

HISTORIC
LANDMARKS

OF ADVENTISM

*Endowment of the Holy
Spirit*

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*This World Is Not
My Home*

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From the Editor

John J. Grosboll

The Future of Our Great Cities

What has happened in the past is soon to happen again in the future. What happened to Sodom in Abraham's day, what happened to Jerusalem in Jeremiah's day is going to happen again in the cities of our world.

LOT

"Then the men said unto Lot, 'Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city—take them out of this place! For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it.' So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, 'Get up, get out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city!' But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking" (Genesis 19:12–14).

JEREMIAH

"The word of the LORD also came to me, saying, 'You shall not take a wife, nor shall you have sons or daughters in this place.' For thus says the LORD concerning the sons and the daughters who are born in this place, and concerning their mothers who bore them and their fathers

who begot them in this land: 'They shall die gruesome deaths; they shall not be lamented nor shall they be buried, but they shall be like refuse on the face of the earth. They shall be consumed by the sword and by famine, and their corpses shall be meat for the birds of heaven and for the beasts of the earth.' For thus says the LORD: 'Do not enter the house of mourning, nor go to lament or bemoan them; for I have taken away My peace from this people,' says the LORD, 'loving-kindness and mercies'" (Jeremiah 16:1–5).

TODAY

"When God's restraining hand is removed, the destroyer begins his work. Then in our cities the greatest calamities will come." *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 3, 314.

"The end is near, and every city is to be turned upside down every way. There will be confusion in every city. Everything that can be shaken is to be shaken, and we do not know what will come next. The judgments will be according to the wickedness of the people and the light of truth that they have had." *Ibid.*, vol. 1, 248, 249.

"O that God's people had a sense of the impending destruction of thousands of cities, now almost given to idolatry." *Evangelism*, 29. [LM](#)

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OF ADVENTISM

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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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Endowment of the Holy Spirit

By John J. Grosboll

“Christ, the Great Teacher, had an infinite variety of subjects from which to choose, but the one upon which He dwelt *most largely* was the endowment of the Holy Spirit.” *Selected Messages*, Book 1, 156. [Emphasis supplied.] While we cannot prove it, it seems from this sentence that the endowment of the Holy Spirit was Christ’s favorite subject, and we know that He dwelt on the subject more than any other. Continuing in *Selected Messages*, Ellen White says, “What great things He predicted for the church because of this endowment.” Ibid.



When the Holy Spirit is given to the church which then exhibits the characteristics of the Holy Spirit, wonderful things will happen in the church. At a personal level, every person who receives the Holy Spirit will be saved. No exceptions. But without the Holy Spirit, the church will not experience the wonderful things that come with the presence of the Holy Spirit and not one person will be saved.

Consider these questions: Do Seventh-day Adventists have the truth? Yes, it's just a fact; we do. So, if I know the truth, will I be in heaven? Is the truth all I need? The devil knows the truth. Will he be in heaven? No. Why? The devil doesn't have the Holy Spirit. He is possessed of a different spirit. So, if just having the truth isn't enough, what is it that will make it possible to be in heaven? The apostle Paul talks about this in 1 Corinthians 9:24–27. He said, "I keep my body under subjection, lest, having preached to others, I myself might be rejected" (verse 27, literal translation). If the apostle Paul could be rejected, unsaved, could it happen to us? Yes, because one must have the Holy Spirit to be in the kingdom of heaven.

For as long as I can remember, there has been a tremendous amount of theological debate and controversy within Adventism regarding who is saved and how, and who is not and why. Some say you cannot be saved unless you profess faith in Christ; others state that there will be heathens who never knew the name of Christ who will be in heaven and they support it from *The Desire of Ages*. But there will be millions of people who profess faith in Christ, who talk the talk, but who have not received the Holy Spirit and they will go down into the lake of fire. And there will be people who have never heard the name of Christ who will be saved, because they will accept the leading of the Holy Spirit as He reveals the truth to them in other ways.



Many appear to be good people, but these "good people" know that on the inside they are not righteous.

A Seventh-day Adventist physician went to a heathen country as a missionary with his family. Before he had an opportunity to unpack, he was called to an emergency medical situation. He hired a heathen man, explaining that he had to be away for an emergency and his wife would be left with the unpacking. He wanted the man to help her unpack, so he made all the arrangements with the man, paid him and set off. It was after nightfall before the missionary returned home. When he arrived home, the man was standing outside the gate waiting for him. He said, "I was not able to help your wife unpack; she did not want my help, so here is your money back."

The physician was astonished; he could not comprehend a heathen man not just taking the money. So he asked him, "How can this be?" The heathen man said, "I studied, I looked at the sun, I looked at nature, I realized there was a Great Spirit that made this and so I gave my life to the Great Spirit. And the Great Spirit came into my heart, into my mind, and made me all white and clean inside." He said, "I don't chew betel nut like other men do; I don't sleep around with women like other men do, and I don't lie and I don't steal." He didn't know who Jesus was by name, but he received the Holy Spirit.

Jesus tells us in Matthew 25:31–46 that He will separate everyone into two groups—sheep and goats. The sheep are the people who have received the Holy Spirit. The goats are the people who have not received the Holy Spirit. It's just that simple. One group will have eternal life, the other group will have eternal death.

I am not condemning anyone; I want to tell you the best news ever. Now is the time, right now, that you can receive the Holy Spirit. It does not matter what you have done, what your past has been; all that matters is have you, will you, receive the Holy Spirit? The offer of eternal life is the gospel message to be given to everyone, even to the most sinful people in the world. Let's look at some examples from the Bible.

"There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, 'Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs [miracles] that You do unless God is with him.' Jesus answered and said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God'" (John 3:1–3). As a leader of God's chosen people, Jesus told Nicodemus that he would have to be converted or he would not be in heaven.

Nicodemus did not like hearing that. He was a member of the Sanhedrin, a Pharisee, a ruler of the Jews. And Jesus tells him he won't be going to heaven unless he's born again. Nicodemus' response was, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" (verse 4)? Nicodemus was irritated. He probably wondered if Jesus knew who

he was. The problem for Nicodemus was he knew what was written in the Torah and he believed his life was in harmony with the law, but at that moment, he had not received the Holy Spirit and until he did, he could not understand what Jesus was trying to tell him.

Luke 18:10, 11 KJV tells us, "Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican [tax collector]. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank Thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.'" Among the Jews, if you were a tax collector, you were considered the lowest of the low because you were cooperating with the Romans. (The Romans were not a righteous people. A secular historian described Rome as, "the sewer of the nations.") If a woman was a prostitute, they felt that she was the lowest of the low. So when Jesus said, "The prostitutes and the tax collectors are going to go into the kingdom of heaven before you" (Matthew 21:31), the Jewish leaders were ready to kill Him.

Were prostitutes sinners? Were tax collectors sinners? Yes. Is God going to take any sinners into the kingdom of heaven? No. Then how could Jesus say that the prostitutes and the tax collectors would be in the kingdom of heaven before the religious leaders? Matthew 21:31, 32, *first part*, explains: "Jesus said to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him.'" When John the Baptist came and

showed them their sins, the tax collectors and the harlots repented. They realized they were sinners, but they didn't want to be that way anymore. They wanted to be changed, but were helpless to help themselves. They knew they were in bondage and wanted to be free.

So Jesus said, "I've come to set at liberty the people that are in bondage" (Galatians 5:1). This irritated the Jews, especially the Pharisees. They said to Jesus, "We are Abraham's descendants [seed], and we have never been in bondage to anyone" (John 8:33). They were, when they made this statement, in bondage to the Romans, so that was not true. But Jesus pointed out to them that He wasn't talking about physical bondage. In verse 32 He said, "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Notice that the Jews said they were already free and didn't need to be made free. Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin" (verse 34). Sin brings a person into bondage; a bondage from which they cannot free themselves.

There are millions of people in the world that have decided that they will be good people, but they found out that they can't be good people. From the outside, many appear to be good people, but these "good people" know that on the inside they are not righteous. The Bible says in Jeremiah 17:9, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?"

The fact is that no human being can know their own heart. The Bible says, "Who can know it?" and the answer is, nobody. Moses was one of the wisest men that ever lived and he said to the Lord, "Please don't let me know my own wretchedness" (Numbers 11:15). You and I do not know what evil we are capable of doing. If you do not receive the Holy Spirit, you cannot know where the devil might lead you. The heart is deceitful above all things. The Hebrew word translated *desperately wicked* is *something that is incurable*. You cannot make it better. It is impossible. That is why Jesus says we must be born again. The Holy Spirit has to create a new heart in you because the one you have

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Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 3:3

is no good. Paul said that the old man has to die (Romans 6). And you must be born again.

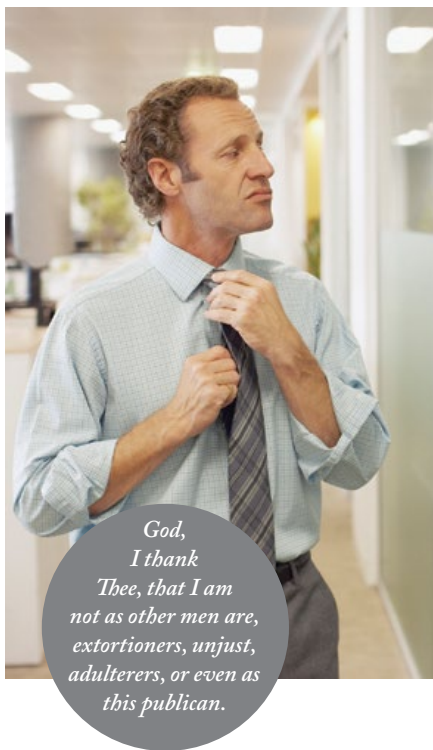
Paul wrote to the Christians that in the flesh you are dead, but in the Spirit you are alive (see Romans, Colossians, Galatians). He used this language because man's natural way of thinking and feeling has to die and he must receive from the Holy Spirit a new mind, a new heart, a new spirit. If that doesn't happen, a man will be lost.

In the parable of the Pharisee and the Publican, "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess'" (Luke 18:11, 12). This prayer was a speech to God of all the good things that he did daily.

However, the tax collector knew that he was wicked. "The tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted" (verses 13, 14). Do you want to be saved? The Lord can save you. Here is how:

First, we have to recognize our sinful condition and that we need to be saved from our sins. God does not save people in sin; He saves people from sin (Matthew 1:21). The Bible exposes "the lie" that is still believed by the majority of the Christian world today, the idea that a person can continue to sin and everything will be fine as long as he confesses those sins. That is not Bible religion, but the lie of the antichrist. As long as a person is living in sin, they are not born of the Holy Spirit. Once born of the Holy Spirit, a man will repent and turn away from sinning.

Zacchaeus was a tax collector and a very rich man. But when he heard John



the Baptist preach, he repented and told Jesus, "Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold" (Luke 19:8). As soon as the Holy Spirit comes into a person's life, he stops sinning. A man is changed inside and doesn't live the way he used to live. Everything is changed and sin becomes a thing of the past.

Around 1907, a group of Adventists planned a six-month series of evangelistic meetings. They rented a big auditorium and on the first night the people came and the evangelist began his sermon. He covered how to become a Christian, how to be born again and how to be converted. But he didn't stop there. He also covered the state of the dead, the Sabbath, the Mark of the Beast; in fact, he covered everything in one night. At the close of the meeting, he made a call for people to make a decision that night and a whole group of people came forward. His workers questioned him as to why he had preached everything in one sermon, but he didn't know why; he had been impressed to do

it. A terrible earthquake occurred later that night and some of the people who had come forward died in the earthquake; but they had been saved that night from their sins.

I read a book written by a lady involved in the New Age Movement. She didn't know the Lord, knew nothing of the Bible or Christianity. She had met a man and they were living together. An acquaintance persuaded them to come to a Christian meeting. The speaker was an evangelist.

The couple decided to attend the meeting. It wasn't a Seventh-day Adventist meeting, but this evangelist understood about a one-night evangelistic series. This was like Jesus' discussion with Nicodemus and Paul's talk with Felix. The couple decided to become Christians that night when the altar call was made. The evangelist hadn't had the time to explain to them everything about the Christian religion, but he explained how they could give their lives to Jesus and choose to follow Him. He told them that Jesus loved them so much that he died on the cross for them, that He would forgive their sins and that they could have eternal life.

Everyone who came forward on the altar call received a Bible. This lady had never read the Bible. Later that night before she went to sleep, she decided to read a little bit in this new book. She opened the Bible to one of the Gospels where Jesus was talking about the sin of adultery. She slammed the book shut and thought, "I can't read this book!" A few days later her curiosity got the better of her and she opened the Bible again at random. There it was again, talking about the sin of adultery and fornication. Once again, she slammed it shut. Every few days she would wonder what else was in the Bible, but anywhere she opened to, it condemned her.

The man she was living with was having his own experiences, but they each were reacting quite differently to their individual experiences. One day

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You and I do not know what evil we are capable of doing. If you do not receive the Holy Spirit, you cannot know where the devil might lead you.”

they talked and she told the man that her conscience was bothering her day and night and that she couldn't continue with their relationship as it was. The man asked what she thought they should do. Her conclusion was that they either would have to marry or split up and after some consideration, it was decided that they would split up. She wrote in her book that was a turning point in her life.

