

HISTORIC
LANDMARKS
OF ADVENTISM

Happiness

Salvation or a Curse?

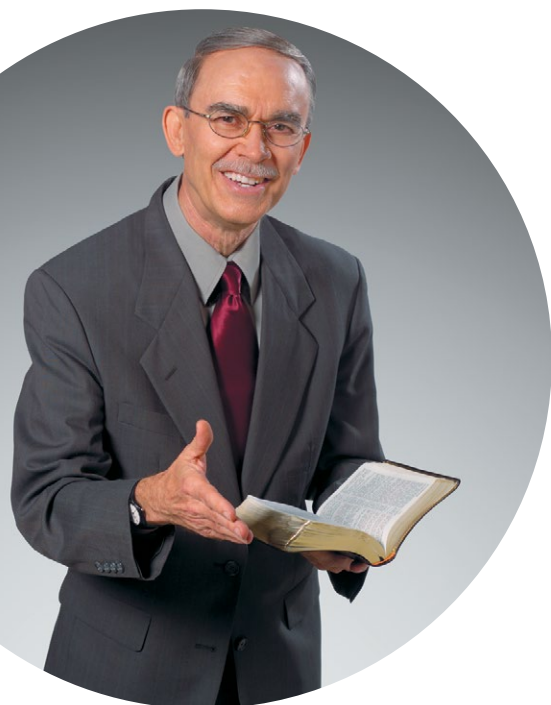
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*Christian
Association*

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*Total
Commitment*

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From the Editor

John J. Grosboll

The Verdict

One morning some years ago a sheriff came to our front door and delivered a sheaf of papers filled with many accusations. These accusations were from a professed Seventh-day Adventist attorney. He indicated that we were being sued for three million dollars. We were not aware that we had performed any criminal action or damaged anybody financially or any other way. The Lord graciously allowed the problem to be solved without going to court, but we felt sorry for those involved in this attempted litigation. Following is what the Lord says about this:

“Brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers! Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. ... Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived” (1 Corinthians 6:6, 7, 9).

“The world and unconverted church members are in sympathy. Some, when God reproves them for wanting their own way, make the world their confidence, and bring church matters before

the world for decision. Then there is collision and strife, and Christ is crucified afresh and put to open shame. Those church members who appeal to the courts of the world show that they have chosen the world as their judge, and their names are registered in heaven as one with unbelievers. How eagerly the world seizes the statements of those who betray sacred trusts!” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 5, 415.

“I have written largely in regard to Christians who believe the truth placing their cases in courts of law to obtain redress. In doing this, they are biting and devouring one another in every sense of the word ‘to consume one another’ (Galatians 5:15). Such men may as well stop praying to God, for He will not hear their prayers. They insult Jehovah.” *Ibid.*, 414.

“It is a betrayal of sacred trust to open before unbelievers the working of God’s institutions. In this way false statements are made, and these statements are reported to others. Those who do this counterwork the cause of God. They are adversaries of the truth.” *Ibid.*, 417, 418. **LM**

HISTORIC

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LANDMARKS is a magazine of Steps to Life, a ministry established in 1988 by Seventh-day Adventists. It is dedicated to the publication of the historic doctrines held by God’s true people in all ages. Its special emphasis is to present truth (2 Peter 1:12)—those historic doctrines espoused by Seventh-day Adventist pioneers in the nineteenth century. Its purpose is to help all of God’s remnant people to press together in unity, holding high the banner on which is inscribed the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. This magazine is designed to help believers to defend the faith and to expose the flood of false doctrine by which the truth is being assailed in these last days. It is the goal of **LANDMARKS**’ editors to present articles based on truth from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. Viewpoints of writers and/or contributors expressed outside of articles printed in this publication are not necessarily the views of this magazine’s editors and are not endorsed by Steps to Life Ministries.

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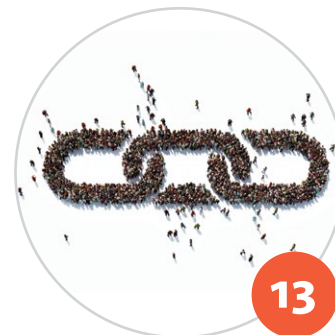


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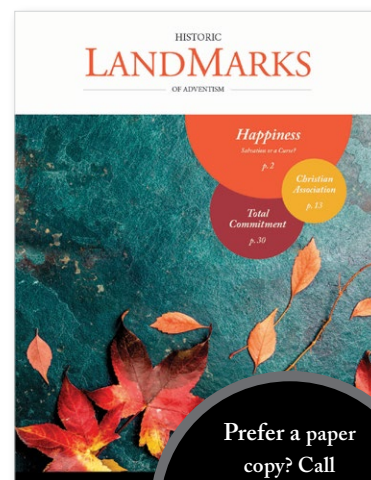
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Happiness

Salvation or a Curse?

By John J. Grosboll

“Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” is a well-known phrase in the United States Declaration of Independence. The phrase gives three examples of the “unalienable rights” which the Declaration says have been given to all humans by their Creator and which governments are created to protect.

Although U.S. citizens are guaranteed the opportunity and privilege to pursue happiness, not many people know how to find it. The secret of happiness is not very well understood today.

For Christians, it should be the simplest, most important topic you need to thoroughly understand.

Is it possible to know the truth and for the truth to be a curse that thwarts our pursuit of happiness? Yes, the Bible is very clear about that. This is a serious subject that deserves study.

How to Be Happy

Asher was the son of Zilpah, Leah's handmaid that she gave to Jacob as a wife because she wanted more children. When he was born, Leah named him *Asher*, which means *happy*.

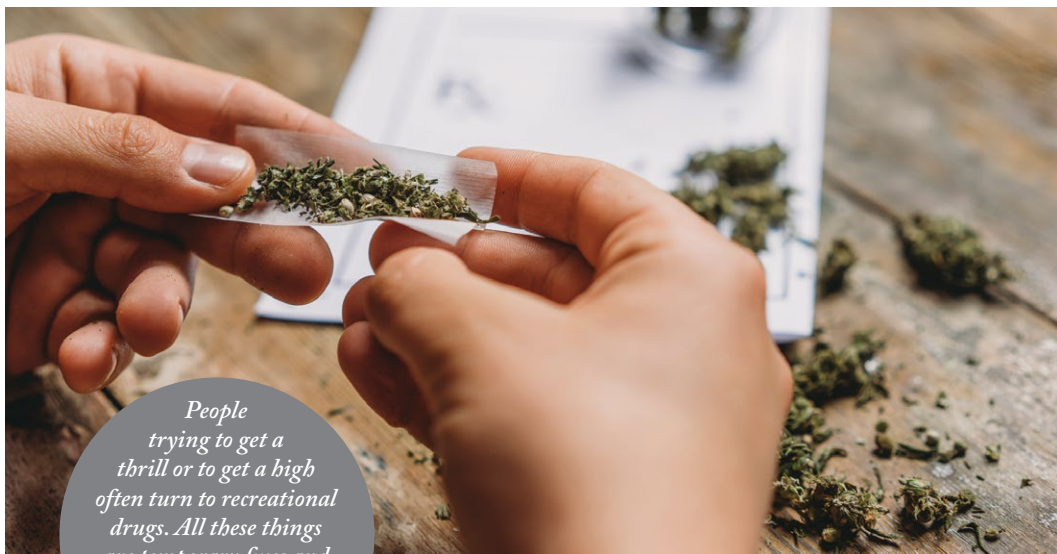
Deuteronomy 33:24–29 records the blessing that Moses pronounced upon the tribe of Asher. In that blessing is revealed the secret of happiness. “Happy are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD, the shield of your help and the sword of our majesty” (verse 29)!

One of the common words in the Bible for *happy* or *happiness* is the word that is translated *blessed* or *blessing*. To be blessed or to receive blessing is to be happy.

In the Psalms it says, “Happy are the people whose God is the LORD” (Psalm 144:15)! “Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God” (Psalm 146:5).

Solomon also stated it a number of different ways in the book of Proverbs. In Proverbs 3:13, it says, “Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding.” Wisdom, by the way, is one of the names of Jesus Christ (see Proverbs 8).

In the last part of Proverbs 14:21, it says, “But he who has mercy on the poor, happy is he.” People often say that as soon as they get rich they will have mercy on the poor. What happens in reality is that they pass through life always intending to have mercy on the poor and unfortunate, but they never find the wealth that they thought they should have and never fulfill their commitment. Don't make the mistake and



People trying to get a thrill or to get a high often turn to recreational drugs. All these things are temporary fixes and after the high they are no happier than they were before.

wait until you decide you are rich before you decide to help somebody else who is in trouble. It is a deception, nothing but a delusion. Proverbs 16:20, *last part*, says, “Whoever trusts in the LORD, happy is he.” And in Proverbs 29:18, *last part*, “Happy is he who keeps the law.”

There are texts in the New Testament about blessedness and happiness. John 13:17 says, “If you know these things, blessed [happy] are you if you do them.” Also in James 5:11 we are told: “We count them blessed [happy] who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.” That is a verse which is very difficult for people to understand. It was also difficult for Job to understand this concept while he was going through the trial of his life.

Peter says something similar in 1 Peter 3:14: “If you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed [happy]. Do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.” The Bible says that people who are suffering are the people who are happy. In fact, 1 Peter 4:14 says, “If you are reproached for the name of Christ,

blessed [or happy] are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.”

Let's summarize all these comments about how a person is going to find the secret of happiness. If you want to be happy, you will need to make a full and complete surrender of yourself to the Lord Jesus and choose to follow Him. The people whose God is the Lord are the happy people. Those who have received salvation are the people who are enjoying happiness. The rest of the world continue to seek for it.

Ellen White describes the secret of happiness this way: “God will accept nothing less than unreserved surrender. Half-hearted, sinful Christians can never enter heaven. There they would find no happiness; for they know nothing of the high, holy principles that govern the members of the royal family.” *This Day With God*, 145.

God knows that there are people who would not find happiness in heaven if He took them there. Most people assume that to be taken to heaven means all would find happiness there. Those who find their pleasure in the things of this world would consider heaven

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us to be.*

torture, for in heaven, all have an unreserved surrender to the Lord. She says, “The true Christian keeps the windows of the soul open heavenward. He lives in fellowship with Christ. His will is conformed to the will of Christ. His highest desire is to become more and more Christlike. ...

“Earnestly and untiringly we are to strive to reach God’s ideal for us.” Ibid.

God has an ideal for us and it is important for us to strive to be what God wants us to be. We are told: “Earnestly and untiringly we are to strive to reach God’s ideal for us. Not as a penance are we to do this, but as the only means of gaining true happiness.” Ibid.

The only people who attain true happiness are those who are striving to reach God’s ideal for them—striving to be what God wants them to be. Many think happiness is found in some kind of an amusement or thrill. One of the devices this world offers is county and state fairs with amusements that offer temporary happiness but they are just a distraction from the true aims of life.

The devil has invented many ways to entice people who are seeking pleasure and thrills. People trying to get a thrill or to get a high often turn to recreational drugs. All these things are temporary fixes and after the high they are no happier than they were before.

Until a person has made an unreserved surrender to the Lord Jesus they are never going to find the secret of true lasting happiness. Thrills are always temporary. Amusements always end.

The Bible says in Hebrews 11:24–27: “By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of

the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.”

Moses understood that whatever pleasures he might enjoy in a life of sin would be temporary, and the time would come when the pleasure would end. He figured out that there was something more worthwhile than any pleasure he could enjoy in this world. He looked beyond the pleasures in this world for a reward—an eternity of endless bliss.

“Earnestly and untiringly we are to strive to reach God’s ideal for us. Not as a penance are we to do this, but as the only means of gaining true happiness. The only way to gain peace and joy is to have a living connection with Him who gave His life for us.” *The Review and Herald*, May 16, 1907.

Jesus said, “Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13 MEV). The more you love someone, the more pleasure is involved in that person’s company.

Have you found the secret of true happiness? The devil does not want you to find happiness. He is trying to put something in your way so that you are afraid to make an unreserved surrender to the Lord. The devil keeps telling you about something you are going to miss out on, the pleasures of sin. But remember, although sin can provide temporary pleasure, it is always temporary and ends in disappointment and loneliness. It brings with it a feeling of emptiness and worthlessness, a feeling of shame, and a desire to be free from the bondage you are in.

Jesus said that the person living in sin is a slave—he is in bondage. But He said, If the Son sets you free, you will really be free.

“The enemy leads those who do not yield entirely to God to exalt self, to seek for supremacy and power. When the eye is not single to the glory of God, eternity is dropped out of your reckoning. Oh, we need to pray for the vitalizing influence of the Spirit of God. Unless the professed people of God yield themselves to the influence of God’s Holy Spirit, they will be overcome by the temptation of Satan.” *The Signs of the Times*, July 25, 1892.

If you have not made an unreserved surrender to the Lord, it’s just a matter of time

before you will yield to some temptation of Satan that he puts in your way. The result is that your happiness will be destroyed. You may think you are going to be happy, but it doesn't work out.

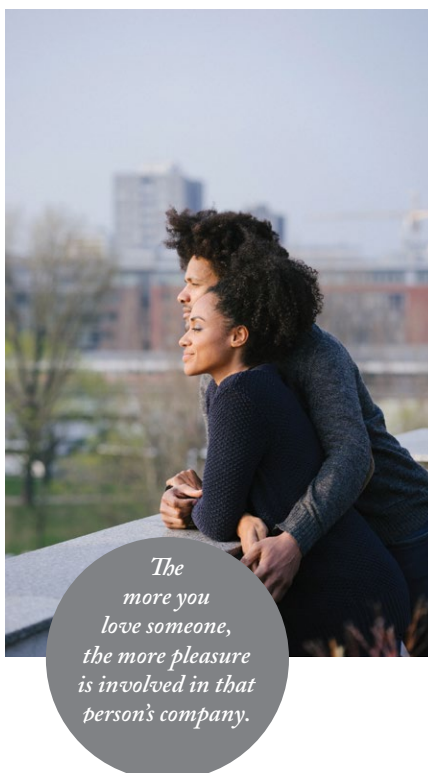
How many people have you talked to who have told you that what they thought would work out by the time they were middle aged did not? So many seek for happiness in temporary things that never satisfy while neglecting to first make an unreserved surrender to the sovereignty of Jesus Christ. Are you striving to be what God wants you to be?

Some, especially the young, want an easy religion where they don't have to work very hard. Ellen White wrote about the work Adventists were doing to try to educate young people. They were finding it very difficult, and she wrote: "We are educating the people here who are not inclined to put brain, bone, and muscles into their work. ... We are trying to demonstrate to them that while there is no panoply but truth for us in order to be saved, diligence in business is essential to guard us against temptation. Indolence and idleness, games and parties and holiday picnics are opening many avenues to temptation." *Spalding and Magan Collection*, 83.

Be diligent in working for Jesus or the devil will draw you into all kinds of temptations. This is especially true for young people today.

Many wish for lots of money so they do not have to work for their daily bread. The fact of the matter is, if they had to work long hours every day for their daily bread, they would be happier and less liable to fall into all kinds of temptations. The Bible says it is good for a man to bear the yoke in his youth. It is good for a person to have to work in order to survive.

Ellen White wrote about the problems they were facing with these students: "Paul had to work laboring with his hands, and felt no dishonor in it. All who would resist temptations that assail



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person's company.*

them from without and within must make sure that they are on the Lord's side." Ibid.

