christ had drained the last dregs in the cup of human woe. **In those dreadful hours He had relied upon the evidence of His Father's acceptance heretofore given Him.** He was acquainted with the character of His Father; He understood His justice, His mercy, and His great love. By faith He rested in Him whom it had ever been His joy to obey. And as in submission He committed Himself to God, the sense of the loss of His Father's favor was withdrawn. By faith, Christ was victor.” *DA 756*

It was during those terrible hours of suffering, when Christ had no evidence that His Father was near, or that there was any sympathy for His suffering, that He clung to the evidence He had received in His life of His Father's love.

This is walking by faith. If Christ used this method during His own trials, we should surely use it in ours.

We cannot but look forward to new perplexities in the coming conflict, but we may look on what is past as well as on what is to come, and say, “Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.” “As thy days, so shall thy strength be.” Deuteronomy 33:25. The trial will not exceed the strength that shall be given us to bear it. Then let us take up our work just where we find it, believing that whatever may come, strength proportionate to the trial will be given. SC 125

But even here Christians may have the joy of communion with Christ; they may have the light of His love, the perpetual comfort of His presence. Every step in life may bring us closer to Jesus, may give us a deeper experience of His love, and may bring us one step nearer to the blessed home of peace. Then let us not cast away our confidence, but have firm assurance, firmer than ever before. “Hitherto hath the Lord helped us,” and He will help us to the end. 1 Samuel 7:12. Let us look to the monumental pillars, reminders of what the Lord has done to comfort us and to save us from the hand of the destroyer. Let us keep fresh in our memory all the tender mercies that

God has shown us,—the tears He has wiped away, the pains He has soothed, the anxieties removed, the fears dispelled, the wants supplied, the blessings bestowed,—thus strengthening ourselves for all that is before us through the remainder of our pilgrimage. SC 125

CONCLUSION

The brain's plasticity offers a promise of healing. We don't need to live with the loss of our abilities, loss of emotional control, or memory, or with confused thinking. Our hereditary and cultivated tendencies need not control us. We can take responsibility for our choice of lifestyle, and the thought patterns we practice. If we take God at His Word and believe His promises, with His help we may reach new heights mentally and spiritually.

By faith we may look to the hereafter and grasp the pledge of God for a growth of intellect, the human faculties uniting with the divine, and every power of the soul being brought into direct contact with the Source of light. We may rejoice that all which has perplexed us in the providences of God will then be made plain, things hard to be understood will then find an explanation; and where our finite minds discovered only confusion and broken purposes, we shall see the most perfect and beautiful harmony. “Now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.” 1 Corinthians 13:12. SC 112 AD

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Weighed and Wanting

Third Commandment

by D. L. Moody

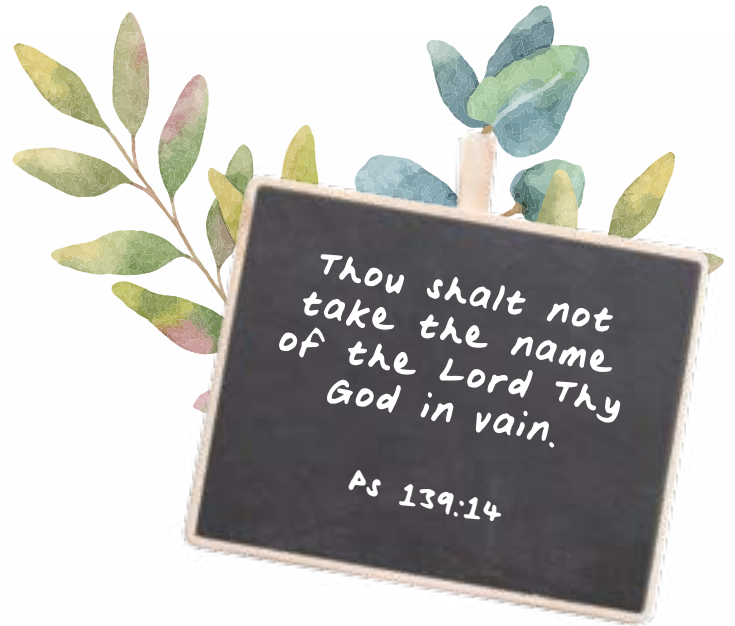
"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord Thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain."