In John 3:4 after Nicodemus asked Jesus, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?” Jesus said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God” (verse 5). You are born of water when you are baptized.

1 Corinthians 12:13 tells us, “For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.” Notice, Paul says, “By one Spirit [that is, the Holy Spirit] we have all been baptized into one body.” Baptism by water is a symbol of being baptized by the Holy Spirit. If you are baptized by the Holy Spirit, you will be in the kingdom of heaven.

Paul in Acts 19 and Peter in Acts 2 both speak about the baptism of the Holy Spirit. In Acts 19:2–7, we find the account of the two men who had been baptized “into John's baptism,” but had never heard of the Holy Spirit. He told them that “John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus” (verse 4). When the men heard this, they were baptized in the name of Jesus and when Paul “laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them” (verse 6).

In Acts 2:38, Peter was speaking to people guilty of crucifying Jesus Christ. They were pricked in their hearts and didn't know what to do. Peter said to them, “Repent [that is, sorrow enough for your sins to quit] and let

every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Without the Holy Spirit, you are lost, and you will remain lost until you do receive the Holy Spirit. Jesus called this the new birth. When the Holy Spirit comes into a person's life, that person will be born again and the spiritual image of Jesus Christ will be formed within. But before the birth can take place Paul says, “My little children, for whom I labor in birth again [labor pains] until Christ is formed in you” (Galatians 4:19). I labor with people that have been involved in every kind of sin that you can imagine. I preach the gospel to them because the gospel can save them, if they are willing to receive the Holy Spirit.

Are you tired of the person you have become on the inside? Do you want to be changed? Have you realized that you are helpless and hopeless in your present state? Are you willing to be born again? If you will receive the Holy Spirit in your life, you will be changed.

You cannot change yourself, but it doesn't matter how dark your past is or what you've done. All you need to do is turn to Jesus, surrender your life to Him and say, “Lord, I want to have a new heart, a new mind. I want to be born again. I want to receive the Holy Spirit.” There is no other way. If you choose to surrender your life to Christ, He will hear and a miraculous work will be done in your life.

Dear Lord, send Your Holy Spirit to each of us. Show us the things that must be changed in our lives. Help us to surrender all of ourselves to You. Give us new hearts and minds and restore in us Your image.

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

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The Law of the Harvest

By Ralph Larson

The flood had done its work and the earth had been devastated. The ark had rested upon the mountain and Noah and his family stepped out to see the devastated wilderness before them wondering what lay ahead. The Lord spoke to them in Genesis 8:21 and 22 NKJV saying, “The LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the LORD said in His heart, ‘I will never again curse the ground for man’s sake, although the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing, as I have done. While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease.’”

“

The same laws that govern earthly seed sowing govern the sowing of the seeds of truth.

The first principle of the law of the harvest is the principle of faith. Imagine how much faith it took for Noah to believe what God said. Every living thing, man and beast, had gone out of the ark, but there was still something very precious remaining in the ark: seed. What would they do with that seed? If they decided to eat it, they would survive for a while. If they planted it and it did not grow, the human race would come to its end right at that point. Would they believe God and bury that precious seed in the earth and believe that it would grow and provide food for the family, just as God said? Seed was the most precious thing in the ark. Have you considered that no seed is sown in knowledge, but rather in faith? Today, the most precious thing in all the storage houses and warehouses of America is still seed. Automobile factories could close and all of the lots be emptied of cars; steel mills and textile factories could close down. In fact, all industries could cease to produce, and we'd still get along. But if there is no seed, then mankind is finished. The most precious thing in all America today is seed; without it, there would be no food.

Remember, seed is sown in faith, not knowledge, so every time you plant a seed you are expressing your faith that seedtime and harvest will not cease. California grows one-third of all the fruit and one-fourth of all the vegetables that are eaten in the whole of America. The state also grows one-fourth of all the vegetables that are eaten in the 50 states. Ninety percent of the apricots, dates, figs, grapes, lemons, plums, dried prunes, walnuts, broccoli, avocados, nectarines, olives and almonds are grown in California.

What would happen to America if the farmers of California lost faith in sowing seed? What if they thought seed was too expensive, not worth the investment unless they know it was going to grow? The government would get itself together, all the way up to the president, who would call the

governor asking what is going on in California. The governor would tell the president that the farmers have lost faith in whether the seed will grow, so they won't plant until they know for sure. The president would insist that the governor find a way to get the farmers to plant the seed. But just how do you prove that a seed will grow? There is absolutely no way to prove it.

Every seed that has ever been planted, has been planted in faith that seedtime and harvest will not cease. Early pioneers carried seed in their wagons across the country so they could plant it when they reached their new home. One man, an apple producer from the East, wanted to move out West. He had developed some excellent apples, so he took a wagon, covered the whole bed with dirt and planted the apple seedlings in the dirt. He nurtured them all the way across the plains, finally settling close to Portland, Oregon, where he started the apple industry in the Northwest that still thrives there today.

The second principle is brought to view in Psalms 126:5, 6 NKJV: "Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy. He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." This is the principle of inconvenience. What this means is there is no easy way, no easy time, no easy place to sow a seed. If you're not willing to accept the inconvenience, there will be no harvest. Seed sowing is not easy. Ask anyone who was raised on a farm and they'll testify to that.

I remember well springtime on the farm. The tractor was used to work the fields, but the garden plot was too small for the tractor, so the soil had to be turned with a shovel or spade. Once the soil was turned, a rake was used to make it smooth, then you would use the hoe to make furrows in the ground. For tiny seeds the furrow would be shallow and once planted, the furrow would be closed by hand, with just a little dirt; otherwise, it would kill the seeds. The same process was followed for the larger seeds, but as you pull the hoe down the row, the furrows are deeper. Once these seeds are planted down the

row, the hoe is used to pull the dirt back over to cover the seeds.

To plant potatoes, the potato is cut into sections with at least one growing eye sprout on each section. The sections are loaded into a bucket or a bag and carried down the row. To dig the hole for the potato section, you used a spade pushing it deep into the soil and rocking it back and forth. A section of potato is dropped into the resulting hole, the spade removed, and the dirt packed down over the potato. This is repeated for every potato section planted.

All that digging and turning the soil and dragging the hoe back and forth from one end of the garden plot to the other begins to make you feel all twisted around and makes your muscles ache. And burying that spade deep into the soil and rocking it back and forth and packing it back down with your foot only adds to the ache.

Planting tomatoes is harder. Tomato plants are delicate and must be handled with great care. If you were planting a whole field of tomatoes, you could use a tractor or a team to create the furrow, but you would still have to handle the plants by hand. Once the furrow has been made, the tomato plant is placed carefully into the soil, gently gathering earth around it with your hands. You then move on placing one plant after another into the ground.

It doesn't take long to begin to feel that all this bending and standing is hard on the back and maybe a waste of time and energy, so you stay bent over until finally even that begins to cause an ache and you end up on your hands and knees crawling down each row until you just have to go to the rag box in the house and find rags to tie around your knees. Can you imagine the amount of crawling you can do working on a farm? Miles and miles on your hands and knees. There's just no easy way to sow a seed. If you do not accept the principle of inconvenience, you will never have a harvest.



The third principle of the law of the harvest is brought to view in 2 Corinthians 9:6 KJV – the principle of apparent waste. “But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.” He that soweth sparingly shall reap sparingly.

While teaching at Atlantic Union College, I decided to look for a small church not far from the college to do some seed sowing. I found one about 50 miles away in Haverhill, Massachusetts. It was a small church with seven elderly members. I took some students with me to the Haverhill Church to see if we could get something going. We gathered the members together and laid out our plan to do outreach in the community, maybe pass out some literature. But the members said they had tried to hand out literature about ten years before and it didn't work.

Let me ask you, how much success would a farmer have if he sowed seed once in ten years? All nature testifies with a resounding voice on this subject. If you could ask an oak how many acorns it drops in one year to make sure another oak tree grows, what do you suppose would be its response? That tree might say 10,000 every year. Friends,

“He that soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly, and he that soweth abundantly shall reap also abundantly.”

My wife had a rose bush in our front yard. I asked her how many roses she thought that bush typically produced. She said probably 100 three or four times a year. Let's do some calculating. The rose bush produces four or five hundred flowers each year and every flower becomes a seed pod with at least 30 or 40 seeds in it. How many seeds is this one rose bush producing every year to make sure that another rose bush grows?

Count the seeds in an apple. I've been told there are eight. I talked to a man who had an apple tree in his yard. He gave it very tender care and said that in one year he got 52 bushels of apples off that one tree. If there are about 40 apples in a bushel, that's more than 2,000 apples and 2,000 apples multiplied by eight seeds will make 16,000 seeds from that one apple tree just to make sure that the apple trees don't die out. All nature testifies with a single voice and the principle of apparent waste dictates that you must sow many, many, many seeds.

There is a difference in seed sowing in the ground and seed sowing in human hearts. The ground stays there. You put seeds in the ground, and you can

watch what happens. But you can't do that when you're sowing seed in human hearts. You can put a seed in someone's heart today, but they may not stay put; in fact, you might never see them again. But that doesn't invalidate seed sowing. Remember, the principle is of apparent waste, not of actual waste. It's not wasteful to sow that many seeds because the seeds are being watched over by the Holy Spirit and the Lord has promised that seedtime and harvest will not cease.

The final principle is found in Matthew 13:1-8 KJV, where we read the well-known parable of the sower who went forth to sow. "The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side. And great multitudes were gathered together unto Him, so that He went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. And He spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: but other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold."

One day at Princeton University a little white-haired man went to the blackboard and carefully wrote down, "E=mc²." And he stood back and looked at that for a while and he said, I think that's it. That formula produced the hydrogen bomb, the atom bomb and nuclear fission. Powerful, formula. I'd like to suggest that Matthew 13:1-8 contains a formula greater than that, the One=30³⁰.

We will use the lowest factor that Jesus gave, the thirtyfold. Jesus said, the one seed that grows will produce thirty-

fold. Take a piece of paper and lay it on a large table. In the center of that piece of paper make a dot to represent the one seed that grew. Around that dot make thirty more dots and that's the principle of one equals thirty. But remember, this is to the 30th power because every one of those 30 seeds is a good seed. We're ignoring the ones that are wasted because you scattered your seed like the seeds of autumn and so you have one good seed in every one of those 30 positions. Make 30 dots around each of those 30 dots. Now you have 900. And then you make 30 dots around every one of the 900 dots; now you have 27,000. Then you make 30 dots around every one of those 27,000 dots and you come up with something like 810,000. That is the principle of enormous power.

You may not see it because man doesn't stay in one place all the time, so you have to go by faith; you have to believe that the Lord of the harvest has guaranteed that when the seed is sown there will be wonderful fruit. For example -

A Seventh-day Adventist lady had some tracts and while shopping at the little grocery store in the small town where she lived she said to the grocer, "You might like to read this" and she lay the tract on the counter. The grocer glanced at it, but wasn't interested. When the next customer came by with her bag of groceries, he picked up the tract and put it in her bag. She got home and emptied the bag and said, "Where did that thing come from? Well, it's some kind of a religious tract. I'm not interested in it, but my neighbor across the fence is a religious man." He was out working in his backyard, so she went out and leaned across the fence, "Would you like to have this, neighbor? It's a religious tract of some kind."

"Sure, sure, I'd like to have it." He read it. Long story short, he was converted by that tract and subsequently, not only did he become a Seventh-day Adventist, but he also became a Seventh-day Adventist

minister. His name was Leo Wheeler and through his ministry W.H. Smith and another man named Ashton, came into the faith and they also became Seventh-day Adventist ministers. Through their preaching, a man named Charles Longacre came into the faith and became a Seventh-day Adventist minister. For years he was the Secretary of Religious Liberty in the General Conference relating to the congressmen on questions of religious liberty. Under his preaching two other men became Seventh-day Adventists and became union presidents and one of the men became the president of the Inter-American Division, and he brought in others, seven ministers, two union presidents, one division president and one general conference secretary that we know about, and many, many others we don't know anything about. That's what one tract did, just one good seed.

Some years ago, in Colorado on the western slope hill country, two young Seventh-day Adventist ministers went into a small town, pitched a tent and held evangelistic meetings. Attendance was poor. Nobody decided to be baptized. There were only a couple of interested ladies left behind when they left. As they made their way down the mountain, they felt defeated and discouraged even discussing going into other lines of work. They left that small town, but the Holy Spirit stayed back to nurture the seeds sown.

One of the interested ladies was Mrs. Johns. She had two sons, Varner and Alger. Those two sons went on to pastor some of our largest churches for many years.