If you have more money than you need so that you don't have to work hard in order to survive, you still need to be busy doing something that is useful. There are many characters in the Bible, like Joseph, David, Elisha, John the Baptist, the apostle Paul, and Jesus, who all were workers. Consider the story of those who had plenty of money and idle time. Consider what happened to Solomon and to David's oldest son, Amnon. Remember what happened to the people in Sodom. In Ezekiel 16, it says that they had "fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness" (verse 49 KJV). They had plenty to eat and too much idle time. Consequently, they got into trouble and lost their souls. Sodom became so wicked that God had to destroy it. The world today is becoming like that ancient city. People have too much free time and as a result, they are yielding to all kinds of temptations.

Here are a few sentences from a letter Ellen White wrote to her son: "Dear son Edson: I fear that you do not always wisely regulate your labor. You sometimes do too much, and then allow precious hours to pass unimproved, thus creating a necessity for extra exertion. Temperate, persevering, steady labor will achieve far more than can be accomplished by spasmodic efforts." *The Upward Look*, 146.

What was she talking about? He was twenty-seven years old, married, and had not yet learned to manage his time. She continued, "Labor was appointed to man by his Creator. God provided employment for our first parents in holy Eden. And since the Fall, man has been a toiler, eating his bread by the sweat of his brow. Every bone of his body, every feature of his countenance, every muscle of his limbs, evinces the fact that he was made for activity, not for idleness. ...

"The faithful discharge of life's duties, whatever your position, calls for a wise improvement of all the talents and abilities that God has given you. Guard against being always hurried, yet accomplishing nothing worthy of the effort. ... Whatever is neglected at the time when it should be performed, whether in secular or in religious things, is rarely done well. Many appear to labor diligently every hour in the day, and yet produce no results to correspond with their efforts. ...

"My dear son, be thorough in all you undertake." Ibid.

Timing is crucial. If something is not done at the proper time, it often causes trouble later.

How to Be Saved

In the gospel of John, how to be saved is reduced to one word. People came to Jesus wanting to know how to be saved. One such incident is described in John 6:28. "Then they said to Him, 'What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?'" They wanted to be saved and didn't know how. "Jesus answered and

said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.” It is not complicated—just believe in the One whom He sent.

A few verses later in John 6, it says, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life” (verse 47). Notice that is written in present tense. Jesus says, If you believe in Me, you have eternal life. “I am the

bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die” (verses 48–50). The gospel of John emphasizes that the only thing necessary to be saved is to believe. In John 2:24, we are provided insight into what belief entails. It says, “But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men.”

That word *commit* is the same Greek word which is also translated as *faith* or *belief*.

Salvation is not complicated. If you really believe, you will commit. A good example of true belief is illustrated in this story:

Charles Blondin was history’s most famous tightrope walker, the first to cross Niagara Falls on a 1,300 foot hemp rope, two inches in diameter. He asked the crowd that had gathered if they believed if he could push his wheelbarrow across the waterfall on the tightrope. When they responded that they did believe, he then said to them, if you believe, get in the wheelbarrow. If you get in the wheelbarrow, you have made a commitment proving you really believe.

Many people think they are Christians. They expect to go to heaven, but they have never made a real commitment. They don’t really believe.

Making a Commitment

In John 14:12, it says, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.”

God wants to work a miracle in each life to fulfill the words of Jesus—that their works will be greater than those that Jesus performed while He was on earth. This will truly take a miracle!

The Truth Becomes a Curse

The truth becomes a curse when a person who has an intellectual knowledge of the truth neglects to commit to it. This is a common condition for thousands of people who claim to be Christians. These people become what is termed “gospel hardened.” The truth for them becomes a curse. For instance, Paul said, “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness” (Romans 1:18).

Sadly, these people have the truth. They know the truth. This is a great deception of our time. They will tell you that they are on the way to heaven because they believe the right theology, but they continue to practice unrighteousness. They are deluded. Truth for them is just an intellectual thing.

It says in 1 Peter 1:22: “Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth ...” If you really commit to the Lord, then something is going to happen in your life. The Bible says that two people cannot walk together if they are not agreed (Amos 3:3). If you commit to the Lord, the Holy Spirit is going to speak to your mind: Why are you doing this? Should you be thinking that way? If you want to walk with Me, then you have to let that go.

In 2 Corinthians 6:17, 18 we are told: “‘Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty.’”

Every commitment requires sacrifices. God asks us to separate from those things that are unclean—sin. Romans 1 elaborates on this subject. The result of those who refused: “Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves” (Romans 1:24).

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The truth becomes a curse when a person who has an intellectual knowledge of the truth neglects to commit to it.

These people weren't willing to let loose, to get free from what was unclean, so they couldn't walk with the Lord. In 2 Corinthians 12:21, it says, "Lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and I shall mourn for many who have sinned before and have not repented of the uncleanness, fornication, and lewdness [licentiousness] which they have practiced."

My dear friend, if you want to commit to the Lord you have to be willing to separate yourself from sin. You cannot receive the gift of salvation if you are not willing to get separated from what's unclean. God's kingdom is clean.

Look at 1 Thessalonians 4, starting in verse 3. "For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. For God did not call us to uncleanness, but to holiness" (verses 3–7).

You see, if you know the truth, but are not willing to separate from everything that is unclean, the truth will become a curse to you. You may know truth, but you are not living in harmony with it.

"The greatest deception of the human mind in Christ's day was that a mere assent to the truth constitutes righteousness. In all human experience a theoretical knowledge of the truth has been proved to be insufficient for the saving of the soul. It does not bring forth the fruits of righteousness. ... The Pharisees claimed to be children of Abraham, and boasted of their possession of the oracles of God; yet these advantages did not preserve them from selfishness, malignity, greed for gain, and the basest hypocrisy. ...

"The same danger still exists. Many take it for granted that they are Chris-



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tians, simply because they subscribe to certain theological tenets. But they have not brought the truth into practical life. They have not believed and loved it; therefore they have not received the power and grace that come through sanctification of the truth. Men may profess faith in the truth; but if it does not make them sincere, kind, patient, forbearing, heavenly-minded, it is a curse to its possessors." *The Desire of Ages*, 309, 310.

They believe the truth intellectually, but it hasn't changed their life. They have all the external forms of religion but have not become patient, kind, and forbearing, and the truth becomes a curse to them. The devil then uses brother against brother to stir up contentions, making it impossible for the Holy Spirit to work in the family or in the church.

Peter said, "He who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from

speaking deceit. Let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it" (1 Peter 3:10, 11).

God longs to pour out His Holy Spirit, not just on individuals, but on whole churches. However, He cannot do it when the church is not in the spiritual condition to receive it.

May the Lord help us to understand what it means to believe so that the truth may not become a curse to anyone. Then the Holy Spirit will work in our hearts and our minds so our life might be in harmony with what we profess to believe.

(Unless appearing in quoted references or otherwise identified, Bible texts are from the New King James Version.) **LM**

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Principles of Church Organization

By Marshall Grosboll

"He [Jesus] who was the foundation of the ritual and economy of Israel would be looked upon as its enemy and destroyer." *The Desire of Ages*, III. The reason for this was that those who were in charge of the system viewed themselves as being the church and they realized that if Jesus were to be accepted, many of them would lose their positions.

There is a similar problem in the professed church of God today. While there are some inspired counsels we are willing to accept, there are many others that we reject. Ellen White wrote many counsels to the church that if they were advocated, would be considered by present church leaders to be dangerous and possibly even capable of destroying the church as it stands today. However, we may never receive God's blessing until we feed upon every word of Inspiration.

Principles of church organization affect every aspect of the church, from the youngest member on up to the General Conference. In the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, there is a great deal of information dealing with church organization that is written not only to those in leadership positions but to laymen as well.

Throughout history, whenever doctrine becomes corrupted, organization also becomes corrupt. In fact, in Revelation, God is as concerned about false organization as He is about false doctrine. In the writings of Ellen White there is a great deal written about doctrine, but there are also hundreds of pages written about church organization which we are afraid to touch because if we even read the quotation, we will be accused of criticism. It is time, however, that we have the courage of John the Baptist and, with the spirit of love, humbly look at the things God has given to us, praying that He will help us to implement these things so He can pour out His spirit and finish the work He is seeking to do.

We are told in 1 Corinthians 1:2 how the New Testament church was organized. “To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints.” The church at Corinth, identified by Paul, is not addressed as the church which is registered. It could be, but that is not the point. Nothing is said regarding organization or where they meet. The church here in Corinth represents those people who are sanctified and called to be the saints of God. Now the church was to be organized, but the organization was not the church. The people were the church. These people worked in harmony, because this is possible when God is in the hearts of the members. They would meet and work together, send out missionaries, take up offerings, and do all those things which are necessary for God’s work to progress. But the church itself was the people. This is what the church has always been.



God has a church. It is not the great cathedral, neither is it the national establishment, neither is it the various denominations; it is the people who love God and keep His commandments.

“But you have come to the Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven” (Hebrews 12:22, 23). In a special sense, the church, the true church of God, is composed of those people who are registered in the Book of Life in heaven.

Now this presents a very interesting situation. Who decides who is going to be a church member? Is it the pope who has the keys? If it is not the pope, is it the church board? Can they decide? What about the church body? Can we decide who is saved and who is not, whose name is written in heaven and whose is not?

Well, don’t we have anything to do? Oh, yes, we have something to do. We are called to recognize those whom God has registered in the books in heaven; and those whom He has registered there, we are to register here. He does not, however, follow our suit; we are to follow His, and there is a difference.

Let us suppose that God takes someone’s name off of the books in heaven and they are disfellowshipped. Are they still church members? No. But suppose their

names remain in the books on earth. This is an interesting dilemma. The church is purified when the books on earth match the books in heaven. You see, God has given mankind no authority to decide who can be a member and who cannot be a member, but simply to recognize those whom He has accepted or rejected.

God has local congregations here on earth and we have organizations here to help organize the work, but the headquarters of your local church is in heaven, where only the sanctified are registered, not in some office in your state or some office in Washington, D.C. Some people find this rather disconcerting, believing such a policy could lead to all kinds of trouble.

Just suppose that a coup took place in some local church or conference through politicking and some people who were not inspired by the Lord or filled with the Holy Spirit took over through manipulation and because of their prejudices, certain people were unjustly disfellowshipped. Would those who were disfellowshipped cease to be church members? Certainly not. Suppose, on the other hand, people were allowed to come into the church who were never converted. Because their names were in

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Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them.

Matthew 18:20

the books on earth, would they, therefore, be automatically registered in the Book of Life? Not in any way, shape, or form. God has never left His church to be manipulated and tampered with by the political whims of mankind. There is coming a time when He is going to turn and overturn the professed church that is called by His name. God's true church remains the same as it has always been—those people who are registered in the books of heaven.

“God has a church. It is not the great cathedral, neither is it the national establishment, neither is it the various denominations; it is the people who love God and keep His commandments. ‘Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them’ (Matthew 18:20).

Where Christ is even among the humble few, this is Christ's church.” *The Upward Look*, 315.

When Paul was ordained, he was ordained to baptize and establish churches—the two together. According to Inspiration, the same ordination that gives people the right to baptize gives them the right to establish churches. More and more, however, there are increasing restrictions controlling the starting of new churches.

In 1903, Kansas had one hundred churches. The state has grown by almost a million people in the last fifty years, and during that period of time, we have gone from one hundred churches down to fifty-four.

Not only has God alone reserved the right to start and to recognize a church, but if you and I decide to go out and start a church apart from His will, no matter what conference committee may approve it, it will never be a church. “For the presence of the High and Holy One who inhabiteth eternity can alone constitute a church.” Ibid. If God's presence is not the center of His church, it is not recognized by Him as His church, whether or not it is recognized by a conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

In New Testament times, the church comprised those who were called and sanctified. Wherever Paul went and converted a few people, he organized them into a church, right there and then, without seeking any other permission. It was not up to the church in Jerusalem to give permission or to decide if they were a church, but to recognize the fact that they were. Now, of course, if a church apostatized or if a local member apostatized, it was also up to the church in Jerusalem to decide that, since these people are no longer keeping the commandments of God, they are no longer recognized by us as being one of God's churches.

For us individually to receive the Holy Spirit, we must study the Bible, pray, overcome sin and witness. For the church body to receive the Holy spirit, they must, as a body, also have these four things present. Not only is it necessary for us as individuals to be winning others to Christ, but God's design for his church is that every church should start new churches.

One of the things that must take place before God can pour out His blessing upon the church is not only a revival of primitive doctrine, but a revival of primitive organization. The New Testament churches had the freedom to go out and start new churches; but they were not just started and left to flounder by themselves, they were left with local organization. “And when they had preached the gospel to the city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, ‘We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.’ So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed” (Acts 14:21–23).

Authority in the early church was to be earned because of a godly life and knowledge of the Scriptures and the use of the ability that God had given; but never was it to come just by virtue of office. Today our church is almost being destroyed in some parts of this world because some have assumed the office of minister and decided

that because they have that office they are the king of the local church. God never intended that office to be that of a king, but one of service.

“From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church” (Acts 20:17). What elders were these that He called? These were the elders who had been appointed. Notice, it is elders plural, not the elder. “Therefore take heed to yourselves [this is the instruction he is giving to these elders] and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears” (Acts 20:28–31).

So, Paul called the elders to guard the church from wolves. In a correlating passage to this in *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 77, Ellen White, writing of her own experience, says that she could scarcely keep from weeping when she saw the people who were taking charge of the church who were trained by Satan. Paul had the same concern, and the elders were called to protect the church from these wolves.

Now the question is, suppose that a wolf came from Jerusalem. Were the elders to protect the church from that wolf? “Oh, no,” someone says, “not a local elder!” Look here at one of the most interesting passages in the New Testament in regard to this. “Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I [Paul] withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried



The issue in the days of Martin Luther was who was in charge of the church—the Lord or the pope.

away with their hypocrisy” (Galatians 2:11–13). Paul stood up and rebuked Peter, but Paul was not happy about this because he was not the one who should have had to do the rebuking.

God had established a local leadership to protect the church, but, surely not from Peter. He was from Jerusalem! He was one of the pillars; he knew Jesus personally. No, not from Peter. They were only Gentiles who had been newly converted to the faith. You do not expect them, these Gentile Galatians who had just come into the Christian church a few years ago, to stand up and rebuke Peter. Peter was from the Jerusalem church. He had been a Jew all his life, one of the pillars in the church, a follower of Jesus—not Peter! I mean, Paul was an apostle. He could do that. But Paul was most unhappy that he had to do that. “O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified” (Galatians 3:1)?

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage” (Galatians 5:1). Someone might say, “That scripture is dealing with circumcision and all those things.” Circumcision was involved, and eating with Gentiles was involved, but that was not the issue! The issue in Galatia was that Peter had caused them to transgress and they were to stand in their freedom, even if it was Peter from Jerusalem who should come down and preach false theology.

“But strange fire has been offered in the use of harsh words, in self-importance, in self-exaltation, in self-righteousness, in arbitrary authority, in domineering, in oppression, in restricting the liberty of God’s people, binding them about by your plans and rules, which God has not framed, neither have they come into His mind. All these things are strange fire, unacknowledged by God, and are a continual misrepresentation of His character.” *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 357, 358.

The Lord established the church upon the Rock, Jesus Christ, and He alone is to be the head of the church. (See Ephesians 1:22, 23.) The issue in the days of Martin Luther was who was in charge of the church—the Lord or the pope. That was the issue in Wesley’s day and it was also the issue in 1888. It is amazing how little Ellen White deals with doctrine in relationship to 1888. The problem with Jones and Waggoner was that they did not go through the “proper channels.” They were not approved by the “proper people.”