I was greatly amazed not long ago in talking to a man who thought he was a Christian, to find that once in a while, when he got angry, he would swear. I said: "My friend, I don't see how you can tear down with one hand what you are trying to build up with the other. I don't see how you can profess to be a child of God and let those words come out of your lips."

He replied: "Mr. Moody, if you knew me you would understand. I have a very quick temper. I inherited it from my father and mother, and it is uncontrollable; but my swearing comes only from the lips."

When God said, "I will not hold him guiltless that takes My name in vain," He meant what He said, and I don't believe anyone can be a true child of God who takes the name of God in vain. What is the grace of God for, if it is not to give me control of my temper so that I shall not lose control and bring down the curse of God upon myself? When a man is born of God, God takes the "swear" out of him. Make the fountain good, and the stream will be good. Let the heart be right; then the language will be right; the whole life will be right. But no man can serve God and keep His law until he is born of God. There we see the necessity of the new birth.

To take God's name "in vain" means either (1) lightly, without thinking, flippantly; or (2) profanely, deceitfully.



Using God's name irreverently

I think it is shocking to use God's name with little reverence as is common nowadays, even among professing Christians. We are told that the Jews held it so sacred that the covenant name of God was never mentioned amongst them except once a year by the high priest on the Day of Atonement, when He went into the holy of holies. What a contrast that is to the familiar use Christians make of it in public and private worship! We are apt to rush into God's presence, and rush out again, without any real sense of the reverence and awe that is due Him. We forget that we are on holy ground.



Do you know how often the word "reverend" occurs in the Bible? Only once. And how is it used in connection with God's name? Psalm 111:9, "Holy and reverend is His name." So important did the Jewish rabbis consider this commandment that they said the whole world trembled when it was first proclaimed on Sinai.

Using God's name profanely

But though there is far too much of this frivolous, familiar use of God's name, the commandment is broken a great deal more by profanity. Taking the name of God in vain is blasphemy. Is there a swearing man who reads this? What would you do if you were put into the balances of the sanctuary, if you had to step in opposite to this third commandment? Think a moment. Have you been taking God's name in vain today?

I do not believe men would ever have been guilty of swearing unless God had forbidden it. They do not swear by their friends, their fathers or mothers, their wives or children. They want to show how they despise God's law.

A great many men think there is nothing in swearing. Bear in mind that God sees something wrong in it, and He says He will not hold men guiltless, even though society does.

I met a man sometime ago who told me he had never sinned in his life. He was the first perfect man I had ever met. I thought I would question him, and began to measure him by the law. I asked him: "Do you ever get angry?" "Well," he said, "sometimes I do; but I have a right to do so. It is righteous indignation." "Do you swear when you get angry?" He admitted he did sometimes. "Then," I asked, "Are you ready to meet God?" "Yes," he replied, "because I never mean anything when I swear."

Suppose I steal a man's watch and he comes after me.

"Yes," I say, "I stole your watch and pawned it, but I did not mean anything by it. I pawned it and spent the money, but I did not mean anything by it."

You would smile at and deride such a statement. Ah, friends! You cannot trifle with God in that way. Even if you swear without meaning it, it is forbidden by God. Christ said: "Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give an account thereof in the day of judgment; for by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." You will be held accountable whether your words are idle or blasphemous.

A senseless habit

The habit of swearing is condemned by all sensible persons. It has been called "the most, gratuitous of all sins," because no one gains by it; it is "not only sinful, but useless." An old writer said that when the accusing angel, who records men's words, flies up to heaven with an oath, he blushes as he hands it in.

When a man blasphemes, he shows an utter contempt for God. I was in the army during the war, and heard men cursing and swearing. Some godly woman would pass along the ranks looking for her wounded son, and not an oath would be heard. They would not swear before their mothers, or their wives, or their sisters ; they had more respect for them than they had for God!