A gentleman in the town was concerned about Mrs. Johns after she began to keep the Sabbath. So he took his Bible one Sunday afternoon and went to her house to straighten her out. It wasn't long before he was keeping the Sabbath. He sold his lumber yard, got what training he could get and became a Seventh-day Adventist

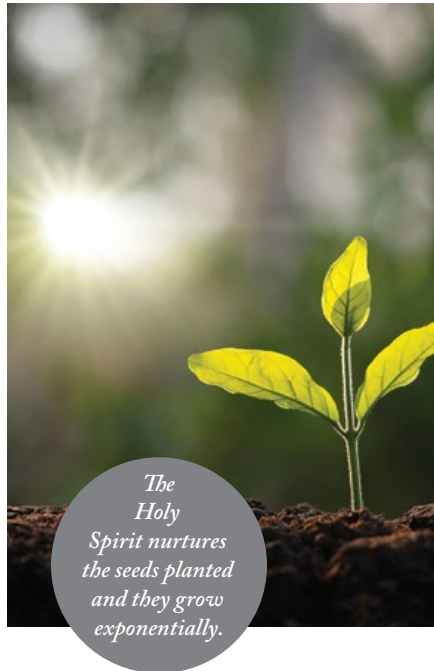
minister. His name was Vandeman. He had a son named George, George Vandeman. All of that came from what appeared to be apparent waste up in the hills of Colorado.

I had the opportunity at a northern California camp meeting to talk to Alger Johns. I wanted to verify this tent meeting story. Alger Johns told me I didn't know the half of it. Between him and George Vandeman they were able to name 14 individuals who through the influence of that little tent meeting became Seventh-day Adventist ministers. You see the principle of enormous power goes on and on.

On a smaller scale, I am reminded of my own mother's experience. She married my father, who was superintendent of a logging camp in Falls City, Oregon. One Sabbath afternoon, two boys about 12 years old, came to their door passing out tracts about the Sabbath. My mother took one. Being a very devout Methodist, she instantly recognized that it was mistaken and sat down with her Bible to prove it wrong. Before very long she was keeping the Sabbath and while that didn't make very much difference for a while, by the time she died at 88 years of age, there were 30 of her family keeping the Sabbath. And because of her, through my evangelistic work, a few more than 5,000 people were brought to the truth. Some of them became pastors and have spread the message. All from two little boys handing out tracts in a small town in Oregon.

"The good seed sown may lie some time in a cold, worldly, selfish heart, without evidencing that it has taken root; but frequently the Spirit of God operates upon that heart, and waters it with the dew of heaven, and the long-hidden seed springs up and finally bears fruit to the glory of God." *Evangelism*, 64.

Years ago, I was doing evangelistic work in the Hawaiian Islands. We pitched a tent on the Makaha shore. There were probably 35 persons baptized



The Holy Spirit nurtures the seeds planted and they grow exponentially.

as a result of that series. But there was a young college student spending the summer out on the islands. He came to the meetings, talked to us a great deal and asked a lot of questions. I really wanted to see this young man serving the Lord. But he disappeared, apparently back to the States. I assumed I would never see him again.

Twelve years later found me teaching in the Bible department at Atlantic Union College in Massachusetts. There was an evangelist in Vermont whom I knew slightly. It was near Christmas one year when he walked into my office and asked me if I remembered a young fellow who had come to the meetings in Makaha, Hawaii. I did remember him, I said. The evangelist told me the young man was now a Doctor of Science at the University of Vermont. The evangelist related that as he talked with the man, he asked if this was his first exposure to the truth. The man replied, "No, twelve years ago I spent a summer in the Hawaiian Islands and there was a fellow named Larson who was preaching in a tent on the Makaha Reef and that's where I first heard the Adventist message." It took twelve years for that

seed to grow. But that young man, his wife and their 12-year-old daughter were all baptized together.

By faith, we must accept the fact that God is doing something we cannot see, but one day we will see the whole harvest and we will be astonished.

We read in *Christ's Object Lessons*, 38: "A sower from a higher world, Christ came to sow the seeds of truth." A humbling work for the King of the universe to come to sow seeds in the hearts of men.

"Christ had come, not as a king, but as a sower; not for the overthrow of kingdoms, but for the scattering of seed; not to point His followers to earthly triumphs and national greatness, but to a harvest to be gathered after patient toil and through losses and disappointments." *Ibid.*, 35.

"The same laws that govern earthly seed sowing govern the sowing of the seeds of truth." *Ibid.*, 33.

Remember the four principles of the harvest:

- **Act in faith.** No seed is ever planted in knowledge; it's always done with faith in the word of the Lord.
- **Inconvenience.** There is no easy way, no easy time, no easy place to sow a seed.
- **Apparent waste.** All nature says with a single voice, scatter the seed everywhere, the harvest is sure.
- **Enormous power.** The Holy Spirit nurtures the seeds planted and they grow exponentially. **LM**

Dr. Ralph Larson completed forty years of service to the Seventh-day Adventist church, as pastor, evangelist, departmental secretary, and college and seminary teacher. His last assignment before retiring was chairman of the Church and Ministry Department of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary Far East. Upon retirement, he continued his service, diligently working with and giving counsel to those within the historic movement.

This World Is Not My Home

By Judy Rebarcek

As long as there are people in this world willing to do evil, there will be chaos, deceit, hate, anger, sorrow, death, oppression, destruction, cruelty in all forms. And without the power of the Holy Spirit working continuously in our lives, we could be one of those people at any time.

We see so many things happening in the world today:

- Disease, selfishness, political unrest, gradual eroding of constitutionally-guaranteed freedoms, including freedom of religion and speech.
- Dissatisfaction, inequality, oppression, depression and abuse abound with so many voices straining to be heard, but not one ear on this earth to hear.
- The careless disregard of life of any kind, to the point that life is little more than an inconvenience.
- People reaching a breaking point, engaging in and displaying dangerous and destructive behavior toward themselves and others.



For a description of these people, let's look at Romans 6:16: "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey ... ?" They believe they are free, but in reality, they are held tightly in bondage to their master.

"Satan often finds a powerful agency for evil in the power which one human mind is capable of exerting on another human mind. This influence is so seductive that the person who is being molded by it is often unconscious of its power. God has bidden me speak warning against this evil, that His servants may not come under the deceptive power of Satan. The enemy is a master worker, and if God's people are not constantly led by the Spirit of God, they will be snared and taken. For thousands of years Satan has been experimenting upon the properties of the human mind, and he has learned to know it well. By his subtle workings in these last days, he is linking the human mind with his own, imbuing it with his thoughts; and he is doing this work in so deceptive a manner that those who accept his guidance know not that they are being led by him at his will. The great deceiver hopes so to confuse the minds of men and women, that none but his voice will be heard." *Our High Calling*, 110.

Doesn't this sound frighteningly familiar? So many voices declaring this is the truth, no this is a lie, this is the way it happened, this is the person you should listen to, these are the facts. On and on until they make true the words found in Romans 1:22, 25, "Professing to be wise, they became fools ... who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator." And as a result God will give them up to live their lives as they choose. Oh, the baleful results as described in verses 26–32. Shouts demanding acceptance of and tolerance for the great many sins that have filled this world reverberate everywhere you turn. But this shouting will one day be



turned against the people of God who cannot be faithful to Him and accept or tolerate sin. However, we are instructed: "Although we should hate the sin, we should love the souls of those for whom Christ died. And then we should feel most grateful to God that we have One who is pleading in the heavens above in our behalf.

"Jesus knows the worth of every soul because it is He who paid the price for everyone. When He was in His agony at the crucifixion, He prayed there for His enemies and He said, 'Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do' (Luke 23:34)." *Christ Triumphant*, 75.

There is a conspiracy afoot in this world, one 6,000 years in the making. It's a successful one, too, in part because it is the natural outworking of what troubles this world, but also because the main protagonist is so accomplished at it and his followers so willing to do what he dictates. They think they are strong and in control, but are in fact, held so tightly in the grip of their master, that they do not realize what they are doing. They believe they are making a difference, but oh, what kind of difference!

Let's look at the master to whom these individuals, and possibly even ourselves, have bound themselves. "I was shown Satan ... the expression of

his countenance is full of anxiety, care, unhappiness, malice, hate, mischief, deceit, and every evil [everything we see in the world today]. ... I saw that he had so long bent himself to evil that every good quality was debased, and every evil trait was developed." *The Story of Redemption*, 45.

Is it any wonder the people of the world who serve Satan, some in ignorance, exhibit these same traits?

Friends, we must remember that this world is not our home. We are only sojourners here, passing through this place to a better home. It is easy to become entangled in the troubles and efforts of the world, but we must always remember that the problems of the world are a result of sin and there is only one remedy for sin, Jesus Christ. We must keep our eyes upon Him if we wish to see Him one day as a loving Father and not an avenging Judge.

Mrs. White says of those who choose to know the truth and follow God, "When we are clothed with the righteousness of Christ, we shall have no relish for sin; for Christ will be working with us. We may make mistakes, but we will hate the sin that caused the suffering of the Son of God." *The Faith I Live By*, 118.

"The gospel of Christ is to be wrought into our everyday experience. The mind must be in a state to appreciate the divine claims of the gospel. It must be girded about, and disciplined to habits of self-control and obedience. ...

"The teachings of the living oracles cast down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. Satan has great power over the soul, to drag it down to a low level. Those who really want to learn of Christ will have to empty the soul of all its proud imaginings, that there may be room to enthrone Him there.

"The controversy between Christ and Satan is not yet ended. The latter

“

*Jesus knows the worth
of every soul because it is
He who paid the price for
everyone.*

is constantly seeking to establish his own power and authority. If he can entangle minds, he will do it. ... The deceptions of Satan are manifold, but the Lord will be our helper if we seek Him earnestly.” *Our High Calling*, 110.

Our responsibility now is to allow the Holy Spirit to develop the character necessary to be worthy of a place with Jesus for eternity and to share the gift of salvation with everyone we can. There was a time when people at least knew about God and the sacrifice Jesus made to save them. But these days it seems that there are so few who have any concept of spiritual things in general, let alone what Jesus did for them on Calvary and what is truly available to them. There is a world to warn.

All my life I’ve heard that Jesus is coming soon and for just as long I had thought it probably would not happen in my lifetime. Look how many people have believed this same thing and they are long gone. Mrs. White talked about how bad things were during her lifetime, that surely Jesus must be coming soon. But friends, He is coming now. I can hardly believe that He will wait much longer. He is waiting for the message of salvation to be given to all the world so that everyone has a chance to choose to be His child. How will they know, if we don’t tell them?

Our efforts while on this earth are to show those held captive in Satan’s thrall that there is a God in heaven and that He loves them. By our words we can tell them, by our lives we must show them. “... many of the world ... will see Christ revealed in your daily life. You will be a living epistle, known and read of all men.” *Lift Him Up*, 213. Satan seeks only to destroy, but Christ offers life abundantly (John 10:10).

“His heart of divine love and sympathy is drawn out most of all for the one who is the most hopelessly entangled in the snares of the enemy. With His own blood He has signed the emancipation papers of the race.

“Jesus does not desire those who have been purchased at such a cost to become the sport of the enemy’s temptations. He does not desire us to be overcome and perish. He who curbed the lions in their den and walked with His faithful witnesses amid the fiery flames is just as ready to work in our behalf, to subdue every evil in our nature. ... He turns no weeping, contrite one away.” *My Life Today*, 317.

It is true that one day, not far off, those voices demanding acceptance and tolerance will be turned against God’s people shouting intolerance because they will not bear to hear the truth. But until then, we are encouraged by God’s loving voice saying, “Do not be conformed to this world; but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:2).

“As I realize how much has been done for us to keep us right, I am led to exclaim, Oh, what love, what wondrous love, hath the Son of God for us poor sinners! Should we be stupid and careless while everything is being done for our salvation that can be done? All heaven is interested for us. We should be alive and awake to honor, glorify, and adore the high and lofty One. Our hearts should flow out in love and gratitude to Him who has been so full of love and compassion to us. With our lives we should honor Him, and with pure and holy conversation show that we are born from above, that this world is not our home, but that we are pilgrims and strangers here, traveling to a better country.” *Early Writings*, 113.

How are we to let our hearts flow out in love and gratitude to Him and how do we honor Him with our lives? “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). Some will listen, some will not. Of these, verse 16 says, “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”

“If you have accepted Christ as a personal Saviour, you are to forget yourself, and try to help others. Talk of the love of Christ, tell of His goodness. Do every duty that presents itself. Carry the burden of souls upon your heart, and by every means in your power

seek to save the lost. As you receive the Spirit of Christ—the Spirit of unselfish love and labor for others—you will grow and bring forth fruit. The graces of the Spirit will ripen in your character. Your faith will increase, your convictions deepen, your love be made perfect. More and more you will reflect the likeness of Christ in all that is pure, noble, and lovely.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 67, 68.

“We need to contemplate Christ and become assimilated to His image through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. This is our only safeguard against being entangled in Satan’s delusive snares.” *The General Conference Bulletin*, April 23, 1901.

“We must keep separate from the world, if we would have the love of God abide with us. As soon as we begin to be conformed to this world, just so soon God’s Spirit begins to depart from us. But if we keep humble, live holy, harmless and separate from sinners, we shall see of the salvation of God. Let us strive to be Christians (Christ-like) in every sense of the word, and let our dress, conversation and actions preach that Christ is formed within, the hope of glory, and that we are looking for that blessed hope and glorious appearing of Jesus. Let us show to those around us, that this world is not our home, that we are pilgrims and strangers here. ...

“Let those who break God’s law and teach others to do so, denounce us as fallen from grace because we keep all ten of His immutable precepts, it will not harm us. We have the satisfaction of knowing, that while they curse, Jesus has pronounced a blessing. Says the true Witness, the only Begotten of the Father, ‘Blessed are they that do His [the Father’s] commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the City’ (Revelation 22:14).