The following statements are from a letter that Ellen White wrote to Elder Butler. “God designs that men shall use their minds and consciences for themselves. He never designed that one man should become the shadow of another, and utter only another’s sentiments. But this error has been coming in among us, that a very few are to be mind, conscience, and judgment for all God’s

workers. The foundation of Christianity is 'Christ our Righteousness.'" *The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, 112. Do you want to know what Christ our Righteousness means? She tells us what it means. "Men are individually responsible to God and must act as God acts upon them, not as another human mind acts upon their mind." Ibid. God is to decide what is right, not some human committee. God makes the rules, not some human rule book. The Bible is our creed. We always used to say: "We do not have a creed book; the Bible is our creed."

"For if this method of indirect influence is kept up, souls can not be impressed and directed by the great I AM. They will, on the other hand, have their experience blended with another, and will be kept under a moral restraint, which allows no freedom of action or of choice. ...

"If we would be wise, and use diligently, prayerfully, and thankfully the means whereby light and blessings are to come to His people, then no voice nor power upon earth would have authority over us to say, 'This shall not be.'" Ibid., 112, 113.

In the book *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, Ellen White wrote a great deal of material to the leadership and ministry in general after 1888. Much of this book is dealing with this very principle of church authority. Among other similar statements, she said, "The high-handed power that has been developed, as though position has made men gods, makes me afraid, and ought to cause fear. It is a curse wherever and by whomsoever it is exercised." Ibid., 361. "The spirit of domination is extending to the presidents of the conferences. If a man is sanguine of his own powers and seeks to exercise dominion over his brethren, feeling that he is invested with authority to make his will the ruling power, the best and only safe course is to remove him." Ibid., 362.

In the chapter "Under Which Banner?" she says, "Humanity is hailed as God." Ibid., 365. She is talking to us, dear friends. She says, "God will not

vindicate any device whereby man shall in the slightest degree rule or oppress his fellowmen." Ibid., 366. A curse is pronounced upon all who do this. (See Jeremiah 17:5.)

"State conferences may depend upon the General Conference for light and knowledge and wisdom; but is it safe for them to do this? Battle Creek is not to be the center of God's work. God alone can fill this place. When our people in the different places have their special convocations, teach them, for Christ's sake and for their own soul's sake, not to make flesh their arm. There is no power in men to read the hearts of their fellowmen. The Lord is the only One upon whom we can with safety depend, and He is accessible in every place and to every church in the Union. To place men where God should be placed does not honor or glorify God. Is the president of the General Conference to be the god of the people?" Ibid., 375. Following the counsel and teaching of these ideas does not make a person very popular, but we are told to do it.

Instead of teaching the truth that God has commissioned to be taught, Ellen White says we have taught otherwise. "For many years an education has been given to the people which places God second, and man first. The people have been taught that everything must be brought before the council of a few men in Battle Creek." Ibid., 325. I want you to notice that this is a serious matter because it is breaking the first commandment. God says, "You shall have no other gods before Me" (Exodus 20:3). "Let me entreat our state conferences and our churches to cease putting their dependence upon men and making flesh their arm." Ibid., 380. Today we have gone far beyond where they were in 1888.

"In reference to our conference, it is repeated o'er and o'er and o'er again, that it is the voice of God, and therefore everything must be referred to the Conference and have the conference voice in regard to permission or restriction or

what shall be and what shall not be done in the various fields. ...

"We have heard enough, abundance, about that 'everything must go around in the regular way.' ...

"He [God] wants every living soul that has a knowledge of the truth to come to their senses." *Spalding and Magan Collection*, 163.

"The Lord wants His Spirit to come in. He wants the Holy Ghost king." Ibid., 166.

Today we have come to the point, in many places, that if you ever invite someone to come and speak in the pulpit, you have to get the permission of the local conference.

God is looking for every one of us, from the General Conference president down, to be broken on the Rock. When Jesus is the King, unity, peace and love pervade. This does not do away with organization. It is the only thing that creates a working organization. We still have offices, but when God's plan is followed, no one is striving for office because everyone is striving to serve one another. (See Matthew 20:25–28.)

The message of Christ our Righteousness has to become practical. We need to exercise less and less control over one another and do more and more praying for one another. Let us not decide that God has given any one of us authority to tell everyone else how they are to serve God. God is calling for much more freedom in His church than what we have been willing to allow. There is a place for order, a place for leadership, but dear friend, God is calling for us to be broken on the Rock, to be filled with the humility and the love of Jesus. Then we will find that once again Jesus will be King. **LM**

Pastor Marshall Grosboll, with his wife Lillian, founded Steps to Life. In July 1991, Pastor Marshall and his family met with tragedy as they were returning home from a camp meeting in Washington state, when the airplane he was piloting went down, killing all on board.



Christian Association

By Julius Gilbert White

"Can two walk together except they be agreed?"
Amos 3:3

Association with other members of the human family makes up nearly all of life—friendship, family, society, community, city and nation. Out of it grow churches, schools, business, fraternities, orders, lodges, unions, and governments.

There are two aspects of the matter which will be the chief concern of "Christian Association," namely,

1. The influence received from our associates, and
2. The influence we impart to them

The first concerns the development of our own character and Christian experience and either prepares or disqualifies us to meet our responsibilities in the second.

By the very nature of things the first is of first importance.

The influence of our Associates

Henry Varnum in his book on *Character* made some helpful observations on this subject which are herewith offered the reader for meditation:

- "A man's character and success are greatly affected by his friends. A

man is known by the company he keeps." p. 352.

- "It is impossible that association with those about you should not produce a powerful influence in the formation of your character." p. 48.
- "Companionship is education, good or bad. It develops manhood, high or low; it lifts the soul upward or drags it downward; it ministers to virtue or to vice." Ibid.
- "All go to school to one another, and you are constantly learning from your companions. You catch their peculiarities and ways. You get into their habits of thought and action. You set them up as your ideals and what they are you try to become." p. 49.
- "You will never forget your companionships nor will you ever be free from the influence and example of your associates." Ibid.
- "Let your company be always, where possible, better than yourself; and when you have the misfortune to move amongst your inferiors, bear in mind this seriously, that if you do not seize the apt occasion to draw them

up to your level—which requires wisdom as well as love—they will certainly not be slow to drag you down to theirs." Ibid.

- "It is easier to sink to the level of evil companions than to raise them; encourage them to better ways, but avoid contamination." Ibid.
- "No matter how sly, how secret, no matter if your associates have been in the dark, their image will sooner or later appear in your face and conduct." Ibid.
- "More of that which may most properly be called culture, wisdom or unwisdom, morality or immorality, refinement or vulgarity, chastity or unchastity, is absorbed from habitual associates, than in any other way, or all other ways put together." p. 48.

In as much as nearly all we ever learn in life we gather through association with others, it is most important that our associates be carefully selected. We should shun evil companions and deliberately choose the best people as associates.

Choosing Associates

Common Associates

All association begins at home, and would God that every home were sanctified with heavenly influences so that all who dwell there would become wells of living water flowing forth to quench the thirst of a dying world. A holy home is heaven's fortress in the world. When it is divided between good and evil, its members who are determined to seek righteousness will have to build their own individual fortresses and find God in secret places and stand steadfast in adverse circumstances. God will never fail such souls and will build them up so that when they meet other struggling souls they will be extra strong to help them. Within the family circle we cannot select our associates, except in the formation of new families; but in all other groups and places we are largely responsible for the kind of people who influence our lives; we can even choose the church or school we wish to attend.

Choosing a life-companion is by far the most important item in life, except that of choosing to serve God. The two people who unite in a life partnership should be of *one heart* in their service to God and in their views of all the major aspects of life; then their association will be bliss. Thousands of homes have gone down because their members could not endure associating with each other.

As we pass out from the home to all life's experiences our selection of associates should be guided by this fundamental principle: *never by deliberate choice should we continue any affiliation which does not lead to God and holiness.*

A divine survey of the world to-day would reveal that Satan has been exceedingly busy in corraling almost every person into one or many organizations of some kind where God is not in control and which have worldly objects to gain and which do not prepare their members for the kingdom of heaven. Some of them may make false claims to doing so. Jesus fitly described conditions

in the last days, saying the people would be "bound into bundles to be burned." (See Matthew 13:30.) Let the reader beware of holding membership in any group not governed by divine influences.

The Best Associates

We pass from the matter of common associates to consider the possibility of *divine* companionship.

"God suffered John, the beloved disciple, to be exiled to Patmos, where he was separated from the world's bustle and strife, shut away from every outside influence, and even from the work that he loved. Then the Lord could commune with him, opening before him the closing scenes of this world's history. John the Baptist made his home in the wilderness, there to receive from God the message that he was to bear." *Gospel Workers*, 77.

Of Enoch it is said: "In the midst of a life of active labor, Enoch steadfastly maintained his communion with God. The greater and more pressing his labors, the more constant and earnest were his prayers. He continued to exclude himself at certain periods from all society. After remaining for a time among the people, laboring to benefit them by instruction and example, he would withdraw, to spend a season in solitude, hungering and thirsting for that divine knowledge which God alone can impart.

"Communing thus with God, Enoch came more and more to reflect the divine image. His face was radiant with a holy light, even the light that shineth in the face of Jesus. As he came forth from these divine communings, even the ungodly beheld with awe the impress of heaven upon his countenance. ...

"The men of that generation mocked the folly of him who sought not to gather gold or silver, or to build up possessions here. But Enoch's heart was upon eternal treasures. He had looked upon the celestial city. He had seen the King in His glory in the midst of Zion. The greater the existing iniquity, the more earnest was his longing for the home of

God. While still on earth, he dwelt by faith in the realms of light. ...

"For three hundred years Enoch had been seeking purity of heart, that he might be in harmony with heaven. For three centuries he had walked with God. Day by day he had longed for a closer union; nearer and nearer had grown the communion, until God took him to Himself. He had stood at the threshold of the eternal world, only a step between him and the land of the blest; and now the portals opened, the walk with God, so long pursued on earth, continued, and he passed through the gates of the holy city—the first from among men to enter there.

"By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; ... for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God' (Hebrews 11:5).

"To such communion God is calling us. As was Enoch's, so must be their holiness of character who shall be redeemed from among men at the Lord's second coming." *Ibid.*, 52–54.

God's Presence

To recognize that we are always in the Living Presence is one of the strongest deterrents to sinning; how could a man want to lie or steal while standing in the very present of God! "Thou, God, sees me!"—has a mighty, holy influence. Such a recognition would change my life.

Although, since man became a sinner he cannot see God face to face, God does not lose contact with any human being who is receptive to heavenly influences. These influences reach man in various ways among which may be named,

1. The Holy Spirit, His personal representative. The work of the Spirit has been considered in other chapters of this book. ...
2. The word of God, which is explained by the Spirit if we are diligent students of the Word and keep our hearts open to the Spirit and fully surrendered to His pleading voice.
3. Nature, when interpreted in the light of revelation.

4. Prayer, which makes all of these influences available to us and makes us subject to them.
5. Angels, who are actual heavenly visitants whom God has provided to be our associates sent forth to “minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation” (Hebrew 1:14).

All of these means of communion with God exist and wait to be used just as truly as the telephone and radio; but if they are ignored nothing will come through them to us any more than through an unlifted receiver or an unturned dial. If men but knew the educational influences and the uplifting power available through these means, they would take precedence over all other associations in the world and become the guiding, governing forces of every detail of life.

Angel Visitants

“We need to understand better than we do the mission of the angel visitants. It would be well to consider that in all our work we have the co-operation and care of heavenly beings. Invisible armies of light and power attend the meek and lowly ones who believe and claim the promises of God. Cherubim and seraphim and angels that excel in strength—ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands—stand at His right hand, ‘all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation’ (Hebrews 1:14).”
Christ’s Object Lessons, 176.

Angel Teachers

“All who engage in ministry are God’s helping hand. They are co-workers with the angels; rather, they are the human agencies through whom the angels accomplish their mission. Angels speak through their voices, and work by their hands. And the human workers, co-operating with heavenly agencies, have the benefit of their education and experience. As a means of education, what ‘university course’ can equal this?”
Education, 271.



His Presence

How can I live unworthily, when He is by my side,
My Helper, Comforter to be, my solace, and my Guide?
How can I harbor thoughts of hate, or passions which defile,
When One of spotless purity is near me all the while?
Swiftly, so swiftly, moments go; they make the months—the years;
I’ll reap in harvest what I sow—why should it be in tears?

How can I live unworthily when He is always near,
Ready to aid when tempted, tried—ready to banish fear?
Ready to lead up toward the home He is preparing there,
Up where there’s nothing to perplex, up where there is no care?
How can I live unworthily when I have proved Him true?
I will reap in harvest what I’ve sown—so will it be with you.

Margaret Locke

The Christian’s Experience, © by Julius Gilbert White 1945, pages 239–244. **LM**

The Birth and Call of Samuel

Clues – 1 Samuel 1-3

Across:

B2	Samuel did this while in Eli's service	2:21, 26
B8	Samuel told Eli _____ what the Lord had revealed to him	3:18
B14	God told Samuel that Eli would pay for the _____ he knew about	3:13
D5	Hannah told Eli this was sorrowful	1:15
D12	Samuel to God: "_____, for thy servant heareth"	3:10
E1	Hannah promised the Lord no razor would touch his _____	1:11
E17	Eli heard no good _____ about his sons	2:24
G6	Eli wanted God to grant Hannah's _____	1:17
H15	Hannah told Eli she spoke from the abundance of this	1:16
I4	Eli's sons _____ the Lord (two words)	2:12
J12	Eli to his sons: You are making the people do this	2:24
K1	Eli sat on this by a post in the temple	1:9
K8	Eli wanted the Lord to repay Hannah for this	2:20
L5	Samuel ministered wearing a _____ ephod	2:18
L20	God to Eli: I will cut this off of you (figuratively)	2:31
M16	Eli told Hannah to put this away	1:14
N2	Eli to Hannah: How _____ have you been drunk?	1:14
N9	When Hannah prayed Eli thought she was this	1:13
N20	This of Eli's sons was very great to God	2:17
O16	Eli did not want Samuel to _____ anything from him	3:17
P5	Elkanah told Hannah to do this at home until Samuel was weaned	1:23
Q2	What Hannah poured out to God	1:15
Q16	Hannah's song: these shall be silent in darkness	2:9
S1	God to Eli: I will build a _____ house for your replacement	2:35
S7	What Hannah proposed the Lord give her (two words)	1:11
S16	Eli's two sons threatened to use this on worshipers	2:16

Down:

A4	Elkanah suggested he was better to Hannah than _____ sons	1:8
A8	When Hannah left Samuel with Eli she said this rejoiced in the Lord	2:1
A10	Because of Elkanah's other wife's provocation Hannah _____	1:7
A12	Eli's _____ waxed dim	3:2
A14	Eli's sons made themselves this	3:13
A18	Hannah's song: The Lord shall do this to all the earth	2:10
B2	Elkanah saw that Hannah's heart was this	1:8
D6	All Israel knew that Samuel was to be this	3:20
D15	Hannah's song: Let this not come out of your mouth	2:3
D20	Hannah made one of these for Samuel each year	2:19
E4	Hannah to Eli: I have not had strong _____	1:15
E11	The people told Eli of his son's _____ dealings	2:23
F13	God to Samuel: What I start I will take to the _____	3:12
G8	God to Samuel: The ears of those who hear what I'll do will _____	3:11
G18	Eli's sons _____ not to his rebuke and warning	2:25
H21	God condemned Eli because he _____ not his sons	3:13
J2	Elkanah and family made a _____ trip to Shiloh to sacrifice	1:21

A	2	3		5	6	7		9		11		13		15	16	17		19	20	21	A
B																					B
C																					C
D																					D
F																					F
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1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		20	21	22

- K₉ God to Eli: In _____ your two sons will die (two words) 2:34
 L₅ God will _____ esteem those who despise Him 2:30
 L₁₂ Samuel's godly mother 1:20
 M₁₄ What age bracket was Eli when Samuel came to him? (two words) 2:22
 N₇ Samuel's answer to the call he thought was Eli (three words) 3:4-8
 P₃ The Lord can make people rich or this 2:7
 Q₁₀ In Hannah's song she compared God to this 2:2
 Q₁₉ God to Eli: Why do this at My sacrifice and offering? 2:29

"Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him."