Isn't it a terrible condemnation that swearing held its own until it came to be recognized as a vulgar thing, a sin against society? Men dropped it then, who never thought of its being a sin against God.

There will be no swearing men in the kingdom of God. They will have to drop that sin, and repent of it, before they see the kingdom of God.



How to keep from swearing

Men often ask: "How can I keep from swearing?" I will tell you. If God puts His love into your heart, you will have no desire to curse Him. If you have much regard for God, you will no more think of cursing Him than you would think of speaking lightly or disparagingly of a mother whom you love. But the natural man is at enmity with God, and has utter contempt for His law. When that law is written on his heart, there will be no trouble in obeying it.

When I was out west about thirty years ago, I was preaching one day in the open air, when a man drove up in a fine turn-out, and after listening a little while to what I was saying, he put the whip to his fine-looking steed, and away he went. I never expected to see him again, but the next night he came back, and he kept on coming regularly night after night.

I noticed that his forehead itched-you have noticed people who keep putting their hands to their foreheads? - he didn't want anyone to see him shedding tears-of course not! It is not a manly thing to shed tears in a religious meeting, of course!

After the meeting I said to a gentleman: "Who is that man who drives up here every night? Is he interested?" "Interested! I should think not! You should have heard the way he talked about you to-day." "Well," I said, "that is a sign he is interested."

If no man ever has anything to say against you, your Christianity isn't worth much. Men said of the Master, "He has a devil," and Jesus said that if they had called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more them of his household.

I asked where this man lived, but my friend told me not to go to see him, for he would only curse me. I said: "It takes God to curse a man; man can only bring curses on his own head." I found out where he lived, and went to see him. He was the wealthiest man within a hundred miles of that place, and had a wife and seven beautiful children. Just as I got to his gate I saw him coming out of the front door. I stepped up to him and said: "This is Mr.--, I believe?" He said: "Yes, sir; that is my name." Then he straightened up and asked-"What do you want?" "Well," I said, "I would like to ask you a question, if you won't be angry." "Well, what is it?" "I am told that God has blessed you above all men in this part of the country; that He has given you wealth, a beautiful Christian wife, and seven lovely children. I do not know if it is true, but I hear that all He gets in return is cursing and blasphemy." He said, "Come in; come in." I went in. "Now," he said, "what you said out there is true. If any man has a fine wife I am the man, and I have a lovely family of children, and God has been good to me. But do you know, we had company here the other night, and I cursed my wife at the table, and did not know it till after the company had gone. I never felt so mean and contemptible in my life as when my wife told me of it. She said she wanted the floor to open and let her down out of her seat. If I have tried once, I have tried a hundred times to stop swearing. You preachers don't know anything about it." "Yes," I said, "I know all about it; I have been a drummer." "But," he said, "you don't know anything about a business-man's troubles. When



he is harassed and tormented the whole time, he can't help swearing." "Oh, yes," I said, "he can. I know something about it. I used to swear myself." "What! You used to swear?" he asked; "How did you stop?" "I never stopped." "Why, you don't swear now, do you?" "No; I have not sworn for years." "How did you stop?" "I never stopped. It stopped itself." He said, "I don't understand this." "No," I said, "I know you don't. But I came up to talk to you, so that you will never want to swear again as long as you live."

I began to tell him about Christ in the heart; how that would take the temptation to swear out of a man.

"Well," he said, "how am I to get Christ?" "Get right down here and tell Him what you want."

"But," he said, "I was never on my knees in my life. I have been cursing all the day, and I don't know how to pray or what to pray for." "Well," I said, "it is mortifying to have to call on God for mercy when you have never used His name except in oaths; but He will not turn you away. Ask God to forgive you if you want to be forgiven."