“Think ye that the command-keepers will be sorry, and mourn when the pearly gates of the Golden City of God are swung back upon their



This world is not our home. We are only sojourners here.

glittering hinges, and they are welcomed in? No, never. They will then rejoice, that they are not under the bondage of the law, but that they have kept God’s law, and therefore are free from it. They will have right to the tree of life, a right to its healing leaves. They will hear the lovely voice of Jesus, richer than any music that ever fell on mortal ear, saying, There will be no more sorrow, pain or death; sighing and crying have fled away.” *The Review and Herald*, June 10, 1852.

“Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.

“It is the privilege of every Christian not only to look for but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, (2 Peter 3:12, margin). Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory, how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel. Quickly the last great harvest would be ripened, and Christ would come to gather the precious grain.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 69.

“Our eyes shall then, with rapture,
The Saviour’s face behold,
Our feet, no more diverted,
Shall walk the streets of gold;
Our ears shall hear with transport
The hosts celestial sing,
Our tongues shall chant the glory
Of our Immortal King.”

Ellen G. White, *The Review and Herald*, June 10, 1852

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

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The Crucifixion

Across

- B11 Hour of Jewish day Jesus was crucified..... Mark 15:25
 B18 The temple veil and rocks were both..... Matthew 27:51
 C2 The Jewish leaders told Pilate Jesus was this..... Matthew 27:63
 D10 The centurion said Jesus was this..... Luke 23:47
 E2 The Jewish leaders said Jesus _____ in God Matthew 27:43
 E18 Jesus was stabbed here John 19:34
 F14 Time of Joseph’s visit to Pilate..... Matthew 27:57
 G6 How Joseph met Pilate..... John 19:38
 H15 The Jewish leaders thought the disciples might do this Matthew 27:64
 I2 Pilate did this at Jesus’ quick death Mark 15:44
 J14 Jesus thought God had done this to Him..... Matthew 27:46
 L2 Centurion: “_____ this was the Son of God”..... Matthew 27:54
 L10 The Jews wanted Pilate to make Jesus’ tomb _____..... Matthew 27:64
 M18 Jesus died in the “place of a _____”..... Mark 15:22
 N3 Jesus buried in this kind of tomb Matthew 27:60
 N12 Jesus wanted His Father to do this Luke 23:34
 O4 The sun was this in Jesus’ agony..... Luke 23:45
 O19 Joseph of Arimathaea was a _____ man Matt. 27:57
 Q2 Two men put some of this on Jesus’ body John 19:39
 Q8 The Jews falsely thought the disciples might cause this Matthew 27:64
 Q14 Jesus’ body was wrapped in this Luke 23:53
 Q20 The Jews demanded Jesus leave the cross when?..... Matt. 27:42
 S1 Jesus’ coat did not have this John 19:23
 S6 From the cross Jesus asked God this..... Mark 15:34
 S12 Pilate put this on Jesus’ cross..... John 19:19,20
 S18 Soldiers verified that Jesus’ death was _____ John 19:35

Down

- A8 The believing thief admitted getting his _____ reward..... Luke 23:41
 A13 The Sabbath of Jesus’ death was a _____ day..... John 19:31
 A18 Simon was forced to carry this..... Luke 23:26
 B3 Those watching Jesus _____ greatly when He died Matthew 27:54
 B5 Pilate said Jesus was King of these..... John 19:21, 22
 B11 Jesus had this human sensation John 19:28
 B21 Revilers said Jesus would rebuild the temple in _____ days Mark 15:29, 30
 C16 Prophecy says none of these would be broken John 19:36
 E6 Jesus refused vinegar after He had _____ Matthew 27:34
 G8 One of the names for the crucifixion site..... Luke 23:33
 G10 Jewish leaders besides priests and scribes..... Matthew 27:41
 G12 At the ninth hour Jesus cried with what voice? Matthew 27:46
 G18 The believing thief was promised this..... Luke 23:43
 H15 Jesus’ mother and aunt _____ by His cross John 19:25
 I2 A sponge with hyssop was put to Jesus’ _____..... John 19:29
 I4 The believing thief did this to other thief Luke 23:40
 I20 Acknowledged Jesus to be the Son of God..... Matthew 27:54

A	2	3	4	5	6	7		9	10	11	12		14	15	16	17		19	20	21	A
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Answer Key:

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- L13 Jesus called God this..... Mark 15:34
- M16 Jewish leaders feared disciples would say Jesus has _____ Matthew 27:64
- N5 Came from Jesus John 19:34
- N10 Some thought they _____ Jesus call Elias Mark 15:35
- O2 The earth did this when Jesus died Matthew 27:51
- O8 How many soldiers wanted Jesus' clothes?..... Mark 15:24
- P12 "Pilate _____ a title, and put it on the cross" John 19:19
- P14 Jesus' body was wrapped in clean _____ Matthew 27:59
- Q18 Jesus received _____ wine and myrrh offered Him Mark 15:23
- Q21 How many soldiers used a spear on Jesus?..... John 19:34





A Little Factory Girl Who Became a Poet

Lucy Larcom was one of a large family of children. She lived in an old-fashioned house in Massachusetts. In those days, people knew nothing about electric light. They did not even have kerosene lamps, or stoves such as we have. The house where Lucy lived was lighted by a tallow candle.

Lucy's mother had rosy cheeks and happy blue eyes. She pinned her dark curly hair back under a white lace cap. The father had a pale, noble face. Every evening before the children went to bed, they all gathered around the bright, warm fireplace. The father read from the big family Bible. Then he prayed. Lucy lived to be an old lady, but she never forgot her good father and her Christian home.

When Lucy was seven years old, her father died. Then it was necessary for the children to help earn a living. So the family moved to Lowell, Massachusetts, where the older children might work in the cotton mill. Lucy's mother boarded a whole houseful of happy girls from the mill.

Lucy was too young to work in the mill, so she went to school. She loved books and school. When she was only

three years old, she could read in the New Testament. Her Aunt Hannah was the teacher. Aunt Hannah was like all the other teachers in those days. She thought the best way to teach children was with a stick. She rapped them on their knuckles with a stick if they missed their lessons.

One day, when little Lucy came home, she said, "Aunt Hannah punished the scholars with the pudding stick." At this the whole family burst out laughing. The stick Aunt Hannah used in school looked to Lucy like the stick they stirred the pudding with at home, and she thought Aunt Hannah had taken it to school to use.

When Lucy was only three or four years old, she began to memorize hymns. She said she was going to learn all there were in the hymn book! But when she found out that there were a thousand, she thought that would be too many.

"I'll give you a nice book, Lucy," said her sister Emilie, "if you learn fifty hymns. And if you will learn one hundred, I will teach you to write, besides."

Lucy wanted the book, and she wanted to learn to write. So she began to memorize hymns. When she was five years old, she had learned between

one and two hundred. Then Emilie gave her a book of poems, and taught her to write.

Before Lucy was seven years old, she had read "Pilgrim's Progress," and at least a dozen other books that people nowadays think interest only grown-ups.

"Let's write some poetry, Lucy, just for fun," said her brother John one day.

"What fun that would be!" said Lucy.

They both began to write. John soon got tired of that kind of fun, but Lucy wrote two stanzas:

"One summer day," said little Jane,
"We were walking down a shady lane,
When suddenly the wind blew high,
And the red lightning flashed in the sky."

"The peals of thunder, how they rolled!
And I felt myself a little cooled;
For I before had been quite warm;
But now around me was a storm."

John was delighted. He thought his sister Lucy was a wonderful little girl. He was so proud of her that he read her verses to the family and to all the neighbors.

When Lucy was thirteen, she had to stop going to school, and begin to work



in the cotton mill with the other girls. These girls were bright and interesting. They decided to publish a magazine. They named it *The Lowell Offering*. They tried hard to write interesting stories for their magazine, so every one would like to read it.

Lucy wondered if she could write some poetry that would be good enough to print in the magazine. She decided to try. She thought hard. She wrote. She corrected. Then she tried again. She had never been so happy in all her life as she was when she saw one of her own poems in the magazine.

After that, Lucy often wrote poems that were printed in *The Lowell Offering*. They were the best things in the magazine. Everyone liked to read them. The great poet, John G. Whittier, was delighted with them. He asked who wrote them. He said she would one day be a great poet. And she was. She wrote so many beautiful poems that someone said her whole life was a poem. People enjoyed her poems so much that they soon forgot she was once only a poor factory girl.

True Education Reader, Fourth Grade, Pacific Press Publishing Association, © 1931, 116–121. LM

IF I WERE A SUNBEAM

If I were a sunbeam,
I know what I'd do;
I would seek white lilies
Rainy woodlands through;
I would steal among them
Softest light I'd shed,
Until every lily
Raised its drooping head.

If I were a sunbeam,
I know where I'd go:
Into lowliest hovels,
Dark with want and woe:
Till sad hearts looked upward,
I would shine and shine;
Then they'd think of heaven,
Their sweet home and mine.

Art thou not a sunbeam,
Child whose life is glad
With an inner radiance
Sunshine never had?
Oh, as God has blessed thee,
Scatter rays divine!
For there is no sunbeam
But must die, or shine.

—Lucy Larcom





Separated from the World

“I pray not that Thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldest keep them from the evil.”

John 17:15

Many professed Christians are well represented by the vine that is trailing upon the ground and entwining its tendrils about the roots and rubbish that lie in its path. To all such the message comes, “Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord” (2 Corinthians 6:17). Your tendrils must be severed from everything earthly. ... It is impossible for you to unite with those who are corrupt, and still remain pure.

O that the young might realize that they may be as precious plants in the Lord’s garden. ... Let the delicate tendrils of the affections twine about Jesus, to receive nourishment from Him;

and instead of creeping upon the earth, turn the face toward the Sun of Righteousness, that you may catch divine rays of light. Day by day grow up into His likeness, and become a partaker of His divine nature, that you may at last be found perfect in the paradise of God. ...

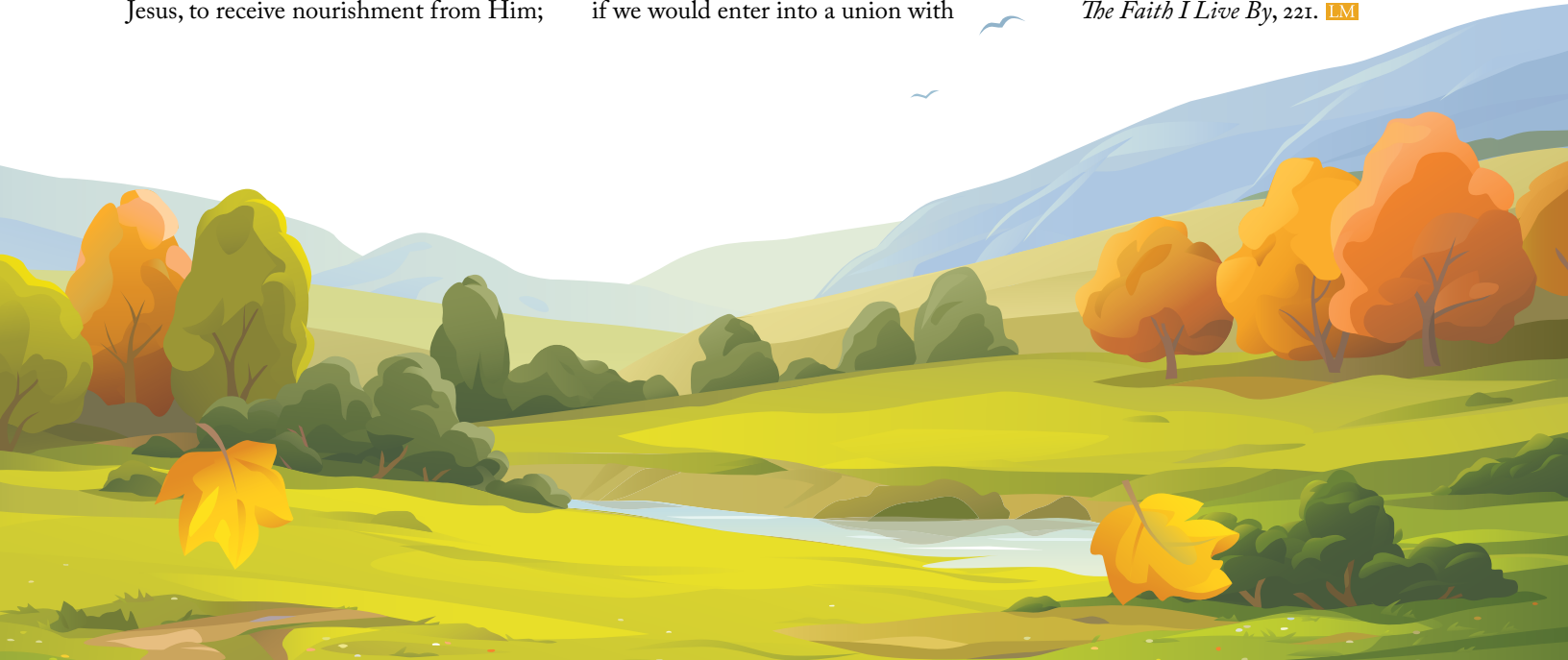
Rivet the soul to the eternal Rock; for in Christ alone there will be safety.