Answer Key:

22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
S	E	C	O	R	F	D	L	I	C	H	I	C	N	V	W	E	S	U	R	E	S
R	I																				
O	D	C	K	E	W	O	H	R													
P	E																				
N	O	N	D	E	H	R	N	V	E	H											
N	S	I	E	N	K	N	D	H	G	N	O	T	L	N							
W	A	E	N	E	W	V	A														
K																					
J	S	S	G	R	E	S	N	A	T	R	A	N	O	L	A	T	S	E	A	T	
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Trust in God

What a sacred trust God has committed to us, in making us His servants to aid in the work of saving souls! He has intrusted to us great truths, a most solemn, testing message for the world. Our duty is not simply to preach, but to minister, to come close to hearts. We should use our intrusted talents with skill and wisdom, that we may present the precious light of truth in the most pleasing manner, the way best adapted to win souls.



Paul thus speaks of the ministry of the new covenant: "Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God; Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: Whereunto I also labor, striving according to His working, which worketh in me mightily" (Colossians 1:25-29). What a responsibility is this! A work is here brought to view that is more laborious than merely preaching the word; it is to represent Christ in our character, to be living epistles, known and read of all men.

"The love of Christ constraineth us" (2 Corinthians 5:14). We must cherish love; and if those for whom we labor do not appreciate our efforts, we must not allow discontent or wrong feelings to rule in our hearts. Murmuring thoughts, jealousies, and evil surmisings imbitter the life and mar the labors. It is the Lord who has called us to this work, and we should have an eye single to His glory. We cannot trust to our own efforts, as though we could do the work of converting souls. God alone can convict and convert. Jesus invites sinners to come to Him with all their burdens, and He will give them rest and peace.

Let us never forget that Jesus loves us. He died for us, and now He lives to make intercession in our behalf. And the Father also loves us, and desires our happiness. "He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things" (Romans 8:32)? Brethren, you should set an example of faith, confidence, and love, to the

churches over which the Lord has made you overseers. Will you do your work with fidelity, in the fear of God? Will you feel that you must avail yourselves of every opportunity to obtain grace and power from on high, that you may render to God the very best service possible?

If, as laborers in the cause of God, you feel that you have borne greater cares and trials than have fallen to the lot of others, remember that for you there is a peace unknown to those who shun these burdens. But do not force your trials upon others; do not groan over them. There is comfort and joy in the service of Christ. The Christian gives the Lord his entire affections, but he takes as well as gives; and his language is not that of a murmurer or a constant backslider. He makes no effort to appear righteous, but his life shows that he is led by the Holy Spirit. He can speak with assurance of his hope in Christ; for has he not the promise of God? If he has complied with the conditions upon which these promises are based, God's word is pledged that He will do for him more than he asks.

We honor God most when we trust Him most. Anxiety and worryment in His service, talking fears and doubts as to whether we shall be saved, savors of selfishness and unbelief. True faith is more solicitous to know what can be done to-day. As we take up our duties one by one, each will come in its proper place; and the faithful discharge of these duties, however small, opens a field where all the powers of the mind can

be employed in the service of God. We shall know and obey His will.

Brethren in the faith, express no doubts. Follow closely your Guide. You must dispense with Him before you can lose your way; for the Lord has hedged you in on every side. In the darkest hour, Jesus will be our light.

"The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day" (Proverbs 4:18).

It is an exalted privilege to be connected with Jesus. In every condition of trial,

we may have the consolation of His presence. We may live

in the very atmosphere of heaven. Our enemies may thrust

us in prison, but prison walls cannot cut off the communication between Christ and our souls. One who sees our every weakness, who is acquainted with every trial, is above all earthly powers; and angels can come to us in lonely cells, bringing light and peace from heaven. The prison will be as a palace, for the rich in faith dwell there; and the gloomy walls will be lighted up with heavenly light, as when Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises at midnight in the Philippian dungeon. Bunyan was confined in Bedford jail; and thence issued a light that has illumined the pathway to the celestial city.

God is the "Rock of our salvation" (Psalms 95:1), a present help in every time of need. Then let us be no longer babes in Christ, but bold and firm soldiers of the cross, rejoicing in suffering for the will of God.

Morning Talks, To the Ministers at the General Conference, Battle Creek, Michigan, November, 1883, 12-15. [LM](#)

“
*We must cherish love;
and if those for whom
we labor do not appreciate
our efforts, we must not
allow discontent or wrong
feelings to rule in our
hearts.*”



A Secret to Tell

Do you know what a secret is? The dictionary says a secret is something that isn't known by others or something that is known by only a few people.

One day Jesus was moving through a crowd of people. A woman who had been sick for many years touched the hem of His coat. Right away she was healed.

Just think how happy she must have been. But the strange thing about her healing was that she decided to keep it a secret.

She didn't get to, though. Jesus knew someone had touched His coat. Turning, He asked,

"Who touched Me?"

The woman answered, "I did."

If you had been this woman, would you have kept Jesus' healing a secret?

When we tell others what Jesus has done for us we are "witnessing" for Him. Witnessing about Jesus is always wise.

When the woman told Jesus He had healed her, the people in the crowd heard her, too. This was a good thing because they learned Jesus really could heal diseases.


We should never be afraid to tell others that Jesus has healed us of our sins. We should never be ashamed because we are Christians. There have been many times when children told about their

love for Christ and others learned to love Him, too.

"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to save everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16).

"Whoever will confess (tell others about) Me before men, him will I confess before My Father in heaven" (Matthew 10:32).

Dear Jesus, make us good witnesses for You. Help us always to be ready to tell others that we love You. Thank you for hearing and answering our prayers. In Thy precious Name. Amen.

Happy Moments With God, Margaret Anderson, ©1962, 112. 

Between the Mountain and the Multitude

God does not want any of us to become hermits or monks, but many of us have disappeared from the public eye to hibernate into our own little corners. The reality is that we will suffocate in our own little corners and our prayers will be smothered and die.

“The life must be like Christ’s life—between the mountain and the multitude. He who does nothing but pray will soon cease to pray, or his prayers will become a formal routine. When men take themselves out of social life, away from the sphere of Christian duty and cross bearing; when they cease to work earnestly for the Master, who worked earnestly for them, they lose the subject matter of prayer and have no incentive to devotion. Their prayers become personal and selfish. They cannot pray in regard to the wants of humanity or the

upbuilding of Christ’s kingdom, pleading for strength wherewith to work.” *Steps to Christ*, 101.

How is your prayer life? Are you sustaining a loss?

“We sustain a loss when we neglect the privilege of associating together to strengthen and encourage one another in the service of God. The truths of His word lose their vividness and importance in our minds. Our hearts cease to be enlightened and aroused by their sanctifying influence, and we decline in spirituality. In our association as Christians we lose much by lack of sympathy with one another. He who shuts himself up to himself is not filling the position that God designed he should. The proper cultivation of the social elements in our nature brings us into sympathy with others and is a means of develop-

ment and strength to us in the service of God.” Ibid.

What has happened to our spirituality? We need to get out of our comfort zone, open our hearts and move our feet and do the Lord’s work.

Following is good advice in order to be refreshed: “If Christians would associate together, speaking to each other of the love of God and of the precious truths of redemption, their own hearts would be refreshed and they would refresh one another. We may be daily learning more of our heavenly Father, gaining a fresh experience of His grace; then we shall desire to speak of His love; and as we do this, our own hearts will be warmed and encouraged. If we thought and talked more of Jesus, and less of self, we should have far more of His presence.” Ibid., 101, 102. **LM**

Heavenly Father: Get me out of my corner of death where I am smothering. I am not allowing Your light to shine through me onto others who are also perishing. My life is losing that distinctive affection and excitement of reaching out to others. Please Lord forgive me; restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation before others perish because of my lack. Help me to live, as Christ did, “between the mountain and the multitude.” Amen.



Your Letters

"Thank you for *LandMarks*! They are so beautiful. We learn so much from them as we study the lessons Sabbath morning."

—B&SC, Nevada

"Thank you for your ministry and your books. May God richly bless you in all that you do."

—B&VC, California

"[Please] renew our subscription to *LandMarks* magazine. It is such a great magazine to draw one closer to Jesus."

—J&EB, Missouri

September Sermon of the Month

Scripture Predicts

By John J. Grosboll

The beast that once received a deadly wound has healed and its image is about to speak like a dragon.

All who
have donated in
the past month will
automatically receive this
Sermon of the Month
free of charge.

From the Desk of Pastor John J. Grosboll

October 2019

Dear Friend,

Recently I spoke with a dear Christian lady who is surrounded with neighbors and relatives who do not know Christ and are in an unsaved condition. Someday if these people refuse Christ's invitation they will find themselves outside the New Jerusalem. This is how they will feel:

"No language can express the longing which the disobedient and disloyal feel for that which they have lost forever—eternal life." *The Great Controversy*, 655.

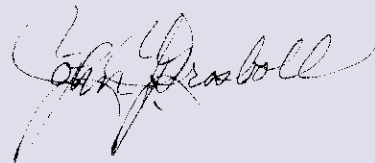
Always remember that soon there will be an everlasting separation. When probation closes many who thought that they were going to heaven will make a most bitter discovery.

"To those who have neglected the preparation of purity and holiness, which fits them to be waiting ones to welcome their Lord, the sun sets in gloom and darkness, and rises not again. Probation closes; Christ's intercessions cease in heaven. This time finally comes suddenly upon all, and those who have neglected to purify their souls by obeying the truth are found sleeping. They became weary of waiting and watching; they became indifferent in regard to the coming of their Master. They longed not for His appearing, and thought there was no need of such continued, persevering watching. They had been disappointed in their expectations and might be again. They concluded that there was time enough yet to arouse. They would be sure not to lose the opportunity of securing an earthly treasure. It would be safe to get all of this world they could. And in securing this object, they lost all anxiety and interest in the appearing of the Master. They became indifferent and careless, as though His coming were yet in the distance. But while their interest was buried up in their worldly gains, the work closed in the heavenly sanctuary, and they were unprepared." *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 191.

Now is the time to make our calling and election sure. Now is the time to see that our neighbors and unsaved relatives have an opportunity to be saved. Now is the time to show them the love of Jesus for lost souls and charm them with the loveliness of Him who is altogether lovely.

Don't allow golden opportunities for sharing the good news with those around you pass by unimproved to provide you with cause of regret in the future.

Sincerely your brother in witnessing,



John J. Grosboll

13th Sabbath Offering



The Opening Wedge in Cameroon

Workers in Nigeria Work Across the Border

A medical missionary seminar effort was held earlier this year from June 30th to July 7th by the Bible workers in Nigeria. The location was the UNHCR camp high up in the mountains bordering Nigeria and Cameroon, the English-speaking side of the country. With the Lord's blessing, it was a huge success in that over 200 people attended. The majority wanted to receive counsel and natural remedies for their many health ailments. It would be difficult to share all the testimonies of gratitude received. The seminar opened the door to present the Gospel message along with the health topics. Many hearts were opened to receive Bible truths.

Unfortunately, the cost for obtaining natural remedies is ten times more

than what it is in the United States. It would be a tremendous blessing to be able to obtain more herbals, salves, tonics, including molasses and cayenne to combine with the local herbs that are available in this region. These supplies are needed for distribution to the medical missionary workers in order to seize the opportunity to continue to work on the Cameroon side of the border and spread the Gospel news to the people of that area. We cannot praise the Lord enough for the knowledge of the health messages.

We pray that the Lord will impress His people to help this effort with their 13th Sabbath offerings.

Your brother in Christ,
Daniel Terence

Cameroon in Numbers:

Population

25 Million

38% 30% 20% 12%

Catholic Protestant Muslim Others

60%

of the
population is
under the age
of 25

55 years

is the life
expectancy due
to the HIV/AIDS
epidemic



Health Seminar *Nigeria*

Dear Brethren in Christ:

As was mentioned in the 13th Sabbath appeal, “Daily Manna Ministry” presented a health seminar June 30th through July 7th, 2019, at Igyom in Kwande Local Council area, near the border with Cameroon. The Lord indeed blessed with an attendance of over 200 attendees.

After announcing that we were offering natural remedies and treatments, the majority responded with pleas for the treatment of their ailments that included arthritis, piles, ulcers, digestion, and female complaints. After first consulting with each person to assess a treatment, we tested for malaria, diabetes and typhoid. We then treated with herbs such as eucalyptus leaves, dandelion, charcoal, capsicum (cayenne), turmeric, aloe



Top left: *An attendee testifies to the benefits of observing the health laws.*



Top right: *Counseling at health seminar.*

Oposite page: *Banner announcing the health seminar.*

vera, and blackstrap molasses. We also used a prepared pain salve combination of non-petroleum gel, cayenne, ginger powder, and eucalyptus oil for arthritis and cancer pain.

It would be difficult to share the immense gratitude expressed by those who received the counsel and treatments. In the evening, we shared the Gospel truths, which many were hearing for the first time, resulting in many deciding to practice the Advent faith.

Some of the attendees were refugees camping in the hills of the Cameroon and Nigeria border. We praise our Father in heaven for the opportunity He provided to share the health message given to His people.

We were also able to project videos from Steps to Life's 2017 camp meeting, as well as more teaching on the Sabbath truth and the three angels' messages to the folks waiting for their treatment, producing a harvest for the Lord of four souls immediately desiring to dedicate their lives to the Advent faith and joining in fellowship with the church. Many others came that evening expressing their gratitude to the Lord for the assistance received and remark-

ing that they had never experienced such a thing before.

The village where this health seminar was presented was where someone had come previously to sow discord through divisive doctrines and teaching. The enemy will always work against those who uphold and teach truth.

After our first presentation and lecture, we decided to visit the refugee camp along the border on the Sabbath for encouragement, since many were not able to travel to attend the health seminar and to worship with us. What we saw was a great need of assistance where the help of natural remedies and treatments could bring a lot of relief. Our hearts ached because of our limitations, but we were much encouraged when one new member helped us with our work among the refugees.

Our greatest need at this time is for more natural remedies to treat and share with the refugees camped near the Cameroon border who are fleeing from the armed conflict in their region. We need assistance to purchase molasses and cayenne for the preparation of certain remedies with our local herbs, as well as some supplements. The remedies that

these simple ingredients provide will go a long way in assisting these displaced folks and open the door to continue to share the Gospel truths. Here we came face to face with misery, but at the same time gratitude to our Savior for the health message.

The area is the United Nations High Commission for Refugees called "Igyom" camp, high up in the mountains bordering Nigeria and Cameroon on the English-speaking side of the country. Our desire is to provide them with these local remedies through our Bible worker.