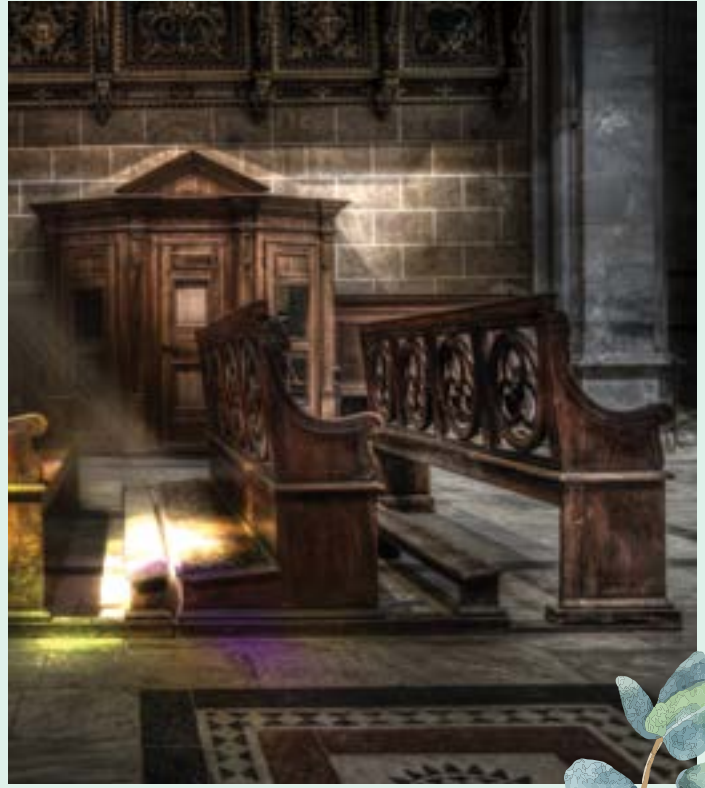
Then the man got down and prayed - only a few sentences, but thank God, it is the short prayers, after all, which bring the quickest answers. After he prayed he got up and said: "What shall I do now?" I said, "Go down to the church and tell the people there that you want to be an out-and-out Christian." "I cannot do that," he said; "I never go to church except to some funeral." "Then it is high time for you to go for something else," I said.

After a while he promised to go, but did not know what the people would say. At the next church prayer-meeting, the man was there, and I sat right in front of him. He stood up and put his hands on the settee, and he trembled so much that I could feel the settee shake. He said:

"My friends, you know all about me. If God can save a wretch like me, I want to have you pray for my salvation."

That was thirty odd years ago. Sometime ago I was back in town, and did not see him; but when I was in California, a man asked me to take

dinner with him. I told him that I could not do so, for I had another engagement. Then he asked if I remembered him and told me his name. "Oh," I said, "tell me, have you ever sworn since that night you knelt in your drawing-room, and asked God to forgive you?" "No," he replied, "I have never had a desire to swear since then. It was all taken away."



He was not only converted, but became an earnest active Christian, and all these years has been serving God. That is what will take place when a man is born of the divine nature.

Is there a swearing man ready to put this commandment into the scales, and step in to be weighed? Suppose you swear only once in six months or a year - suppose you swear only once in ten years - do you think God will hold you guiltless for that act? It shows that your heart is not clean in God's sight. What are you going to do, blasphemer? Would you not be found wanting? You would be like a feather in the balance. [AD](#)



I'll trust in Thee

by Annie Rebekah **Smith**, 1855

O Father, let a **heavenly calm**
Pervade this anxious breast;
I'd lean upon **thy gracious arm**,
And in thy bosom rest.

Be thou my sure support and guide
O'er life's tempestuous sea;
And then, whatever may betide,
I'll ever trust in thee.

Give me a soul inured to woe;
Resigned to every ill;
My chief delight while here below,
To do thy **holy will**.

Though friends forsake, and foes deride,
Thou shalt my portion be;
And then, whatever may betide,
I'll ever trust in thee.

Why should I murmur and repine.
At hardship, grief, and loss?
Since this will but the **gold refine**,
And purge away the dross.
If by temptations sorely tried,
Quick to thine aid I'll flee,
And then, whatever may betide.
I'll ever trust in thee.

O God, thy grace and strength impart,
That, till the race is run,
I e'er may say, with grateful heart,
Thy will, not mine, **be done**;
And near the Saviour's bleeding side
Keep me, from evil free;
And then, whatever may betide,
I'll ever trust in thee.