A union with Christ by living faith is enduring; every other union must perish. ... But this union costs us something. ... There must be a painful work of detachment, as well as a work of attachment. Pride, selfishness, vanity, worldliness—sin in all its forms—must be overcome, if we would enter into a union with

Christ. The reason why many find the Christian life so deplorably hard, why they are so fickle, so variable, is, they try to attach themselves to Christ without detaching themselves from these cherished idols.

Will we accept the condition laid down in His word—separation from the world? ... Our consecration to God must be a living principle, interwoven with the life, and leading to self-denial and self-sacrifice. It must underlie all our thoughts, and be the spring of every action. This will elevate us above the world, and separate us from its polluting influence.

The Faith I Live By, 221. **LM**





Like the Leaves of Autumn

One day I had several errands to run in town. It was a sunny, warm day for early November. Because the weather had been consistently warmer than the normal average for that time of year, the trees still held most of their leaves and the grass was still green and required mowing from time to time.

As I left the house, I noticed that a few leaves had fallen from the big tree in the front yard. I wondered how soon they would all fall and I would have to do something to get them chopped up or raked up. I left at mid-morning and didn't return until mid-afternoon.

When I arrived home and turned into the driveway, the sight that welcomed me

was absolutely overwhelming. Like an instrument in an orchestra directed by the conductor, "all together now," the big tree had dropped hundreds of leaves in the yard. In spots the leaves were deep enough to be over the tops of my shoes and it still had plenty of leaves yet to drop.

The phrase "like leaves of autumn" comes to mind when I think of this day. Jesus said that we are to "teach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). This is accomplished through Bible studies, witnessing, handing out literature, cooking schools, but mostly by how we live our lives.

But the Spirit of Prophecy also tells us of another way in which we can share

the gospel. "This is a work that should be done. The end is near. Already much time has been lost, when these books should have been in circulation. Sell them far and near. *Scatter them like the leaves of autumn.* This work is to continue without the forbiddings of any one. Souls are perishing out of Christ. Let them be warned of His soon appearing in the clouds of heaven." *The Review and Herald*, August 13, 1908. [Emphasis supplied.]

Imagine, Bibles, *The Desire of Ages*, *Steps to Christ*, *The Great Controversy*, *The Ministry of Healing* all blanket-ing the world like the leaves in my front yard. **LM**



“LandMarks is so wonderful.”
—AL, Ohio

“I’ve tried to help Steps to Life ever since I’ve learned of it over 20 years ago when given magazines by a friend in the church. I’ve learned many wonderful things and I have used it in my sermons as an elder, prayer meeting, vespers services on Friday night, in Sabbath school and have never heard anyone say this is not truth So I hope you receive continued blessings from God to keep the work moving forward until Jesus comes and we meet at the tree of life and talk of the power of Jesus in us and how we’ve helped others see our Jesus.”

—JH, Wisconsin

“Thank you for sending us *LandMarks* magazine. We use them for our Bible study. We like and enjoy studying straight from the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy. We are blessed. God is so good all the time. God bless you all!”

—C&RL, California

June Sermon of the Month

Fulfilling the Great Commission

By John J. Grosboll

The disciples had to wait until they received the power of the Holy Spirit before they could go to the world and share the Gospel.

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

June 2021

Dear Friend,

“Into a tent where a gypsy boy lay,
Dying alone at the close of the day.
News of salvation we carried; said he:
‘Nobody ever has told it to me!’”

There are still many who would accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour, but they have yet to be invited to be a Christian.

In the early Christian church, “Warm, inspired personal appeals were made to the erring, to the outcast, and to those who, while professing to know the truth, were lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.” *The Acts of the Apostles*, 580.

“In every city, in every settlement where Christians meet to worship God, there are men and women and children to be gathered into the fold. Many never hear a discourse on God’s word. Who will take upon himself a burden for souls? Who will learn from the Great Teacher that the best way to reach souls is by direct, personal appeal to erring individuals, to those who are dead in trespasses and sins, to behold their uplifted, crucified Redeemer, and live?” *Welfare Ministry*, 101.

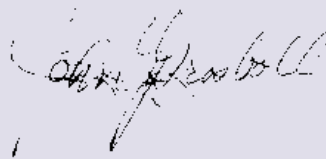
“Christ’s work was to draw minds into sympathy with His own divine mind. He gave His whole self as a sacrifice. We need to regard the Lord Jesus as our personal Saviour. When we do this, we shall, by the grace of Christ, make simple, tender, earnest personal appeals to those who are not Christians. The trouble with many in the church is, they will do anything but the thing which is of the most importance, that which God wants them to do. They feel that they cannot approach men and women in simplicity, and try in the name and strength of Jesus to come close to their hearts. This heart-to-heart work is strangely neglected.” *The Review and Herald*, September 29, 1891.

“Many have never heard a discourse on God’s word. . . . It is the privilege of the Christian worker to bid those who are dead in trespasses and sins to behold their crucified, uplifted Redeemer, and *live*.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 6, 323. [Emphasis author’s.]

“Tell it again! Tell it again!
Salvation’s story repeat o’er and o’er.
Till none can say of the children of men,
‘Nobody ever has told me before.’”

“Tell it Again,” *Mary B. C. Slade*

Your brother praying for a finished work,



John J. Grosboll

13th Sabbath Offering

La Verdad Presente [The Present Truth] *Radio Station – Guadalajara, Mexico*

The “La Verdad Presente” radio program is transmitted each Sabbath evening in Guadalajara, Mexico.

During a recent broadcast titled “A Love That Cannot Be Compared” we studied from God’s word that all of nature testifies to the love and care of the Father towards all of His creation. He is fully aware of our needs, blessing and providing for them just as the Psalmist says in Psalm 145:15, 16 NIV: “The eyes of all look expectantly to You, and You give them their food at the proper time. You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.”

We opened our study with the perfect work of creation itself and then read about the disobedience of the holy pair, emphasizing that it was sin, the trans-

gression of God’s law, that resulted in the current condition of this world – pain, suffering and finally the curse of death. Could you for a moment picture the listener hearing these words?

As we closed, we invited our listeners to continue to study these subjects and to call and request a copy of the offered book. One of the callers was Ruben Lopez. When we delivered the books to his home, he told us that he is of the Catholic faith, but the broadcast made a deep impact.

Thank you Steps to Life for your continued support of the “La Verdad Presente” broadcasts.

Maranatha!

Brother Jediael Aguilar LM



Ruben Lopez is a listener of the Catholic faith who was impacted by the broadcast of La Verdad Presente radio. The books he requested were delivered to his home.



Ghana, Africa. The Spirit of Prophecy instructs our workers to go to the cities to share the good news of the gospel.

Church Under Construction in Ghana

By Pastor Domingo Nunez

Brother Benjamin Edward Nyanor is an evangelist worker in Ghana, working for several years primarily in the region of Kumasi, Ghana. Earlier this year he finished an evangelistic effort to reach the villages of the Obuasi area in the region of Kumasi.

The Bible says in Luke 14:23, “Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.’”

“Again and again I am instructed to present to our churches the work that should be done in our large cities. There is a great work to be done, not only where we have churches already established, but also in places where the truth has never been fully presented. Right in our midst there are heathen as verily as in far-off lands. The way must be opened to reach these with the truth for this time; and these openings should be made at once. ...



A new church building is being constructed in the Obuasi area of Kumasi, Ghana. It will be the largest church facility in the area and the only Adventist-believing church in the region.

“Often we have been told that our cities are to hear the message, but how slow we are to heed the instruction. I saw One standing on a high platform with arms extended. He turned and pointed in every direction, saying, ‘A world perishing in ignorance of God’s holy law, and Seventh-day Adventists are asleep.’ The Lord is pleading for laborers, for there is a great work to be done. There are conversions to be made that will add to the church such as shall be saved. Men and women in the highways and byways are to be reached.” *Evangelism*, 32.

“A pastor should mingle freely with the people for whom he labors, that by becoming acquainted with them he may know how to adapt his teaching to their needs. When a minister has preached a sermon, his work has but just begun. There is personal work for him to do. He should visit the people in their homes, talking and praying with them in earnestness and humility. There are families who will never be reached by the truths

of God’s word unless the stewards of His grace enter their homes and point them to the higher way. But the hearts of those who do this work must throb in unison with the heart of Christ.” *The Acts of the Apostles*, 363.

“Much is comprehended in the command, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that My house may be filled’ (Luke 14:23). Let ministers teach the truth in families, drawing close to those for whom they labor, and as they thus co-operate with God, He will clothe them with spiritual power. Christ will guide them in their work, giving them words to speak that will sink deep into the hearts of the listeners. It is the privilege of every minister to be able to say with Paul, ‘I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.’ ‘I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have showed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house ... repentance toward God,

and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ’ (Acts 20:27, 20, 21).” *Ibid.*, 364.

I shared the above Spirit of Prophecy quotations with the Kumasi outreach team and with this counsel now in their thoughts and minds, the team is with much conviction, ready to preach the three angels’ messages.

The Lord has rewarded the outreach efforts in the Obuasi region of Kumasi. This church building will be the biggest church building in this area. These groups need a place of worship. This also will be the only Adventist-believing church in the area. We need your prayers and support so that this church will be established according to the New Testament gospel order and so that it will be a blessing to all the villages of this area.

Please pray with us so that this church building can be finished soon and filled with faithful souls worshiping and praising God. To financially contribute to the completion of this church building, please mark your contribution as *Kumasi*. [LM](#)



The Giraffe

The giraffe is the world's tallest mammal. A bull giraffe usually stands about 18 feet tall. Giraffes live over 35 years. Their spots are specific to each individual giraffe, just like a zebra's stripes or a human's fingerprints. They are herbivores eating hundreds of pounds of leaves a week and traveling many miles to find enough food.

Giraffes have four stomachs, 230 feet of intestines, an 18-inch tongue and weigh on average 1,800 to 2,500 pounds (female and male respectively), and their lungs can hold 12 gallons of air (for perspective, human lungs hold 1.59 gallons). They can swim, but not very well and they can jump, but with those long legs, why? And speaking of those long legs, the front legs are about 10% longer than the back legs. They can run short, quick distances at 35 mph and sustained distances at 10 mph. Both walking and running, they use a pacing gait, with the legs on each side moving in unison.

Giraffes travel in groups of 10–20 giraffes known as towers. They do not sleep for extended periods of time, rather only about 20 minutes, plus several two to three-minute “power naps” a day.

Giraffes have excellent eyesight and, because of their height, they can see a moving object from a mile away. They have no vocal cords, but do communicate using other sounds and gestures. They hum at night although we don't know why.


Giraffes are known for their long necks and long legs. A giraffe's heart can be 2 ½ feet long, a powerful pump needed to lift the blood vertically up its long neck against gravity to reach the brain. The heart itself weighs about 25 pounds and beats 150 times per minute. The heart pump is so powerful that when the giraffe bends over to drink, the pressure created because of gravity would be enough to burst the vessels in its brain, resulting in death. However, contained in the neck is a pressure-regulating system known as the *rete mirabile* (Italian meaning *admirable network*), made up of valves in the arteries and capillaries in the neck, which restricts the amount of blood that rushes towards the brain

when the giraffe lowers its head. While preventing blood from rushing into the giraffe's brain, it holds a small supply of blood underneath the brain in a “sponge” that gently expands, giving the giraffe more than enough blood to oxygenate its brain without damage while bending over to drink. These valves then reverse process when the giraffe raises its head. Working in this synchronized fashion, these valves keep the blood pressure stable regardless of the position of the neck and head.

The amazing design of this beautiful animal defies the belief that it is a result of evolution. Every part of this creation needs to work collectively at once or it could not survive. The giraffe is another example of creation by a Designer for it has exactly what it needs for its size and its environment.

“I will praise Thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are Thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well” (Psalms 139:14). Praise God, this beautiful creature is also “fearfully and wonderfully made” just as we were.

Adapted from material by Dr. Jobe Martin, D.M.D., TH.M.

Other sources: Wikipedia, *livescience.com* and *africafreak.com* 



Q:

*Can I
Overcome?
How?*

A:

“Why do we not cling to Jesus, and draw from Him by faith the strength and perfection of His character ... ? We are to look to Jesus, and climb up step by step in the work of overcoming Man is nothing without Christ. But if Christ lives in us, we shall work the works of God.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 17, 337.

“God has not left us to battle with evil in our own finite strength. Whatever may be our inherited or cultivated tendencies to wrong, we can overcome through the power that He is ready to impart.” *Counsels on Health*, 440.