With the greatest appreciation from all the folks receiving this blessed assistance and intervention with the refugees at Igyom camp.

May the Lord bless you all.

Daniel Terence

To assist Brother Daniel and his coworkers in Nigeria as they minister to not only the refugees in Igyom but throughout their surrounding area, please mark your Thirteenth Sabbath offerings *Nigeria*. **LM**

Fluorescent Frogs

In eastern Brazil's Atlantic forest, poisonous pumpkin toadlets use their vivid colors to warn off predators. But these tiny frogs also broadcast a secret visual signal: They glow bright blue under ultraviolet light.

Scientists unexpectedly discovered the glowing patterns in two species of pumpadadadets (*Brachycephalus ephippiatum* and *B. pitanga*) while investigating the tiny (about the size of a fingernail) frogs' mating calls. To the human eye, the frogs appear bright orange, red or yellow in natural light.

But when researchers shone a UV lamp on the frogs, blue patterns emerged on the toadlets' heads, backs and legs.

Fluorescence is extremely rare in land animals with backbones, and while scientists don't know how the pumpkin toadlets use their glow, it may help them to recognize prospective mates or protect them from predators, the researchers reported in a new study.

Unlike bioluminescence, in which chemical reactions in an animal's body generate light, fluorescence won't work in complete darkness. In fluorescence, special molecules absorb light and then emit it at longer wavelengths, creating a glow that usually shows up in shades of red or green.

Corals, scorpions and a rare type of sea turtle fluoresce; in 2018, scientists discovered that chameleons fluoresce, too. Another team of researchers found in 2017 that two species of South American tree frogs had fluorescent skin, according to the authors of the new study. However, the pumpkin toadlets' glow is

more like that of chameleons, originating in the animals' bones.

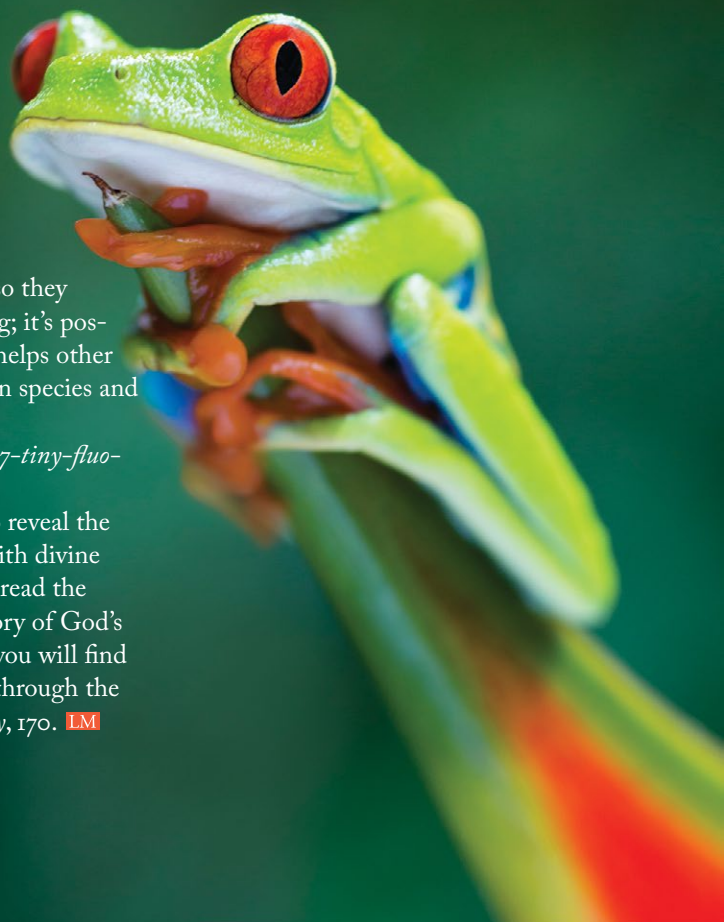
In fact, bony plates on the toadlets' head and back were "exceptionally fluorescent," though chemical analysis would be required to identify the compounds that lend the frogs their intense shine, the scientists reported.

How does glowing benefit the toadlets? There's no evidence yet to suggest how the frogs use their glow, but it may serve as an extra warning to predators about the frogs' toxic coating. While humans can't see the glow, other creatures such as some birds and spiders can see fluorescence in natural light, lead study author Sandra Goutte told Live Science. Goutte is a postdoctoral associate at New York University Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates.

Another possibility is that the tiny frogs use their glow to communicate with each other. Pumpkin toadlets lack a middle ear, so they can't hear themselves calling; it's possible that a glowing signal helps other toadlets recognize their own species and attract a potential mate.

www.livescience.com/65107-tiny-fluorescent-toadlets.html

"The hearts of those who reveal the attributes of Christ glow with divine love. ... Seek earnestly to spread the gospel. Tell the precious story of God's love for man. In this work you will find a satisfaction that will last through the eternal ages." *My Life Today*, 170. **LM**





Q:
*What is an
experimental
religion?*

A:

Having a personal experience: “There is an element in the church at _____ that is detrimental to its spiritual interests. There is a great want of vital godliness, of experimental religion. I call no names. Let each search his own heart and understand his own imperfections. There are some who are ever leaning toward the world, ever lowering the standard of religion by their worldly conversation. They have not the love of God in their hearts. They are weak-handed when real help is needed in the church. This spiritual weakness is the result of their own unwillingness to bear burdens when and where they can help the most. When, however, there is any plan or device of their own to carry out, they are willing to assume any responsibility; to have their own way is their purpose. If that were a sanctified

way, it would not be so bad; but it is not.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 114.

“Experience is knowledge derived from experiment. Experimental religion is what is needed now. ... Some—yes, a large number—have a theoretical knowledge of religious truth, but have never felt the renewing power of divine grace upon their own hearts. ... They believe in the wrath of God, but put forth no earnest efforts to escape it. They believe in heaven, but make no sacrifice to obtain it. ... They know a remedy for sin, but do not use it. They know the right, but have no relish for it. All their knowledge will but increase their condemnation. They have never tasted and learned by experience that the Lord is good.

“To become a disciple of Christ is to deny self and follow Jesus through evil as well as good report. ... Every darling indulgence that hinders our religious

life must be cut off. ... Will we put forth efforts and make sacrifices proportionate to the worth of the object to be attained?

“Every association we form, however limited, exerts some influence upon us. The extent to which we yield to that influence will be determined by the degree of intimacy, the constancy of the intercourse, and our love and veneration for the one with whom we associate. Thus by acquaintance and association with Christ we may become like Him, the one faultless Example.” *Maranatha*, 74.

Note: Although Sister White used the word “experimental,” we would more commonly use the word “experiential” today. Since Sister White’s time, “experimental” has acquired a connotation that implies untested or not yet settled or finalized. [LM](#)



Vegan *vs.* *Vegetarian*

The study in the area of health is never ending. One health article brought to my attention that there were more than just two or three categories of vegetarians and vegans. I am sure many of you will be as surprised as I was to know just how many different descriptions there are. You may find the category you are in, or maybe you are in the middle of a couple of them. Read on!

“According to the Vegetarian Society, 'Vegetarians don't eat any fish, meat or chicken' and also 'don't eat products or by-products of slaughter.' Vegetarian diets may contain variable amounts of vegetables, fruits, whole grains, beans, nuts, and seeds. Dairy and eggs may be included, depending on the type of diet you follow. The most common types of vegetarians include:

- **Lacto-ovo vegetarians:** Avoid all animal flesh, but do consume dairy and egg products.
- **Lacto vegetarians:** Avoid animal flesh and eggs, but do consume dairy products.
- **Ovo vegetarians:** Avoid all animal products except eggs.
- **Vegans:** Avoid all animal and animal-derived products.*
- **Pesco:** Pescatarians, while not technically meeting the common definition of vegetarian, follow a semi-vegetarian diet that includes fish and other seafood but no poultry or meat.
- **Flexitarians:** Part-time vegetarians do eat animal flesh and, although primarily plant-based, they technically do not fall under the definition of vegetarianism.



"In some literature you might come across these as well:

- **Demi Vegetarian:** Consumes fish, eggs, and dairy products but not meat.
- **Semi Vegetarian:** Another group of vegetarians who sometimes voluntarily control their meat intake and who may be viewed as flexitarians.

"Veganism is currently defined by the Vegan Society as 'a way of living which seeks to exclude, as far as is possible and practicable, all forms of exploitation of, and cruelty to, animals for food, clothing or any other purpose.' Since this is the strictest form of vegetarianism, a vegan or plant based diet not only excludes animal flesh but also any animal-derived ingredients, as well as dairy and eggs.

"These products include gelatin, carmine, pepsin, shellac, albumin, whey, casein, among others. Vegans consciously choose to avoid all animal by-products because they believe not only that this has the largest impact on their health and the environment but also because they seek to avoid all forms of animal exploitation and harm.

"Vegans may be categorized into different types:

- **Ethical Vegans** are the most common and put their ethics first. They respect and care for animals and the environment. Ethical vegans do not consume any dairy product, whether it is animal milk or cheese made from animal milk. They also avoid eggs and honey, as well as the use of any product made from animal skin or parts.
- **Plant-Based Vegans** follow diets based on plant foods only.
- **Raw-Food Vegans** do not eat any animal by-product or anything cooked above the temperature of 115-degree Fahrenheit. It is believed that this causes food to lose its nutrients and enzymes."

www.myhdiet.com/healthnews/science_of_her/what-is-the-difference-between-vegan-vegetarian

Were you able to figure out into which category you might fit?

The reality is that God wants each of us to be health-conscious and to pre-

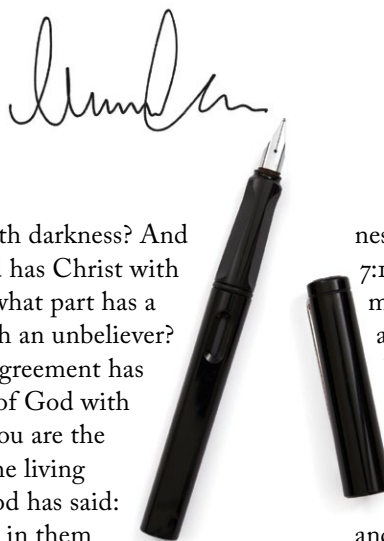
serve our bodies in the best condition we can that we may give glory to Him.

Most people are aware of the health-destroying foods that are available. May God give us the courage to choose the right and to live the sixth commandment, "Thou shalt not kill" (Exodus 20:13). We must preserve our bodies in the best way we can. God says, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee" (Hosea 4:6).

*Much counsel has been given in regard to the healthiest balanced diet—the vegan diet, consisting of fruit, grains, vegetables and nuts. However, the vegan lifestyle, as with many others, has ditches on either side which are easy to fall into. One is to eliminate all animal products including honey and leather. To eliminate the use of skins and furs from those people living in freezing climates would cause great hardship. The other ditch claims that soft drinks and potato chips are an acceptable vegan diet. God calls upon His people to be balanced and use common sense. **LM**

Total Commitment

By John J. Grosboll



During his second missionary visit to Corinth, the apostle Paul wrote a letter which was destined to change world history, not only in the first century, but in all future ages.

Paul makes a very profound statement about how we should respond to the gift of Jesus. He said, “And He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again” (2 Corinthians 5:15).

A prevalent sin of the last days is that people will live primarily for themselves. This is contrary to those preparing for heaven. Paul said, “Know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: for men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money,” and then it goes on to list a whole series of terrible sins and says they will be “lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God” (2 Timothy 3:1–5).

O, friend, who has your heart? To whom do you give the wealth of your affections? Are you living for yourself?

Self-centered people always end up falling into sins, predominantly sexual immorality. The Corinthians had some trouble with immorality in their church. Paul’s advice was, “Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion

has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: ‘I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.’ Therefore ‘come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.’ ‘I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty’” (2 Corinthians 6:14–18).

Notice that you cannot have it both ways. You cannot eat at the Lord’s table and at the same time eat at the devil’s table. This means you cannot be the Lord’s child and also the devil’s child. So, it is necessary that you not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. What fellowship can you have if you are? Either you become like them or something in the relationship is not going to work.

Paul says, “Dearly beloved, you should then cleanse yourself from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holi-

ness in the fear of God” (2 Corinthians 7:1, literal translation). The New Testament is not a book describing an easy, arm-chair religion. In fact, it says that being a Christian requires a commitment and you must be willing to leave whatever you have in order to follow Christ. Notice how Jesus stated it in Luke the 14th chapter, and verse 33. He says, “Whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.”

The Christian religion of the New Testament requires a total commitment to Jesus Christ, for life or death. It involves following Him, even if you lose everything in this world. It requires you to separate yourself from all that is opposed to Christ, to His government, to His law, and to His word. This concept is not very popular today where people want an easier religion that allows them to love the world, to love themselves, to love their money, and to love pleasure more than God.

This describes people who will claim to be Christian. Paul says that they will have a form of godliness, but they deny the power of it (2 Timothy 3:5). How is it with you? Do you separate from that which is unclean and evil, and that which is unlawful, or are you trying to

mix righteousness with unrighteousness? These are questions to ask yourself. Are you trying to be a Christian while still self-serving and self-loving, loving money and pleasure more than God?

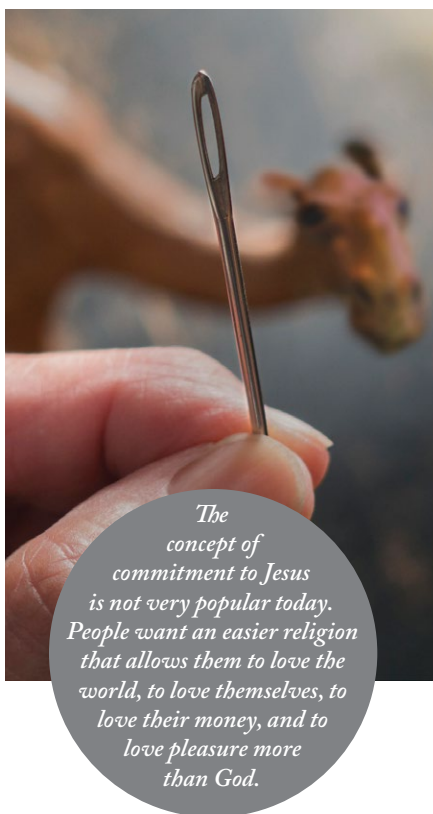
This is an impossible situation to be in. You will not find true satisfaction in either a form of godliness or worldly pleasure. It will not be worth anything and it will certainly not help you to receive the gift of eternal life which is offered to all who repent of their sins and make a full commitment to Jesus.

What Is Repentance?

Paul's second letter to the Corinthians is one of the books that deals more about the subject of repentance than most other books. We read that on the Day of Pentecost the people who had crucified Jesus were pricked in their consciences concerning what they had done, because Peter told them that they were the ones who had crucified the Lord of glory. They believed him and responded in asking, "What are we going to do?" Peter said, "Repent" (Acts 2:37, *last part*, 38, *first part*).

But what does it mean to repent? The church at Corinth had some very serious problems. One spoken of was the open situation of sexual immorality. Paul says, "It's worse than is even allowed or done in the Gentile world" (1 Corinthians 5:1). There were some practices that compelled Paul to say, "the people that do these things, will not be in the Kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:1-10).

Paul severely rebuked the church which was condoning sin in their midst and they repented. He said, "Even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while. Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the



world produces death. For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter" (2 Corinthians 7:8-11).