“For every soul struggling to rise from a life of sin to a life of purity, ... The only remedy for vice is the grace and power of Christ.” *Ibid.*

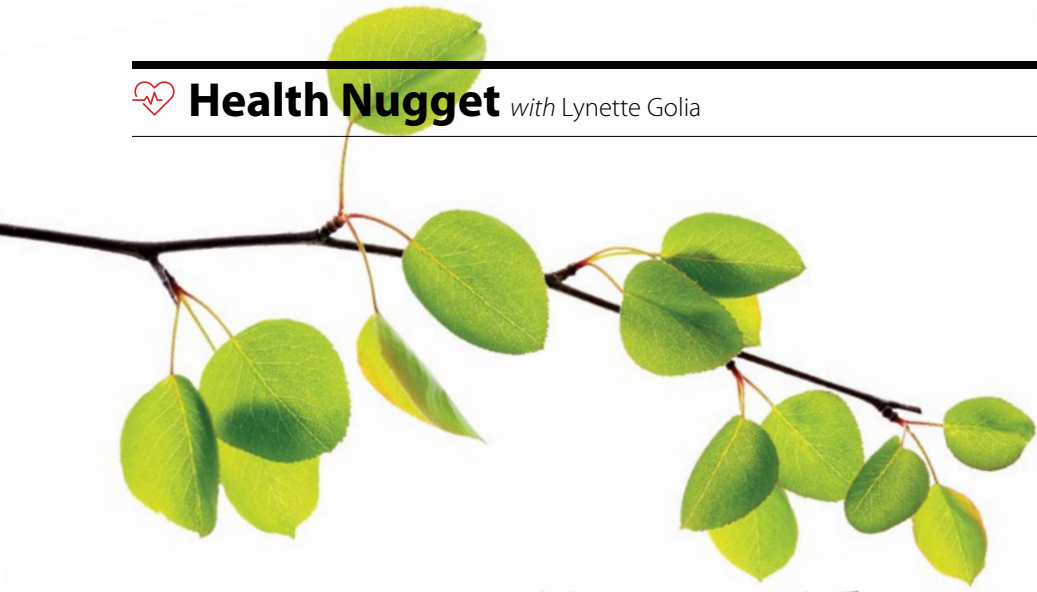
“Christ knew that man could not overcome without His help. ... He came to bring man moral power, and He would not have man to understand that he has nothing to do, for every one has a work to do for himself, and through the merits of Jesus we can overcome sin and the devil.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 3, 108.

“Every man is free to choose what power he will have to rule over him. None have fallen so low, none are so vile, but that they can find deliverance in Christ. ... Those who will consent to enter into covenant relation with the God of heaven are not left to the power of Satan or to the infirmity of their own nature.” *The Desire of Ages*, 258, 259.

“Now the question for us to decide is, Shall we have connection with Christ and the Father? Shall we accept the help needed?” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 3, 109.

“The tempted one needs to understand the true force of the will. This is the governing power in the nature of man—the power of decision, of choice. Everything depends on the right action of the will. ... Many will go down to ruin while hoping and desiring to overcome their evil propensities. They do not yield the will to God. They do not choose to serve Him.” *The Ministry of Healing*, 176.

“Through the right exercise of the will, an entire change may be made in your life. By yielding up your will to Christ, you ally yourself with the power that is above all principalities and powers. You will have strength from above to hold you steadfast, and thus through constant surrender to God you will be enabled to live the new life, even the life of faith.” *Steps to Christ*, 48. [LM](#)



Lung Function

An important predictor of health and longevity

Lung Function—an important predictor of health and longevity

What is the most accurate predictor of lifespan? It turns out that the biggest clue to longevity is your lung function.

Lung capacity is defined as the maximum amount of air the lungs can hold, while lung function involves the speed with which you can inhale and exhale. Lung function also involves how efficiently your lungs oxygenate the blood, while at the same time removing carbon dioxide.

Both lung function and lung capacity can be measured by a spirometry test. Also known as a pulmonary function test, spirometry measures the lungs' forced vital capacity (FVC), which involves lung size and exhalation capability, and the FEV₁ (forced expiratory volume) which measures how much air can be exhaled in one second.

When lung capacity and function are limited, less oxygen enters the bloodstream, cells and tissues resulting in shortness of breath, reduced endurance and decreased cardiorespiratory fitness.

Because limited lung function causes the heart to work harder, this can lead over time to heart failure and heart attacks. Other adverse effects include impaired metabolic and digestive functions, problems with cognition and memory, increased inflammation and heightened susceptibility to respiratory infections.

Study: Poor lung capacity can double your risk of premature death

In a 29-year study published in *Chest*, the peer-reviewed journal of the American College of Chest Physicians, researchers assessed the pulmonary function of 1,194 adults ranging in age from 20 to 89. After adjusting for factors such as age, body mass, blood pressure, education and smoking, the team found that lung capacity was strongly related to all-cause mortality in both men and women.

Men with the poorest lung capacity were a shocking 2.24 times more likely to die from any cause than those with the highest capacity, while women were 1.81 times more likely to die. Concluding that lung capacity and volume is a “strong and independent predictor of both all-cause and disease-specific mortality,” the researchers suggested that this could be used as an important tool for general health assessment.

By the way, this is not the only study linking lung capacity with lifespan. In an earlier investigation known as the Framingham study, researchers found that people with generous lung volume were healthier and lived longer than those with limited lung capacity.

Warning: Too many people experience poor lung health as early as age 30

As with so many other body functions, lung capacity declines with age. Lung tissue becomes less flexible, the diaphragm muscle becomes weaker, and the rib cage may contract, leaving less room for lungs to expand.

In fact, Dr. Adrian Draper, a respiratory consultant at Spire St. Anthony Hospital, reports that lung capacity at age 60 may be only two thirds of what it was at age 30. In addition, diseases such as COPD, asthma and pulmonary fibrosis (scarring) take a toll on lung capacity.

Conventionally speaking, lung function can't be improved. However, the Lung Health Institute reports that lung capacity – the amount of air available to be used – can be. Increasing lung capacity can provide a wealth of health benefits, including better immune defense against disease, accelerated wound healing, sharpened focus and concentration, improved digestion and more efficient elimination of waste.

Simple lifestyle choices can improve lung capacity

If you still smoke, quitting is the single most important thing you can do to increase lung capacity. If you have tried to quit without success, don't give up.

As excess fat can push on the chest and interfere with lung function, it can be helpful to shed pounds if you are overweight or obese. In addition, you can support healthy lung capacity by avoiding allergens, environmental toxins, secondhand smoke and dust. Bypass chemical air fresheners in favor of scenting your home with essential oils, and substitute organic cleaning products for harsh cleaners.

Breathing exercises and techniques including coordinated breathing, deep breathing and diaphragmatic breathing can also help restore lung capacity.

Vitamin D which is antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and immune system-boosting can be a boon to pulmonary function. Studies reveal that people with COPD who accompany standard rehabilitation measures with increased vitamin D intake show improvement in their ability to exercise.

Regular physical exercise can be highly beneficial for improving lung capacity. Experts recommend interspersing low-intensity activities with high-intensity exercise for maximum benefit. However, before beginning any exercise routine, consult your integrative doctor to work out a program that is safe and effective for you.

Excerpts from www.naturalhealth365.com/lung-function-predicting-longevity-3550.html

Breathing Exercises for Lung Ailments

While there are many different types of breathing exercises, below are a few that may be useful for people with

chronic lung diseases and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

Pursed Lips Breathing

The pursed lips breathing exercise can be used to address shortness of breath by reducing how hard someone must work to breathe. It promotes relaxation. In addition, pursed lips breathing helps people learn how to control their breathing and can aid in the release of air trapped within the lungs. Pursed lips breathing can be especially useful during strenuous activities.

- Relax your neck and shoulders.
- Breathe in slowly through your nostrils while you count to two (keeping your mouth closed).
- Pucker your lips.
- Breathe out slowly and steadily through your mouth while you count to four.

You don't have to take a deep breath to do pursed lips breathing. The key is to focus on breathing in and out slowly while you count. Pursed lips breathing can be practiced four to five times daily.

Coordinated Breathing

Episodes of shortness of breath can cause anxiety and make you hold your breath. The coordinated breathing exercise helps to prevent you from holding your breath. Coordinated breathing can help during exercise or when you feel anxious.

- Inhale through your nose. (If you're exercising, inhale through your nose before starting an exercise).
- Purse your lips.
- Exhale through pursed lips during the most challenging part of the exercise.
- Repeat as needed.

Deep Breathing

When air becomes trapped in the lungs, you may feel increased shortness of breath. While it may seem strange, deep breathing exercises can help prevent air from getting trapped in your lungs. Deep breathing helps you breathe in more fresh air.

- With your elbows back slightly, sit or stand in a comfortable position.
- Slowly take a deep breath in.
- Hold your breath as you count to ten.
- Exhale slowly until you feel that you have released as much air as possible.

Deep breathing can be performed along with other breathing exercises and up to three to four times a day.


Belly Breathing or Diaphragmatic Breathing

Of the muscles used for normal breathing, the diaphragm is one of the most important. Belly breathing or diaphragmatic breathing helps retrain the diaphragm to work better, so you can breathe more efficiently. Lie on your back with your knees bent or resting on a pillow.

- Place one hand on your upper chest and the other hand on your belly.
- Inhale slowly through your nose.
- As you inhale, focus on feeling the hand on your belly rise and the hand on your chest remaining as still as possible.
- Exhale slowly through your mouth like you would in pursed lips breathing.
- As you exhale, focus on feeling the hand on your belly go down first.
- Repeat as you are able.

Ask your doctor or respiratory therapist to show you how to best perform this exercise and how often you should practice it.

Prevention is the best medicine, and working to keep your lungs healthy is much more efficient than trying to repair them after something goes wrong.

Excerpts from <https://lunginstitute.com/blog/best-breathing-exercises-for-copd/> 





Seek Righteousness and Be Satisfied

By John J. Grosboll

It is a wonderful feeling to be satisfied. Unfortunately, in this world, many people never experience it. Many, having obtained riches, fame or pleasure, have confessed their lack of satisfaction.

In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus pronounced a blessing on those who are hungry and thirsty. This is the fourth step in the ladder of spiritual progression. He said, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled” (Matthew 5:6). To hunger and thirst after righteousness is the result of the spiritual experience of the first three beatitudes:

- First the recognition of our spiritual poverty, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (verse 3).
- This leads to heart sorrow for our spiritual condition because of our sins, “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted” (verse 4).

- And that leads us to an experience of meekness or humbleness; the leanness and nakedness of soul causes a crying out after God and His righteousness, “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth” (verse 5).

Jesus said that the soul’s hunger for righteousness will be satisfied. A good appetite is a sign of life and health. If you have ever taken care of someone who is dying, it is very common that they will have no desire for food and will lose their appetite the last few days of their life. Only people who are alive hunger and thirst. A lack of appetite is generally a sign either of sickness or of failing health. Hunger and thirst grow less as life is diminished, but they increase as life increases.

When a person dies, hunger and thirst cease altogether, but a baby who is healthy, has an appetite that seems never to fail because it is growing. A good

appetite is a great blessing because it is evidence that you have a normal, healthy body, and that makes life more worthwhile. Those who enjoy their meals have a much more satisfying life than those who eat just because they have to. Hunger and thirst are evidences of growth and development. No person can grow without a good, healthy appetite.

This is true not only in the physical realm, but also in the intellectual realm. It is only those who hunger and thirst for knowledge who continue to grow in wisdom and develop in intellectual power. We owe a great deal in our world today to those with an insatiable appetite for wisdom and knowledge. They have sought out and learned things, invented and discovered things that have changed our world. But many people, if not most, lose their mental appetite early in life, and then they no longer seek wisdom and knowledge; they just go through the motions of living. This is even true

of many professional people – ministers, lawyers, teachers, physicians. There are many people who die mentally long before they die physically. This is a great tragedy, but we live in a tragic world.

Matthew 5:6 has a special reference to a person's spiritual life and appetite. But here you have the very same principles that exist in the physical and intellectual worlds. Hunger and thirst are absolutely essential to spiritual life and growth. The person who has no appetite for spiritual things is spiritually dead and the person who has a poor spiritual appetite is spiritually sick. Only a normal, healthy Christian will have a ravenous appetite for the bread of life and the waters of salvation and will greatly enjoy his spiritual food and drink.

Unfortunately, most professed Christians today suffer from spiritual malnutrition, are spiritually weak and anemic, and it takes but little spiritual food to satisfy them. They are very particular, very picky, about what they eat, when they eat, and who feeds them. Many are kept alive only because they are being spoon-fed, for they do not have appetite and energy enough to feed themselves. This is a pathetic situation, especially when there is a great spiritual banquet spread for all, but this is not only a problem in our time. The apostle Paul addressed this very same situation when he wrote, "By this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil" (Hebrews 5:12–14).

The person who is spiritually proud feels no need. He already feels perfectly satisfied, and therefore, he has no appetite for spiritual things. This was true concerning the Pharisees in the time of



Christ. They felt no need, and so they received no benefit from the bread and water of life that Jesus freely offered to anyone who hungered and thirsted for it. Before Jesus was born, Mary, His mother, spoke about this very thing. In Luke 1:53, she said, "He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty."

When Jesus told the Jews that He was the bread of life, and only those who would eat His flesh and drink His blood could have eternal life, many were offended. It says they "walked no more with Him" (John 6:66). It was for this reason that the very first blessing in the beatitudes is pronounced upon those who are poor in spirit. These people feel their need and mourn for their spiritual condition. They will become meek, and lowly and gentle, and as they hunger and thirst for something they don't have, their need will be fulfilled.