Godly sorrow produces repentance that will result in eternal life. But the sorrow of the world, just being sorry for being caught and not that a wrong was committed, resulting in a penalty of some kind, and not being sorry enough to turn away from the sinful life will cause death.

O, friend, do you know that there are many people today who claim to be Christians who have never repented according to the New Testament? O, a man may have a problem with anger and beats his wife and says he is sorry. His wife forgives him, but the next month he beats her up again. He is sorry again and his wife forgives him once more, but he remains a repeat offender. There comes a time when his wife will be convinced

that this man is not sorry at all. If he was really sorry he would ask the Lord for the Holy Spirit to give him the power to overcome his temper and live a new life.

Many people today have never really thought through what repentance is. True repentance is evident in a changed life. They may claim to be Christians and go to church but they have not turned away from their life of sin.

"Repent!" was the message of John the Baptist, when he cried out in the wilderness: "Repent" (Matthew 3:2). When Jesus began to preach, He said, "Repent" (Matthew 4:17). When Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost, he said, "Repent" (Acts 2:38). The apostle Paul said, "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent" (Acts 17:30).

O, friend, have you truly repented, or are you pretending to be a Christian? Are you just going through the motions, going to church, making a profession, saying that you believe certain beliefs, going through religious rituals, but still living the old life? Repentance is a gift that God wants to give to you (see Romans 2). The person who has repented turns away from every known sin. Sin is breaking God's law (1 John 3:4). He now lives a new life in Christ that is changed day by day by the Holy Spirit.

The Christian religion is the most spiritual of all religions. God hears the cry of all who desire a godly repentance and longs to answer that prayer.

The early church endured a great deal of trouble because of false religious teachers. The pressure on Paul was so great that sometimes it seemed that he could not bear it. He suffered outward dangers as well as inward fears. False teachers prejudiced the brethren against him making false charges against him to destroy his influence among the churches that he had raised up. He said, "Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So am I. Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I

am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches” (2 Corinthians 11:22–28).

Amid all of his struggles, he had consolation. He had joy in Christ. Notice how he described his mental state. He said, “I am filled with comfort. I am exceedingly joyful in all our tribulation.” (2 Corinthians 7:4, *last part*). However, he warned the church that they needed to be careful about these false teachers. He said I’m concerned that “if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it” (2 Corinthians 11:4)!

There are many people today who believe a different gospel than that which the apostles preached. Many claim to be Christians who do not have the same spirit that the apostles had. This is demonstrated by their actions. It is impossible to read another’s heart, but

Jesus said you can know whether a tree is good or bad by examining the fruit (Matthew 12:33). So, it may be beneficial to examine what gospel we do believe; what spirit we do exhibit; what Jesus we do worship.

Paul elaborates on the false apostles and how deceptive they would be. He said, “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works” (2 Corinthians 11:13–15).

The judgment is not going to be according to what you profess, but whether or not that profession has changed your life. A mere profession will not save you for if it could, then the devil could also be saved.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is a gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast” (Ephesians 2:8, 9). It is the work of the Holy Spirit in the repentant sinner that purifies the heart and mind and transforms his or her character which is manifest in every action.

It was while Paul was on his second visit to Corinth that he wrote one of the most powerful letters in the New Testament. This letter was not written to an individual, like some of the letters that he wrote, but it was written to an entire church, the church in Rome. In it he explains more clearly than in most of the other letters he wrote just how a person is saved. He says it is only the gospel that can save you. But, if you

receive the gospel, you will receive power from God to live a new life.

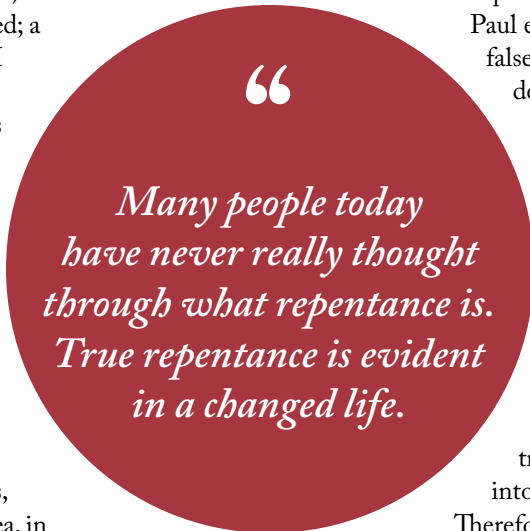
He said, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith’” (Romans 1:16, 17).

In the gospel there is the power of God to enable you to live a different life from that which you have lived. You will receive forgiveness for sins. You will be changed in character. You will live a sanctified life, not in your own strength, but in the strength of Jesus Christ you will be a conqueror.

“Can we measure the love of God? Paul declares that ‘it passeth knowledge’ (Ephesians 3:19). Then shall we who have been made partakers of the heavenly gift be careless and indifferent, neglecting the great salvation wrought out for us? Shall we allow ourselves to be separated from Christ, and thus lose the eternal reward, the great gift of everlasting life? Shall we not accept the enmity which Christ has placed between man and the serpent? Shall we not eat the flesh and drink the blood of the son of God, which means to live by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God? Or shall we become earthly, eating the serpent’s meat, which is selfishness, hypocrisy, evil-surmising, envy, and covetousness? We have a right to say, In the strength of Jesus Christ, I will be a conqueror. I will not be overcome by Satan’s devices.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 2, 345.

(Unless appearing in quoted references or otherwise identified, Bible texts are from the New King James Version.) **LM**

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October 27 – November 2, 2019

Personal Prayer

Key Text

“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God” (Philippians 4:6).

Study Help: *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 139–149.

Introduction

“Secret prayer sustains [the] inner life. The heart that loves God will desire to commune with Him, and will lean on Him in holy confidence.” *Our High Calling*, 130.

Sunday

ATTITUDE IN PRAYER

- a. What posture should we observe in prayer? Psalm 95:6; Ephesians 3:14.

- b. Where and how should we pray our personal prayers? Matthew 6:6.

Note: “It is impossible for the soul to flourish while prayer is not a special exercise of the mind. Family or public prayer alone is not sufficient. Secret prayer is very important; in solitude the soul is laid bare to the inspecting eye of God, and every motive is scrutinized. Secret prayer! How precious! The soul communing with God! Secret prayer is to be heard only by the

prayer-hearing God. No curious ear is to receive the burden of such petitions. In secret prayer the soul is free from surrounding influences, free from excitement. Calmly, yet fervently, will it reach out after God. Secret prayer is frequently perverted, and its sweet designs lost, by loud vocal prayer. Instead of the calm, quiet trust and faith in God, the soul drawn out in low, humble tones, the voice is raised to a loud pitch, and excitement is encouraged, and secret prayer loses its softening, sacred influence. There is a storm of feeling, a storm of words, making it impossible to discern the still, small voice that speaks to the soul while engaged in its secret, true, heartfelt devotion.” *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 189, 190.

Monday

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

- a. As Daniel considered that the prophecy of the 70 years of the desolation of Jerusalem was drawing to a close, what was he inspired to pray about? Daniel 9:3–19. Whom did Daniel see as guilty of sin? Whom did he blame?

Note: “With faith founded on the sure word of prophecy, Daniel pleaded with the Lord for the speedy fulfillment of these promises. He pleaded for the honor of God to be preserved. In his petition he identified himself fully with those who had fallen short of the divine purpose, confessing their sins as his own. ...

“Though Daniel had long been in the service of God, and had been spoken of by heaven as ‘greatly beloved’ (Daniel 9:23) yet he now appeared before God as a sinner, urging the great need of the people he loved. His prayer was eloquent in its simplicity, and intensely earnest.” *Prophets and Kings*, 554, 555.

“The Lord who heard Daniel’s prayer will hear yours if you will approach Him as Daniel did.” *In Heavenly Places*, 75.

- b. What was the answer to Daniel’s prayer? Daniel 9:20–23.

- c. How does God, by His Spirit, intercede for us? Romans 8:26. What does God want us to do for others? James 5:16.

Note: “Christ, our Mediator, and the Holy Spirit are constantly interceding in man’s behalf, but the Spirit pleads not for us as does Christ who presents His blood, shed from the foundation of the world; the Spirit works upon our hearts, drawing out prayers and penitence, praise and thanksgiving. The gratitude which flows from our lips is the result of the Spirit striking the cords of the soul in holy memories, awakening the music of the heart.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, 1077, 1078.

“Appeals, petitions, entreaties, between man and man, move men and act a part in controlling the affairs of nations. But prayer moves heaven. That power alone that comes in answer to prayer will make men wise in the wisdom of heaven and enable them to work in the unity of the Spirit, joined together by the bonds of peace. Prayer, faith, confidence in God, bring a divine power that sets human calculations at their real worth—nothingness.” *In Heavenly Places*, 75.

Tuesday

PRAYER FOR HOLINESS

- a. How did Jesus teach us to pray when we recognize that we are sinners? Luke 18:13.

Note: “God does not give us up because of our sins. We may make mistakes and grieve His Spirit, but when we repent and come to Him with contrite hearts, He will not turn us away.” *Faith and Works*, 35.

“When we beseech the Lord to pity us in our distress, and to guide us by His Holy Spirit, He will never turn away our prayer.” *God’s Amazing Grace*, 207.

- b. What attitude must we reject as sinners? Luke 18:11, 12.

Note: “Self-righteousness is the danger of this age; it separates the soul from Christ. Those who trust to their own righteousness cannot understand how salvation comes through Christ. They call sin righteousness and righteousness sin. They have no appreciation of the evil of transgression, no understanding of the terror of the law; for they do not respect God’s moral standard.” *Faith and Works*, 96.

- c. What is the promise of God for every prayer of honest confession? Luke 18:14; 1 John 1:9.

Note: “The enemy will come to you, and say, ‘It is of no use for you to pray. Did you not do that evil thing? Have you not transgressed against God? Have you not violated your conscience?’ Answer him, ‘Yes; but Christ has bidden me pray. He has said, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” ’ (1 John 1:9).” *The Bible Echo*, February 15, 1893.

“Never is one repulsed who comes to Him with a contrite heart. Not one sincere prayer is lost. Amid the anthems of the celestial choir, God hears the cries of the weakest human being. We pour out our heart’s desire in our closets, we breathe a prayer as we walk by the way, and our words reach the throne of the Monarch of the universe. They may be inaudible to any human ear, but they cannot die away into silence, nor can they be lost through the activities of business that are going on. Nothing can drown the soul’s desire. It rises above the din of the street, above the confusion of the multitude, to the heavenly courts. It is God to whom we are speaking, and our prayer is heard.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 174.

Wednesday

PRAYING FOR WISDOM

- a. What does God offer to each of us if we will but ask? How are we to ask? James 1:5, 6.

Note: “You need not go to the ends of the earth for wisdom, for God is near. It is not the capabilities you now possess or ever will have that will give you success. It is that which the Lord can do for you. We need to have far less confidence in what man can do and far more confidence in what God can do for every believing soul. He longs to have you reach after Him by faith. He longs to have you expect great things from Him. He longs to give you understanding in temporal as well as in spiritual matters. He can sharpen the intellect. He can give tact and skill. Put your talents into the work, ask God for wisdom, and it will be given you.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 146.

- b. How will God’s wisdom set us apart from those around us? Psalm 119:97–100; Deuteronomy 4:5–9.

Note: “As in obedience to His natural laws the earth should produce its treasures, so in obedience to His moral law the hearts of the people were to reflect the attributes of His character. Even the heathen would recognize the superiority of those who served and worshiped the living God.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 289.

- c. How should we search for wisdom? What two requirements does God place before us in order for us to receive His wisdom? Proverbs 2:1–6.

Note: “It is impossible to study the Bible with a humble, teachable spirit, without developing and strengthening the intellect. Those who become best acquainted with the wisdom and purpose of God as revealed in His word, become men and women of mental strength; and they may become efficient workers with the great Educator, Jesus Christ.” *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 432.

Thursday

PRAYING WITH THANKSGIVING

- a. What do we often forget in our personal prayers? Philippians 4:6.

Note: “Our devotional exercises should not consist wholly in asking and receiving. Let us not be always thinking of our wants and never of the benefits we receive. We do not pray any too much, but we are too sparing of giving thanks. We are the constant recipients of God’s mercies, and yet how little gratitude we express, how little we praise Him for what He has done for us.” *Steps to Christ*, 102, 103.

- b. What can we be grateful to God for each day? Psalm 68:19; Lamentations 3:22–25.

Note: “If our senses had not been blunted by sin and by contemplation of the dark pictures that Satan is constantly presenting before us, a fervent and continuous flow of gratitude would go out from our hearts toward Him who daily loads us with benefits of which we are wholly undeserving. The everlasting song of the redeemed will be praise to Him who hath loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood; and if we ever sing that song before the throne of God we must learn it here.” *That I May Know Him*, 168.

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 Why is it so important that our personal prayers be done in secret?
- 2 What power is given to us in answer to prayer, and how is this power to be used for others?
- 3 What prayer does God always answer—without delay?
- 4 When will those around us see the great benefits in serving and worshipping God?
- 5 What song do we need to learn here on earth, so that we can join in with the redeemed as they sing it in heaven?

November 3 – 9, 2019

ASSEMBLING TOGETHER

Key Text

“Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 18:19).

Study Help: *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 577–582; *In Heavenly Places*, 91–93.

Introduction

“There is great need of secret prayer, but there is also need that several Christians meet together and unite with earnestness their petitions to God.” *In Heavenly Places*, 91.

Sunday

Why assemble together?

- a. What is the purpose of the Christian meeting and why is it so important? 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 10:25.

Note: “Seek every opportunity to go where prayer is wont to be made. Those who are really seeking for communion with God will be seen in the prayer meeting, faithful to do their duty, and earnest and anxious to reap all the benefits they can gain. They will improve every opportunity of placing themselves where they can receive the rays of light from heaven.

“We meet together to edify one another by an interchange of thoughts and feelings, to gather strength, and light, and courage by becoming acquainted with one another’s hopes and aspirations; and by our earnest, heartfelt prayers, offered up in faith, we receive refreshment and vigor from the Source of our strength. These meetings should be most precious seasons.” *In Heavenly Places*, 91.

“While we are exhorted not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together, these assemblies are not to be merely for our own refreshing. We are to be inspired with greater zeal to impart the consolation we have received.” *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 365.

Monday

CONDUCTING GATHERINGS

- a. What principle should be observed regarding gatherings for meetings? 1 Corinthians 14:40.

Note: “Meetings for conference and prayer should not be made tedious. If possible, all should be prompt to the hour appointed; and if there are dilatory ones, who are half an hour or even fifteen minutes behind the time, there should be no waiting. If there are but two present, they can claim the promise. The meeting should open at the appointed hour if possible, be there few or many present. Formality and cold stiffness should be laid aside, and all should be prompt to duty.” *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 577, 578.

“From the light which I have received, our meetings should be spiritual and social, and not too long.” *Ibid.*, 579.

- b. How does God regard long-drawn-out public prayers? Matthew 6:5.

Note: “Upon common occasions there should not be prayer of more than ten minutes’ duration. After there has been a change of position, and the exercise of singing or exhortation has relieved the sameness, then, if any feel the burden of prayer, let them pray.” *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 578.

“There are some, I fear, who do not take their troubles to God in private prayer, but reserve them for the prayer meeting, and there do up their praying for several days. Such may be named conference and prayer meeting killers. They emit no light; they edify no one. Their cold, frozen prayers and long, backslidden testimonies cast a shadow. All are glad when they get through, and it is almost impossible to throw off the chill and darkness which their prayers and exhortations bring into the meeting.” *Ibid.*, 578, 579.