We see the same spiritual condition of the Pharisees in Jesus' time in the Christian church today. The church feels neither hunger nor thirst because it is not poor in spirit. Almost 2,000 years ago, Jesus predicted the condition of the Christian church in the last days, saying: "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit [spue] you out of My mouth.

Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked" (Revelation 3:15–17). The church today does not recognize its spiritual poverty and does not mourn over its sins. It is not meek and humble, but rather proud and boastful of its spiritual wealth. It says it is rich and increased in goods and has need of nothing. Because of this, Jesus Christ, the Dispenser of the bread of life, is unable to feed the modern church; it is spiritually sick, has no appetite and does not realize her condition. Christ offers the church an abundance of food, but it feels well-filled and already satisfied.

The Lord describes His people in the last days as being naked and, at the same time, going about as if in a dress parade. The church has no divine covering for its sins, but through its religious rituals, it has provided for itself a garment. The Lord calls these garments filthy rags. "We are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. And there is no one who calls on Your name, who stirs himself up to take hold of You" (Isaiah 64:6, 7, *first part*).

The Laodicean church thinks it is clothed, although the Lord sees their clothing "as filthy rags." Jesus says, "Come and buy from Me ... white raiment that you may be truly clothed" (Revelation 3:18, literal translation). They must be awakened for He offers them the wedding garment, His robe of righteousness, that will prepare them for heaven.

When Adam and Eve sinned, they were ashamed, because the garment of light that had covered their nakedness had left them. They did not want to appear in front of the Lord naked, so they sewed garments of fig leaves together to clothe themselves. But the Lord did not accept those garments. He provided them with garments made possible only by the death of a symbolic lamb.

The Lord wants to do in a spiritual sense for the modern church as He did for our first parents in a physical sense. He wants us to realize our nakedness, and then He wants to provide us with His righteousness that will cover us so that the shame of our nakedness does not appear (see Revelation 16:15).

Of all human cravings, there are none more powerful than the physical cravings of hunger and thirst. Any person or animal who is hungry or thirsty will make every effort to obtain food and drink. Have you read stories of individuals who could not get food or water for a long period of time? I read of a survivor who said, “I cannot even think about it, even to the present day, without rushing out to the kitchen to get a drink of water. To think of that terrible thirst, was just like a fire inside of me.”

People who have become lost in the desert and have been without water for days, will see what they believe is water, but it is just a mirage. The water of life that Jesus offers is not a mirage. It is a well of living water (John 4:14). And this is our great need in the modern generation, a thirst for the water of life. We need a soul-hunger for the bread of life and thirst for the water of life. Those who hunger and thirst for these are promised that they will be satisfied.

If the modern church could be given a good spiritual appetite, she would not long remain in her present spiritual condition. The Bible records the story when Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman at the well in Sychar: “Jesus answered and said to her, ‘If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, “Give me a drink,” you would have asked of Him, and He would have given you living water.’ The woman said to Him, ‘Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water?’ ... Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Whoever drinks of this water [physical water] will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water

that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life” (John 4:10–14).

Jesus said to the Jews in John 6:35, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes on Me will never thirst.” But then He spoke the following mournful words in verse 36: “But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe.” Friend, do you want something you don’t have or are you like the millions of spiritually proud people of all ages who are perfectly satisfied just the way they are? Jesus said, “All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out” (verse 37).

You see, complete satisfaction is promised only to those who hunger and thirst after righteousness. The Lord makes the following invitation: “Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully [diligently] to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance. Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live” (Isaiah 55:1–3, *first part*).

Complete satisfaction is still available; it’s still waiting in our modern, wretched, poverty-stricken, naked church as soon as we wake up and want something better than what we have. The blessing is pronounced on those who are hungry and thirsty, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they will be filled.” They will be completely satisfied.

If you feel perfectly satisfied right now, it’s time for you to pray and ask the Lord for a hunger and thirst for that which will bring perfect and lasting satisfaction, spiritually and intellectually; that which eventually will lead to eternal life. Jesus, standing and knocking

at the door of the modern church, says to the lukewarm, self-satisfied church, Come, I have something for you. He says, “I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see” (Revelation 3:18).

How is it with your life? Jesus says, Obtain gold from Me. Spiritual gold is faith. If you have faith, Jesus said that you can obtain everything you need, everything is possible if you have faith. But also, if you have spiritual gold, you have wealth. Spiritual gold is spiritual wealth. Spiritual wealth is love, which is the bond of perfection (Colossians 3:14). So spiritual gold is faith and love.

We need the white raiment, which is the righteousness of Christ, the righteousness that we must have to enter into the kingdom of heaven; the righteousness that no human being can generate.

We will need eye salve, the spiritual anointing that gives a person the discernment to see the deceptions of Satan, so that he may see sin and hate it and turn from it and have the ability to see the truth and to obey it.

Only Jesus can satisfy the deepest spiritual need of your soul, and He will, if you’ll come to Him. Jesus says these are what you need and you won’t be poor any longer. “Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they will be filled.” Christ is our righteousness. He says, “If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink” (John 7:37 KJV).

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

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June 27 – July 3, 2021

The Steward

Key Text

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths” (Proverbs 3:5, 6).

Study Help: *The Ministry of Healing*, 500–502.

Introduction

“That man might not lose the blessed results of benevolence, our Redeemer formed the plan of enlisting him as His co-worker.” *The Review and Herald*, August 25, 1874.

Sunday

1 COMMITMENT

1.a. What are the foundational principles of faithful stewardship? Luke 16:10, 11, 13.

Note: “If the word of God is cherished as an abiding principle in the heart, and held fast under all and every circumstance, man is brought, with his entrusted capabilities, under [subjection] to the Lord Jesus Christ. His undivided powers, even his thoughts, are brought into captivity to Christ. This is true sanctification. All the parts of the experience blend in complete harmony. He is ‘wanting in nothing.’ He does not keep part to himself, to do with just as he pleases.” *In Heavenly Places*, 190.

1.b. Explain what a primary priority of the faithful steward is and the chief asset sought. Matthew 6:33.

Note: “[Matthew 6:22 quoted.] Singleness of purpose, whole-hearted devotion to God, is the condition pointed out by the Saviour’s words. Let the purpose be sincere and unwavering to discern the truth and to obey it at whatever cost, and you will receive divine enlightenment.” *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, 91.

Monday

2 STEWARDSHIP

2.a. A steward manages another’s property. Name some important things of which we are stewards. Matthew 25:14–30.

Note: “Those with whom God has entrusted His truth, must possess the same beneficent spirit that Christ manifested. They must adopt the same broad plans of action. They should have a kind, generous spirit toward the poor, and in a special sense feel that they are God’s stewards. They must hold all they have—property, mental powers, spiritual strength—as not their own, but only lent them to advance the cause of Christ in the earth. Like Christ, they should not shun the society of their fellow-men, but should seek it with the purpose of bestowing upon others the heavenly benefits they have received from God.” *Gospel Workers*, 335.

2.b. Where is wealth to be accumulated and why? Matthew 6:19–21.

Note: “God desires us to choose the heavenly in place of the earthly. He opens before us the possibilities of a heavenly investment. He would give encouragement to our loftiest aims, security to our choicest treasure. He declares, ‘I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir’ (Isaiah 13:12). When the riches that moth devours and rust corrupts shall be swept away, Christ’s followers can rejoice in their heavenly treasure, the riches that are imperishable.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 374.

2.c. How are we to handle the wealth entrusted to us by the Master? 1 Timothy 6:18, 19; Proverbs 19:17.

Note: “All should feel that they are not proprietors, but stewards, and that the time is coming when they must give an account for the use they have made of their Lord’s money. Means will be needed in the cause of God. With David they should say: ‘All things come of Thee, and of Thine own have we given Thee’ (1 Chronicles 29:14).” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 382.

Tuesday

3 POSITIVE ATTITUDES

3.a. What should the faithful steward consider in the face of difficult times/uncertainty? Philippians 4:13; Romans 8:28.

3.b. What warnings come to faithful stewards with regard to our attitudes and motives? 1 John 2:15, 16.

Note: “Satan is constantly presenting inducements to God’s chosen people to attract their minds from the solemn work of preparation for the scenes just in the future. He is in every sense of the word a deceiver, a skillful charmer. He clothes his plans and snares with coverings of light borrowed from heaven. He tempted Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit by making her believe that she would be greatly advantaged thereby. Satan leads his agents to introduce various inventions and patent rights and other enterprises, that Sabbathkeeping Adventists who are in haste to be rich may fall into temptation, become

ensnared, and pierce themselves through with many sorrows. He is wide awake, busily engaged in leading the world captive, and through the agency of worldlings he keeps up a continual pleasing excitement to draw the unwary who profess to believe the truth to unite with worldlings. The lust of the eye, the desire for excitement and pleasing entertainment, is a temptation and snare to God’s people. Satan has many finely woven, dangerous nets which are made to appear innocent, but with which he is skillfully preparing to infatuate God’s people. There are pleasing shows, entertainments, phrenological lectures, and an endless variety of enterprises constantly arising calculated to lead the people of God to love the world and the things that are in the world. Through this union with the world, faith becomes weakened, and means which should be invested in the cause of present truth are transferred to the enemy’s ranks. Through these different channels Satan is skillfully draining the purses of God’s people, and for it the displeasure of the Lord is upon them.” *Testimonies*, vol. 1, 550, 551.

Wednesday

4 TRUST

4.a. What is promised to those who trust in the Lord? Psalm 32:10; Proverbs 3:5, 6; Psalm 34:22.

Note: “The psalmist says, ‘Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed’ (Psalm 37:3). ‘Trust in the Lord.’ Each day has its burdens, its cares and perplexities; and when we meet how ready we are to talk of our difficulties and trials. So many borrowed troubles intrude, so many fears are indulged, such a weight of anxiety is expressed, that one might suppose we had no pitying, loving Saviour ready to hear all our requests and to be to us a present help in every time of need.” *Steps to Christ*, 121.

4.b. Name some of the lessons from nature that inspire trust in the Lord. Matthew 6:25–30.

Note: “Consider, says Jesus, how the lilies grow; how, springing from the cold, dark earth, or from the mud of the river bed, the plants unfold in loveliness and fragrance. Who would dream of the possibilities of beauty in the rough brown bulb of the lily? But when the life of God, hidden therein, unfolds at His call in the rain and the sunshine, men marvel at the vision of grace and loveliness. Even so will the life of God unfold in every human soul that will yield itself to the ministry of His grace, which, free as the rain and the sunshine, comes with its benediction to all. It is the word of God that creates the flowers, and the same word will produce in you the graces of His Spirit.

“God’s law is the law of love. He has surrounded you with beauty to teach you that you are not placed on earth merely to delve for self, to dig and build, to toil and spin, but to make life bright and joyous and beautiful with the love of Christ—like the flowers, to gladden other lives by the ministry of love.”
Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, 97.

Thursday

5 THANKFULNESS

5.a. What value is placed on people who appear to be lost? Luke 15:8, 9.

Note: “Forgetting our own difficulties and troubles, let us praise God for an opportunity to live for the glory of His name. Let the fresh blessings of each new day awaken praise in our hearts for these tokens of His loving care. When you open your eyes in the morning, thank God that He has kept you through the night. Thank Him for His peace in your heart. Morning, noon, and night, let gratitude as a sweet perfume ascend to heaven.” *The Review and Herald, June 2, 1910.*

“Have we not reason to talk of God’s goodness and to tell of His power? When friends are kind to us we esteem it a privilege to thank them for their kindness. How much more should we count it a joy to return thanks to the Friend who has given us every good and perfect gift. Then let us, in every church, cultivate thanksgiving to God. Let us educate our lips to praise God in the family circle.” *My Life Today, 170.*



Who would dream of the possibilities of beauty in the rough brown bulb of the lily?

5.b. For what should we give thanks? Psalms 119:14, 72, 127.

Note: “The glorious possibilities set before Israel could be realized only through obedience to God’s commandments. The same elevation of character, the same fulness of blessing—blessing on mind and soul and body, blessing on house and field, blessing for this life and for the life to come—is possible for us only through obedience.” *Christ’s Object Lessons, 305.*

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 How can you demonstrate commitment to the cause of the gospel?
- 2 What is the job description of a faithful steward?
- 3 How does your attitude affect your financial decision-making?
- 4 What is necessary to put God totally in control of your finances?
- 5 What do you discover when you count your blessings?

July 4 – 10, 2021

Qualities of Genuine Stewardship

Key Text

“Thou art my portion, O LORD: I have said that I would keep Thy words” (Psalm 119:57).

Study Help: *Child Guidance*, 150–168.

Introduction

“All that we possess, our mental and physical powers, all the blessings of the present and the future life, are delivered to us stamped with the cross of Calvary.” *The Review and Herald*, December 14, 1886.

Sunday

1 CONTENTMENT

1.a. What should we realize about all of our earthly possessions? Job 1:21.

Note: “All things belong to God. Men may ignore His claims. While He bountifully bestows His blessings upon them, they may use His gifts for their own selfish gratification; but they will be called to give an account for their stewardship.