- c. What specific admonition regarding prayer did Jesus give? Matthew 6:7.

Note: “When Christ taught the people, He did not devote the time to prayer. He did not enforce upon them, as did the Pharisees, long, tedious ceremonies and prayers.” *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 580.

Tuesday

A TIME FOR SHARING

- a. What can everyone be prepared to do at the prayer meeting? Mark 5:19, *second part*; Malachi 3:16.

Note: “All who are pursuing the onward Christian course should have, and will have, an experience that is living, that is new and interesting. A living experience is made up of daily trials, conflicts, and temptations, strong efforts and victories, and great peace and joy gained through Jesus. A simple relation of such experiences gives light, strength, and knowledge that will aid others in their advancement in the divine life.” *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 579.

“We may be daily learning more of our heavenly Father, gaining a fresh experience of His grace; then we shall desire to speak of His love; and as we do this, our own hearts will be warmed and encouraged. If we thought and talked more of Jesus, and less of self, we should have far more of His presence. ...

“One person is not to do all the witnessing for Jesus, but every one who loves God is to testify of the preciousness of His grace and truth.” *In Heavenly Places*, 92.

- b. Besides sharing our experience, what else can we contribute? Psalms 35:18; 107:31, 32.

Note: “When you are growing in grace you will love to attend religious meetings, and you will gladly bear testimony of the love of Christ before the congregation. ... How much strength a word of hope, courage, and determination in a right course will give one who is inclined to slide into habits that are demoralizing! The firm purpose you may possess in carrying out good principles will have an influence to balance souls in the right direction. There is no limit to the good you may do.” *That I May Know Him*, 161.



“God desires His obedient children to claim His blessing and to come before Him with praise and thanksgiving. God is the Fountain of life and power. ... He has done for His chosen people that which should inspire every heart with thanksgiving, and it grieves Him that so little praise is offered. He desires to have a stronger expression from His people, showing that they know they have reason for joy and gladness.” *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 364.

Wednesday

MEETING TO PRAY IN SMALL GROUPS

- a. What example do we have of four young men praying together? Daniel 2:13–18.

Note: “Daniel and his companions were to perish with the false prophets; but, taking his life in his hand, Daniel ventures to enter the presence of the king, begging that time may be granted that he may show the dream and the interpretation.

“To this request the monarch accedes; and now Daniel gathers his three companions, and together they take the matter before God, seeking for wisdom from the Source of light and

knowledge. Although they were in the king's court, surrounded with temptation, they did not forget their responsibility to God. They were strong in the consciousness that His providence had placed them where they were; that they were doing His work, meeting the demands of truth and duty. They had confidence toward God. They had turned to Him for strength when in perplexity and danger, and He had been to them an ever-present help." *The Sanctified Life*, 35.

"On their bended knees they pleaded that God would give them the power and wisdom that would alone avail them in their great necessity." *Sons and Daughters of God*, 216.

b. How was their prayer answered? Daniel 2:19, 46–49.

Note: "The servants of God did not plead with Him in vain. They had honored Him, and in the hour of trial He honored them. The secret was revealed to Daniel, and he hastened to request an interview with the king." *The Sanctified Life*, 35.

c. What can we learn from the prayer of Daniel and his friends? Matthew 18:20.

Note: "There is great need of secret prayer, but there is also need that several Christians meet together, and unite with earnestness their petitions to God. In these small companies Jesus is present, the love of souls is deepened in the heart, and the Spirit puts forth its mighty energies, that human agents may be exercised in regard to saving those who are lost." *Lift Him Up*, 358.

Thursday

STRIVING FOR UNITY

a. What condition for which Christ prayed in John 17:20, 21 should likewise be the subject of our prayers? Ephesians 4:3.

b. How can unity be achieved especially at gatherings? Matthew 18:19; Ephesians 4:11–16. How does this affect those who attend?

Note: "Those who labor at camp meetings should frequently engage together in prayer and counsel, that they may labor intelligently. At these meetings there are many things that demand attention. But the ministers should take time to meet together for prayer and counsel every day. You should know that all things are drawing in even lines, 'that you are standing,' as the words were spoken to me, 'shoulder to shoulder, marching right ahead, and not drawing off.' When the work is carried on in this way, there is unity of heart, and there will be harmony of action. This will be a wonderful means of bringing the blessing of God upon the people.

"Before giving a discourse, ministers should take time to seek God for wisdom and power. In earlier times the ministers would often go away and pray together, and they would not cease until the Spirit of God responded to their prayers. Then they would return from the place of prayer with their faces lighted up; and when they spoke to the congregation, their words were with power. They reached the hearts of the people because the Spirit that gave them the blessing prepared hearts to receive their message. There is far more being done by the heavenly universe than we realize in preparing the way that souls may be converted." *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 50.

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What are some of the blessings gained from attending prayer meeting?
- 2 How much of the time should be devoted to prayer? Why?
- 3 Why should we share our experiences?
- 4 What can we learn from the prayer meeting held by Daniel and his three companions?
- 5 Why should the leaders at our camp meetings often make the time to pray and counsel together?

November 10 – 16, 2019

Public Prayer

Key Text

“But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking” (Matthew 6:7).

Study Help: *Gospel Workers*, 175–179.

Introduction

“Let the long, tiresome petitions be left for the closet, if any have such to offer. Let the Spirit of God into your hearts, and it will sweep away all dry formality.” *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 71.

Sunday

PRAYING IN WORSHIP AND MINISTRY

- a. What attitude should characterize our public worship of God, and the way we address Him? Psalm 96:9.

Note: “Humility and reverence should characterize the deportment of all who come into the presence of God. In the name of Jesus we may come before Him with confidence, but we must not approach Him with the boldness of presumption, as though He were on a level with ourselves. There are those who address the great and all-powerful and holy God, who dwelleth in light unapproachable, as they would address an equal, or even an inferior.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 252.

- b. What position in public prayer properly reflects this attitude? Psalm 95:6; Acts 20:36; 21:5.

Note: “I have received letters questioning me in regard to the proper attitude to be taken by a person offering prayer to the Sovereign of the universe. Where have our brethren obtained the idea that they should stand upon their feet when praying to God? One who has been educated for about five years in Battle Creek was asked to lead in prayer before Sister White should speak to the people. But as I beheld him standing upright upon his feet while his lips were about to open in prayer to God, my soul was stirred within me to give him an open rebuke. Calling him by name, I said, ‘Get down upon your knees.’ This is the proper position always.” *Selected Messages*, Book 2, 311.

Monday

SHORT AND TO THE POINT

- a. What example did Jesus leave us of how we should pray in public? Matthew 6:9–13.

Note: “The Lord’s Prayer was not intended to be repeated merely as a form, but it is an illustration of what our prayers should be—simple, earnest, and comprehensive. In a simple petition tell the Lord your needs and express gratitude for His mercies.” *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 357.

“Christ impressed upon His disciples the idea that their prayers should be short, expressing just what they wanted, and no more. He gives the length and substance of their prayers, expressing their desires for temporal and spiritual blessings, and their gratitude for the same. How comprehensive this sample prayer! It covers the actual need of all. One or two minutes is long enough for any ordinary prayer.” *Ibid.*, vol. 2, 581.

- b. What principle of how we should speak can also apply to our public prayers? Proverbs 10:19. Why are some public prayers so long?

Note: “Long, prosy talks and prayers are out of place anywhere, and especially in the social meeting. Those who are forward and ever ready to speak are allowed to crowd out the testimony of the timid and retiring. Those who are most superficial generally

have the most to say. Their prayers are long and mechanical. They weary the angels and the people who listen to them. Our prayers should be short and right to the point. Let the long, tiresome petitions be left for the closet, if any have such to offer. Let the Spirit of God into your hearts, and it will sweep away all dry formality.” *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 70, 71.

“It is often because secret prayer is neglected that long, tedious prayers are offered in public. Let not ministers go over in their petitions a week of neglected duties, hoping to atone for their neglect and to pacify conscience. Such prayers frequently result in bringing others down to a low level of spirituality.”

Gospel Workers, 176.

“Prosy, sermonizing prayers are uncalled for and out of place in public. A short prayer, offered in fervor and faith, will soften the hearts of the hearers; but during long prayers they wait impatiently, as if wishing that every word might end it.” *Ibid.*, 179.

Tuesday

PRAYING WITH HUMILITY

- a. What attitude should we avoid in prayer? Matthew 6:5, 7, 8.

Note: “Many offer prayer in a dry, sermonizing manner. These pray to men, not to God. If they were praying to God, and really understood what they were doing, they would be alarmed at their audacity; for they deliver a discourse to the Lord in the mode of prayer, as though the Creator of the universe needed special information upon general questions in relation to things transpiring in the world. All such prayers are as sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal. They are made no account of in heaven. Angels of God are wearied with them, as well as mortals who are compelled to listen to them.” *Testimonies*, vol. 2, 581, 582.

“When you pray, be brief, come right to the point. Do not preach the Lord a sermon in your long prayers. Ask for the bread of life as a hungry child asks bread of his earthly father. God will bestow upon us every needed blessing if we ask Him in simplicity and faith.” *Ibid.*, vol. 5, 201.

- b. What is of value in God’s sight? 1 Peter 3:4; James 4:6. How then should we pray?

Note: “Prayer is the most holy exercise of the soul. It should be sincere, humble, earnest—the desires of a renewed heart breathed in the presence of a holy God. When the suppliant feels that he is in the divine presence, self will be forgotten. He will have no desire to display human talent; he will not seek to please the ear of men, but to obtain the blessing which the soul craves.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 201.

- c. When will God not hear a prayer being offered? Psalm 66:18.

Note: “If we regard iniquity in our hearts, if we cling to any known sin, the Lord will not hear us; but the prayer of the penitent, contrite soul is always accepted. When all known wrongs are righted, we may believe that God will answer our petitions. Our own merit will never commend us to the favor of God; it is the worthiness of Jesus that will save us, His blood that will cleanse us; yet we have a work to do in complying with the conditions of acceptance.” *Steps to Christ*, 95.

Wednesday

GOD’S LEADERS PRAY

- a. What example of public prayer did King Solomon give us at the dedication of the temple? 2 Chronicles 6:12, 13.

Note: “At the dedication of the Temple, Solomon stood facing the altar. In the court of the Temple was a brazen scaffold or platform, and after ascending this, he stood and lifted up his hands to heaven, and blessed the immense congregation of Israel, and all the congregation of Israel stood. ...

“‘For Solomon had made a brazen scaffold ... and had set it in the midst of the court: and upon it he stood, and kneeled down upon his knees before all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven’ (2 Chronicles 6:13).” *Selected Messages*, Book 2, 312, 313.

- b. What can we learn from this prayer? 2 Chronicles 6:14–42.

Note: “The lengthy prayer which he [Solomon] then offered was appropriate for the occasion. It was inspired of God, breathing the sentiments of the loftiest piety blended with the deepest humility.” *Selected Messages*, Book 2, 313.

- c. How did God answer the humble, public prayer of Jehoshaphat for deliverance (2 Chronicles 20:5–12), and what was Jehoshaphat’s response? Verses 14–19.

Note: “Standing in the temple court before his people, Jehoshaphat poured out his soul in prayer, pleading God’s promises, with confession of Israel’s helplessness.

“With confidence Jehoshaphat could say to the Lord, ‘Our eyes are upon thee’ (2 Chronicles 20:12, *last part*). For years he had taught the people to trust in the One who in past ages had so often interposed to save His chosen ones from utter destruction; and now, when the kingdom was in peril, Jehoshaphat did not stand alone; ‘all Judah stood before the Lord, with their little ones, their wives, and their children’ (verse 13). Unitedly they fasted and prayed; unitedly they besought the Lord to put their enemies to confusion, that the name of Jehovah might be glorified.” *Prophets and Kings*, 199, 200.

Thursday

JESUS’ EXAMPLE IN PUBLIC PRAYER

- a. What was Jesus’ purpose in one of the few public prayers of His on record? John 11:41–43.



Note: “Lifting up His eyes, the Saviour prayed:— ‘Father, I thank Thee that Thou hast heard Me. And I knew that Thou hearest Me always; but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that Thou hast sent Me’ (John 11:41, *last part*, 42). The hush that followed this prayer was broken by Jesus crying out with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come forth’ (verse 43, *last part*).” *The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 2, 365.

- b. What was the result of this prayer of faith? John 11:44.

Note: “This crowning miracle of Christ caused many to believe on Him. But some who were in the crowd about the grave, and heard and saw the wonderful works performed by Jesus, were not converted, but steeled their hearts against the evidence of their own eyes and ears. This demonstration of the power of Christ was the crowning manifestation offered by God to man as a proof that he had sent his Son into the world for the salvation of the human race. If the Pharisees rejected this mighty evidence, no power in Heaven nor upon earth could wrest from them their Satanic unbelief.” *The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 2, 366.

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What should our posture be when praying publicly? How does this affect our voice in prayer?
- 2 What can we learn from the prayer Jesus taught His disciples?
- 3 How might our prayers end up as a sounding brass and as a tinkling cymbal?
- 4 Why was Jehoshaphat’s prayer answered in such a wonderful way?
- 5 What was the purpose in Jesus’ short public prayer in front of Lazarus’ grave?

November 17 – 23, 2019

Praying for Others

Key Text

“Pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James 5:16).

Study Help: *Prophets and Kings*, 119–137, 155–158.

Introduction

“Begin to pray for souls, come near to Christ, close to His bleeding side. Let a meek and quiet spirit adorn your lives, and let your earnest, broken, humble petitions ascend to Him for wisdom that you may have success in saving not only your own soul, but the souls of others.” *Messages to Young People*, 207.

Sunday

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO HURT YOU

a. How much did Job suffer? Job 1:13–22; 2:7–10.

b. When did Job’s suffering end? Job 42:7–10.

Note: “The Lord turned the captivity of Job when he prayed, not only for himself, but for those who were opposing him. When he felt earnestly desirous that the souls that had trespassed against him might be helped, he himself received help. Let us pray, not only for ourselves, but for those who have hurt us, and are continuing to hurt us. Pray, pray, especially in your mind. Give not the Lord rest; for His ears are open to hear sincere, importunate prayers, when the soul is humbled before Him.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 3, 1141.

c. How was Job rewarded for thinking of others in spite of his own intense suffering? Job 42:11–13.

Monday

PRAYING FOR AN ENTIRE CITY

a. After delivering the town of Sodom, along with his nephew Lot, what was Abraham’s reaction to the Lord’s plans to destroy Sodom? Genesis 18:20–25.

Note: “God conferred great honor upon Abraham. Angels of heaven walked and talked with him as friend with friend. When judgments were about to be visited upon Sodom, the fact was not hidden from him, and he became an intercessor with God for sinners. ...

“‘The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him’ (Psalm 25:14). Abraham had honored God, and the Lord honored him, taking him into His counsels, and revealing to him His purposes.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 138, 139.

b. How did Abraham plead with God for Sodom, acknowledging his ignorance of the true condition of the city? Genesis 18:26–33.

Note: “Though Lot had become a dweller in Sodom, he did not partake in the iniquity of its inhabitants. Abraham thought that in that populous city there must be other worshipers of the true God. ... Abraham asked not once merely, but many times. Waxing bolder as his requests were granted, he continued until he gained the assurance that if even ten righteous persons could be found in it, the city would be spared.

“Love for perishing souls inspired Abraham’s prayer. While he loathed the sins of that corrupt city, he desired that the sinners might be saved. His deep interest for Sodom shows the anxiety that we should feel for the impenitent. We should cherish hatred of sin, but pity and love for the sinner. All around us are souls going down to ruin as hopeless, as terrible, as that which befell Sodom. ... Where are those who with humility and persevering faith are pleading with God for him?” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 139, 140.

- c. Ultimately, how many was God able to save out of Sodom? Genesis 19:30.

Tuesday

PRAYING FOR THE IMPENITENT

- a. What was promised to Israel, as a discipline, if they disobeyed God continually? Deuteronomy 28:15, 16, 23, 24.

- b. Based upon this promise, what was Elijah's prayer for Israel during a period of blatant disobedience toward God? James 5:17.

Note: "In anguish of soul he [Elijah] besought God to arrest the once-favored people in their wicked course, to visit them with judgments, if need be, that they might be led to see in its true light their departure from Heaven. He longed to see them brought to repentance before they should go to such lengths in evil-doing as to provoke the Lord to destroy them utterly.

"Elijah's prayer was answered. Oft-repeated appeals, remonstrances, and warnings had failed to bring Israel to repentance. The time had come when God must speak to them by means of judgments. Inasmuch as the worshipers of Baal claimed that the treasures of heaven, the dew and the rain, came not from Jehovah, but from the ruling forces of nature, and that it was through the creative energy of the sun that the earth was enriched and made to bring forth abundantly, the curse of God was to rest heavily upon the polluted land. ... Until they [Israel] should turn to God with repentance, and acknowledge Him as the source of all blessing, there should fall upon the land neither dew nor rain." *Prophets and Kings*, 120.



Pray
one for
another.

- c. Once Israel acknowledged God as supreme, what was Elijah's prayer, and what was the result? James 5:18; 1 Kings 18:42–45.

Note: "When upon Mount Carmel he [Elijah] offered the prayer for rain (1 Kings 18:41–45), his faith was tested, but he persevered in making known his request unto God. ... God does not always answer our prayers the first time we call upon Him; for should He do this, we might take it for granted that we had a right to all the blessings and favors He bestowed upon us. Instead of searching our hearts to see if any evil was entertained by us, any sin indulged, we should become careless, and fail to recognize our dependence upon Him, and our need of His help." *God's Amazing Grace*, 88.

Wednesday

PRAYING FOR THOSE IN DIRE CIRCUMSTANCES

- a. What happened to Peter, and how did the church respond? Acts 12:1–5.

Note: “There was great grief and consternation at the death of James. When Peter was also imprisoned, the entire church engaged in fasting and prayer. ...

“While the execution of Peter was being delayed, upon various pretexts, until after the passover, the church of Christ had time for deep searching of heart, and earnest prayer. Strong petitions, tears, and fasting were mingled together. They prayed without ceasing for Peter; they felt that he could not be spared from the Christian work; and they felt that they had arrived at a point, where, without the special help of God, the church of Christ would become extinct.” *The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 3, 335, 336.

- b. How did God answer the prayers of His faithful people? Acts 12:6–12.

- c. What are some promises that assure us that God will be with us in difficult times? Psalms 28:7; 91:14, 15.

Note: “Often prayer is solicited for the afflicted, the sorrowful, the discouraged; and this is right. We should pray that God will shed light into the darkened mind and comfort the sorrowful heart. But God answers prayer for those who place themselves in the channel of His blessings. While we offer prayer for these sorrowful ones, we should encourage them to try to help those more needy than themselves. The darkness will be dispelled from their own hearts as they try to help others. As we seek to comfort others with the comfort wherewith we are comforted, the blessing comes back to us.” *The Ministry of Healing*, 256.

“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.” *Steps to Christ*, 125.

Thursday

GOD REMEMBERS WHEN OTHERS FAIL TO PRAY

- a. What happened to Paul while he was being protected by the Romans as they investigated his case? Acts 23:12–15.

- b. How did God intervene to save Paul? Acts 23:16–22.

Note: “When Peter had been made a prisoner and condemned to death, the brethren had offered earnest prayer to God day and night for his deliverance. But no such interest was manifested in behalf of him [Paul] who was looked upon as an apostate from Moses, a teacher of dangerous doctrines. It was not to the elders whose counsel had brought him into this dangerous position, but to the watchful sympathy of a relative, that Paul owed his escape from a violent death.” *Sketches from the Life of Paul*, 226.

- c. How do we know that God will remember His faithful children today? Hebrews 13:5, *last part*; Psalm 37:28.

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What happened to Job when he prayed for those who were opposing him? What can we learn from this?
- 2 What inspired Abraham to pray for Sodom? How can we cherish this same spirit today?
- 3 Why did Elijah pray for God to visit His people with judgments?
- 4 What type of prayer was offered for Peter, and what was the result?
- 5 How did God remember Paul when he was forsaken by his brethren?

November 24 – 30, 2019

Limitations of Prayer

Key Text

“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).

Study Help: *The Desire of Ages*, 524–536.

Introduction

“They that are abiding in Jesus have the assurance that God will hear them, because they love to do His will. They offer no formal, wordy prayer, but come to God in earnest, humble confidence as a child to a tender father, and pour out the story of their grief and fears and sins, and in the name of Jesus present their wants; they depart from His presence rejoicing in the assurance of pardoning love and sustaining grace.” *Our High Calling*, 147.

Sunday

GOD WORKS THROUGH DELAY

- a. What request did Mary and Martha bring to Jesus? John 11:1, 3. What faith was this expression meant to convey?

Note: “When Lazarus became sick, they [Mary and Martha] sent Jesus the word, ‘Lord, behold, he whom Thou lovest is sick’ (John 11:3). There was no further word, no urgent message for Him to come. They fully expected that their beloved Friend would at once come and heal their brother.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 21, 109.

- b. Did Jesus answer the sisters’ prayer? John 11:6. What was the result of Jesus’ delay? Verses 11–14.

Note: “As soon as the messenger had gone, they [Mary and Martha] saw a decided change for the worse in the sick man. His fever rapidly increased, and soon they realized that in the fight between life and death, death had triumphed. With hearts full of anguish, they saw their brother die.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 21, 109.

Monday

GOD’S PURPOSE IN MAKING US WAIT

- a. Why did Jesus allow Lazarus to die? John 11:4, 15. What honor came to Lazarus as a result of Jesus’ delay in coming to see him? Verses 38–44.

Note: “For their [the disciples’] sake He permitted Lazarus to die. Had He restored him from illness to health, the miracle that is the most positive evidence of His divine character, would not have been performed.” *The Desire of Ages*, 528.

- b. What can we learn from the experience of Jesus with Lazarus? Psalm 37:5, 7, *first part*.

Note: “Nothing wounds the soul like the sharp darts of unbelief. When trial comes, as it will, do not worry or complain. Silence in the soul makes more distinct the voice of God. ‘Then are they glad because they be quiet’ (Psalm 107:30). Remember that underneath you are the everlasting arms. ‘Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him’ (Psalm 37:7). He is guiding you into a harbor of gracious experience.” *In Heavenly Places*, 269.

- c. Why does God sometimes delay answering our prayers? Hebrews 10:35, 36; Job 23:10.

Note: “We are sometimes tempted to think that the promise, ‘Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you’ (Mathew 7:7) is not fulfilled unless the answer comes immediately when the request is made. It is our privilege to ask for special blessings, and to believe that they will be given us. But if the blessings asked for are not immediately granted, we are not to think that our prayers are not heard. We shall receive, even if the answer is delayed for a time. In carrying out the plan of redemption, Christ sees enough in humanity to discourage Him. But He does not become discouraged. In mercy and love He continues to offer us opportunities and privileges. So we are to rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him. The answer to our prayers may not come as quickly as we desire, and it may not be just what we have asked; but He who knows what is for the highest good of His children will bestow a much greater good than we have asked, if we do not become faithless and discouraged.” *The Youth’s Instructor*, April 6, 1899.

Tuesday

REFUSING TO PRAY FOR A WAY OUT

- a. As Jesus was to become a sacrifice for our sins, how did His human nature respond to the conflict before Him? Matthew 26:39; Luke 22:42.

Note: “A mysterious cloud seemed to enshroud the Son of God. Its gloom was felt by those near Him. He sat rapt in thought. At last the silence was broken by His mournful voice, ‘Now is My soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save Me from this hour’ (John 12:27)? In anticipation Christ was already drinking the cup of bitterness. His humanity shrank from the hour of abandonment, when to all appearance He would be deserted even by God, when all would see Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. He shrank from public exposure, from being treated as the worst of criminals, from a shameful and dishonored death. A foreboding of His conflict with the powers of darkness, a sense of the awful burden of human transgression, and the Father’s wrath because of sin caused the spirit of Jesus to faint, and the pallor of death to overspread His countenance.” *The Desire of Ages*, 624.

- b. Even though His human nature shrank from the conflict before Him, how did Jesus express submission to His Father? Matthew 26:42; John 12:27.

Note: “In the supreme crisis, when heart and soul are breaking under the load of sin, Gabriel is sent to strengthen the divine sufferer, and brace Him to tread His bloodstained path. And while the angel supports His fainting form, Christ takes the bitter cup, and consents to drink its contents.” “Ellen G. White Comments,” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, 1123.

- c. What did Jesus refuse to pray for, thus revealing His full submission to His Father’s will? Matthew 26:52–54.

Note: “Jesus bid him [Peter] put up the sword, and said unto him, Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He shall presently give Me more than twelve legions of angels? ... Jesus added, But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be? The hearts of the disciples sunk again in despair and bitter disappointment, as Jesus suffered them to lead Him away.” *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 1, 48.

Wednesday

THE DIFFICULTY OF HELPING THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS

- a. How did Jeremiah rebuke the people of his day, and how did Jesus apply these words to those around Him? Jeremiah 7:3, 4; Matthew 21:13.

Note: “The priests and rulers had hardened their hearts through selfishness and avarice. The very symbols pointing to the Lamb of God they had made a means of getting gain. Thus in the eyes of the people the sacredness of the sacrificial service had been in a great measure destroyed. The indignation of Jesus was stirred; He knew that His blood, so soon to be shed for the sins of the world, would be as little appreciated by the priests and elders as was the blood of beasts which they kept incessantly flowing.” *The Desire of Ages*, 590.

b. How does this same condition exist today? Revelation 3:14–20.

Note: “God is true to His covenant with His people. His word is infallible. His people bring suffering on themselves by forsaking His counsel for their own human wisdom. It is impossible for their prayers to reach His throne, because the rebellion of disobedience is the substance of their petitions. Christ came from heaven to teach the word which His Father committed to Him for the fallen members of His family. Those who hear and obey walk in safe paths. ... Through the power of Christ they are victorious over every foe.” *The Review and Herald*, April 8, 1902.

c. What harsh instruction was given to Jeremiah about praying for people who cover sin by pretended holiness? Jeremiah 7:16. What only can we pray for those in this condition? Acts 26:18.

Note: “God will use the members of His church as His helping hand, if they will place themselves where they can be used. But He does not communicate through impure channels; for this would dishonor His holy name.” *The Review and Herald*, April 8, 1902.

“The line of demarkation [sic] between the church and the world has been well nigh obliterated; and unless there is reformation, unless the eyes of those who have been blinded by the enemy are opened, they will be lost.” *The Signs of the Times*, July 25, 1892.

Thursday

PRAYING ACCORDING TO GOD’S WILL

a. What limitations are placed on all prayer? 1 John 5:14.

Note: “To pray in Christ’s name means much. It means that we are to accept His character, manifest His spirit, and work His works. The Saviour’s promise is given on condition. ‘If ye love Me,’ He says, ‘keep My commandments’ (John 14:15). He saves men, not in sin, but from sin; and those who love Him will show their love by obedience.

“All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. And if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses. The will, refined and sanctified, will find its highest delight in doing His service. When we know God as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience.” *The Desire of Ages*, 668.

“In the prayer of faith there is a divine science; it is a science that everyone who would make his lifework a success must understand. Christ says, ‘What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them’ (Mark 11:24). He makes it plain that our asking must be according to God’s will; we must ask for the things that He has promised, and whatever we receive must be used in doing His will. The conditions met, the promise is unequivocal.” *Education*, 257, 258.

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

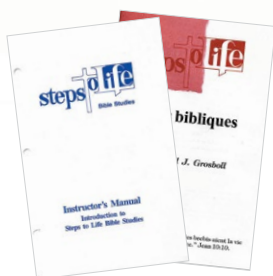
- 1 What happened as Jesus was delayed in coming to see Lazarus when he was sick? How did his sisters react?
- 2 What should we do if our prayers are not answered in the way and in the time we expect? Why does this happen?
- 3 Describe Jesus’ suffering before dying on the cross. What attitude did He have?
- 4 Why is God unable to help the self-righteous?
- 5 When will God give us the things we pray for?

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Hawaiian Treasure

Incorporating macadamia nuts into a heart healthy diet can reduce cardiovascular disease risks according to Penn State researchers.

"We looked at macadamia nuts because they are not currently included in the health claim for tree nuts, while other tree nuts are recommended as part of a healthy diet," says Dr. Amy E. Griel, recent Ph.D. recipient in nutritional sciences. "Macadamia nuts have higher levels of monounsaturated fats, like those found in olive oil, compared with other tree nuts."

The researchers used a controlled feeding study to compare a heart-

healthy diet with 1.5 ounces – a small handful of macadamia nuts – to a standard American diet. The participants had slightly elevated cholesterol levels, normal blood pressure and were not taking lipid lowering drugs. Researchers randomly assigned participants to either the macadamia nut diet or the standard American diet, providing all meals for the participants for five weeks. The participants then switched diets and continued eating only food provided by the researchers for another five weeks.

The Healthy Heart diet with macadamia nuts did reduce total cholesterol, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol and

triglyceride levels compared with the standard American diet. "We observed a reduction in LDL similar to that seen with other tree nuts like walnuts and almonds," says Griel.

Individual calorie levels were used for each participant so that they did not gain or lose weight during the study. Both diets were matched for total fat, containing 33 percent calories from total fat. ...

The macadamia nut diet included macadamia nuts as a snack, mixed into meals, as a salad topping and in cookies and muffins. ...

www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/04/070430125512.htm **LM**

Fruit

Vegetables

Legumes

Nuts/Seeds

Grains



RAW MACADAMIA CHEESECAKE

Ingredients

2 cups macadamia nuts, soaked 4 hours
1½ cups cashews, soaked 4 hours
½ cup pitted medjool dates
¼ cup dried, shredded coconut
6 Tbsp. coconut oil, melted
¼ cup lime juice
¼ cup raw agave nectar, maple syrup or sweetener of choice
dash salt
1 vanilla bean or 2 tsp. vanilla extract
3 cups mixed berries, e. g., blueberries, raspberries, blackberries

Process

- Place macadamia nuts in large bowl; cover with cold water. Place cashews in separate bowl; cover with cold water. After 4 hours rinse and drain soaked nuts; set aside.
- Pulse macadamia nuts and dates in food processor to a sticky crumb-like consistency. Sprinkle coconut on bottom of 8-inch pie pan. Press nut/date mixture onto coconut to make crust.
- Place cashews, coconut oil, lime juice, agave nectar, salt and 6 Tbsp. water in bowl of food processor. Scrape seeds from vanilla bean into food processor bowl and puree until fluffy smooth. Pour mixture onto crust; freeze 2 hours, or until firm. Remove from freezer. Slice and transfer to serving platter. Defrost in refrigerator 1 hour, or on countertop 30 minutes.
- Top with berries and serve.





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