“A steward identifies himself with his master. He accepts the responsibilities of a steward, and he must act in his master’s stead, doing as his master would do were he presiding. His master’s interests become his. The position of a steward is one of dignity because his master trusts him. If in any wise he acts selfishly and turns the advantages gained by trading with his lord’s goods to his own advantage, he has perverted the trust reposed in him.” *Testimonies*, vol. 9, 246.

1.b. How can we learn to be content with our earthly possessions? Psalm 37:16; Proverbs 15:16; 1 Timothy 6:8, 17–19.

Note: “We think of Jesus the Creator of all the worlds, and how He came into the world as a poor man. He had not where to lay His head. So poverty is no disgrace. Sin is a disgrace.” *The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials*, 1514.

Monday

2 FAIRNESS

2.a. Since we should be content with our earthly possessions, how should we treat the earthly possessions of others? Deuteronomy 16:19, 20.

Note: “In the last great issue between Christ’s followers and the powers of darkness, Satan offers his bribes to men and women. Some sell themselves for naught; for what shall it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 19, 243.

“We must feel a special interest in looking upon the things of others—not to covet them, not to find fault with them, not to remark upon them and present them in a false light, but to do strict justice in all things to our brethren and all with whom we have any dealings.” *That I May Know Him*, 176.

2.b. What does God want us to realize about the evils of partiality? Deuteronomy 24:17; Romans 2:11.

Note: “No distinction on account of nationality, race, or caste, is recognized by God. He is the Maker of all mankind. All men are of one family by creation, and all are one through redemption. Christ came to demolish every wall of partition, to throw open every compartment of the temple courts, that every soul may have free access to God. His love is so broad, so deep, so full, that it penetrates everywhere. It lifts out of Satan’s influence those who have been deluded by his deceptions, and places them within reach of the throne of God, the throne encircled by the rainbow of promise. In Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, bond nor free.” *Prophets and Kings*, 369, 370.



No distinction on account of nationality, race, or caste, is recognized by God.

“The reason for all division, discord, and difference is found in separation from Christ. Christ is the center to which all should be attracted; for the nearer we approach the center, the closer we shall come together in feeling, in sympathy, in love, growing into the character and image of Jesus. With God there is no respect of persons. ...

“The Son of the infinite God, the Lord of life and glory, descended in humiliation to the life of the lowliest, that no one might feel himself excluded from His presence. He made Himself accessible to all. He did not select a favored few with whom to associate and ignore all others.” *That I May Know Him*, 99.

Tuesday

3 HONESTY

3.a. What blessing is given to all who follow integrity in all their transactions? Proverbs 10:9.

3.b. What should link the actions, the words, and even the thoughts of the faithful steward? Proverbs 12:5, 17; 14:2.

Note: “By the terms of our stewardship we are placed under obligation, not only to God, but to man.” *Education*, 139.

3.c. How does the Lord consider those who are dishonest in business? Proverbs 16:11; 20:10.

Note: “It is neither the magnitude nor the seeming insignificance of a business transaction that makes it fair or unfair, honest or dishonest. By the least departure from rectitude we place ourselves on the enemy’s ground, and may go on, step by step, to any length of injustice. A large proportion of the Christian world divorce religion from their business.” *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 337.

“An honest man, according to Christ’s measurement, is one who will manifest unbending integrity. Deceitful weights and false balances, with which many seek to advance their interests in the world, are abomination in the sight of God. Yet many who profess to keep the commandments of God are dealing with false weights and false balances. When a man is indeed connected with God, and is keeping His law in truth, his life will reveal the fact; for all his actions will be in harmony with the teachings of Christ. He will not sell his honor for gain. His principles are built upon the sure foundation, and his conduct in worldly matters is a transcript of his principles. Firm integrity shines forth as gold amid the dross and rubbish of the world. Deceit, falsehood, and unfaithfulness may be glossed over and hidden from the eyes of man, but not from the eyes of God. The angels of God, who watch the development of character and weigh moral worth, record in the books of heaven these minor transactions which reveal character. If a workman in the daily vocations of life is unfaithful and slights his work, the world will not judge incorrectly if they estimate his standard in religion according to his standard in business.” *Ibid.*, 310, 311.

Wednesday

4 HUMILITY

4.a. What is the reward for the humble, faithful steward?
Psalm 37:11; Proverbs 22:4; Matthew 18:4.

Note: “Supreme love for God and unselfish love for one another, this is the best gift that the heavenly Father can bestow. Let all believers draw near to God and to one another, that God may draw near to them. No man is to be exalted as supreme. No man is to suppose that he is infallible because he has been enlightened by God and used by Him in bringing souls to the truth. Our endowments are valuable only as they are used as God’s entrusted talents to magnify the truth. The one through whom God works is never to exalt himself, never to seek to rule. As a wise steward, he is to do his work in sincerity and humility. He is to do God service by imparting what he has received, by speaking the truth in love in a clear, decided manner. Thus he is to enlighten others, remembering always that God only can impress the mind and purify the heart.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 21, 275.

4.b. Why is a humble spirit necessary? Proverbs 29:23.

Note: “Love, compassion, and tenderness are to be revealed amongst us. Put on, as the elect of God, mercy and kindness. The sins that were practiced before conversion are to be put off with the old man. With the new man, Christ Jesus, are to be put on ‘kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering’ (Colossians 3:12).

“Those who have risen with Christ to walk in newness of life are the elect of God. They are holy unto the Lord, and are acknowledged by Him as His beloved. As such, they are under solemn covenant to distinguish themselves by showing humility of mind. They are to clothe themselves in garments of righteousness. They are separate from the world, from its spirit, its practices, and they are to reveal that they are learning of Him who says, ‘I am meek and lowly in heart’ (Matthew 11:29). If they realize that they have died with Christ, if they keep their baptismal vow, the world will have no power to draw them aside to deny Christ. If they live the life of Christ in this world, they are partakers of the divine nature. Then, when Christ, who is our life, shall appear, they also will appear with Him in glory.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 19, 236, 237.

Thursday

5 OBEDIENCE

5.a. What characteristics were shown to John the Revelator when he saw the people of God in these last days?
Revelation 14:12.

5.b. Identify some specific instructions concerning legitimate business principles? Deuteronomy 5:32, 33; 25:13–15; Luke 11:28.

Note: “There is no branch of legitimate business for which the Bible does not afford an essential preparation. Its principles of diligence, honesty, thrift, temperance, and purity are the secret of true success. These principles, as set forth in the book of Proverbs, constitute a treasury of practical wisdom. Where can the merchant, the artisan, the director of men in any department of business, find better maxims for himself or for his employees than are found in these words of the wise man [Proverbs 22:29; 14:23; 13:4; 23:21; 20:19; 17:27; 20:3; 4:14; 6:28; 13:20; 18:24 quoted]. . . .

“How many a man might have escaped financial failure and ruin by heeding the warnings, so often repeated and emphasized in the Scriptures. . . .

“These are principles with which are bound up the well-being of society, of both secular and religious associations. It is these principles that give security to property and life. For all that makes confidence and co-operation possible, the world is indebted to the law of God, as given in His word, and as still traced, in lines often obscure and well-nigh obliterated, in the hearts of men.” *Education*, 135–137.

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 How can you be content with your earthly possessions?
- 2 How should you treat others in your financial transactions?
- 3 What blessings will you receive if you are honest in all your transactions?
- 4 How can humility be manifested in my life in practical ways?
- 5 Name some benefits pertaining to financial honesty.

July 11 – 17, 2021

Problems to Overcome (I)

Key Text

“For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work” (James 3:16).

Study Help: *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 242–248.

Introduction

“Whether we recognize it or not, we are stewards, supplied from God with talents and facilities, and placed in the world to do a work appointed by Him.” *Education*, 137.

Sunday

1 ENVY AND KINDRED SINS

1.a. What was the origin of pride, envy, and ambition for position—and their bitter results. Isaiah 14:12–15.

Note: “It was pride and ambition that prompted Lucifer to complain of the government of God, and to seek the overthrow of the order which had been established in heaven. Since his fall it has been his object to infuse the same spirit of envy and discontent, the same ambition for position and honor, into the minds of men.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 403.

1.b. Describe a carnal mind—a candidate for the second death? 1 Corinthians 3:3; Romans 8:6, 7; James 3:14–16.

Note: “If you open your heart to envy and evil surmising, the Holy Spirit cannot abide with you. Seek for the fullness that is in Christ.” *Testimonies*, vol. 8, 191.

1.c. How does envy affect your personality and well-being? Job 5:2; Proverbs 14:30; 27:4.

Note: “The envious man diffuses poison wherever he goes, alienating friends and stirring up hatred and rebellion against God and man. He seeks to be thought best and greatest, not by putting forth heroic, self-denying efforts to reach the goal of excellence himself, but by standing where he is and diminishing the merit due to the efforts of others.” *Testimonies*, vol. 5, 56.

Monday

2 COVETOUSNESS

2.a. What do we learn about covetousness from the experience of Achan? Joshua 7:20–26.

Note: “The deadly sin that led to Achan’s ruin had its root in covetousness, of all sins one of the most common and the most lightly regarded. While other offenses meet with detection and punishment, how rarely does the violation of the tenth commandment so much as call forth censure. The enormity of this sin, and its terrible results, are the lessons of Achan’s history.

“Covetousness is an evil of gradual development. Achan had cherished greed of gain until it became a habit, binding him in fetters well-nigh impossible to break. While fostering this evil, he would have been filled with horror at the thought of bringing disaster upon Israel; but his perceptions were deadened by sin, and when temptation came, he fell an easy prey.

“Are not similar sins still committed, in the face of warnings as solemn and explicit? We are as directly forbidden to indulge covetousness as was Achan to appropriate the spoils of Jericho. God has declared it to be idolatry. We are warned, ‘Ye cannot serve God and mammon’ (Matthew 6:24). ‘Take heed, and beware of covetousness’ (Luke 12:15). ‘Let it not be once named among you’ (Ephesians 5:3). We have before us the fearful

doom of Achan, of Judas, of Ananias and Sapphira. Back of all these we have that of Lucifer, the ‘son of the morning,’ who, coveting a higher state, forfeited forever the brightness and bliss of heaven. And yet, notwithstanding all these warnings, covetousness abounds.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 496, 497.

2.b. What should be our relationship with those who are controlled by the spirit of covetousness? Ephesians 5:5; 1 Corinthians 5:11.

2.c. What other sinners besides covetous persons will be kept out of the kingdom of God? 1 Corinthians 6:10.

Tuesday

3 GREED

3.a. As envy and covetousness take root in the heart, what follows? Job 5:2.

Note: “The Scriptures describe the condition of the world just before Christ’s second coming. James the apostle pictures the greed and oppression that will prevail. He says, ‘Go to now, ye rich men, . . . ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabbaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton. Ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you’ (James 5:1–6). This is a picture of what exists today. By every species of oppression and extortion, men are piling up colossal fortunes, while the cries of starving humanity are coming up before God.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 170.

3.b. What often happens when wealth is selfishly retained by their greedy owners? Ecclesiastes 5:13, 14.

3.c. How do wicked people reveal what is in their heart and mind? Psalm 10:3.

Note: “Men in their blindness boast of wonderful progress and enlightenment; but to the eye of Omniscience are revealed the inward guilt and depravity. The heavenly watchers see the earth filled with violence and crime. Wealth is obtained by every species of robbery, not robbery of men only, but of God. Men are using His means to gratify their selfishness. Everything they can grasp is made to minister to their greed. Avarice and sensuality prevail. Men cherish the attributes of the first great deceiver. They have accepted him as God, and have become imbued with his spirit.” *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 14, 15.

Wednesday

4 PRIDE

4.a. The concept of pride is highly valued in this world. How does Scripture describe pride? Proverbs 16:5, 18.

4.b. What will the Lord do to the proud? Proverbs 15:25; Luke 18:14. Describe what the servant of the Lord was shown regarding the outcome of the proud.

Note: “I saw that God hates pride, and that all the proud, and all that do wickedly shall be stubble, and the day that cometh shall burn them up.” *Testimonies*, vol. 1, 132.

4.c. Rather than pride, what is seen in the life of the faithful steward? James 4:6.

Note: “All who study the life of Christ and practice His teaching will become like Christ. Their influence will be like His. They will reveal soundness of character. They are established in the faith, and will not be overcome by the devil because of vanity and pride. They seek to walk the humble path of obedience, doing the will of God. Their character exerts an influence that tells for the advancement of the cause of God and the healthful purity of His work. . . .

“In these thoroughly converted souls the world has a witness to the sanctifying power of truth upon the human character. Through them Christ makes known to the world His character and will. In the lives of God’s children is revealed the blessedness of serving the Lord, and the opposite is seen in those who do not keep His commandments. The line of demarcation is distinct. All who obey God’s commandments are kept by His mighty power amid the corrupting influence of the transgressors of His law. From the lowliest subject to the highest in positions of trust, they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.” *Evangelism*, 315, 316.

Thursday

5 THE LOVE OF MONEY

5.a. What will the love of money bring you? 1 Timothy 6:10; Ecclesiastes 5:10.

Note: “The Bible condemns no man for being rich, if he has acquired his riches honestly. Not money, but the love of money, is the root of all evil. It is God who gives men power to get wealth; and in the hands of him who acts as God’s steward, using his means unselfishly, wealth is a blessing, both to its possessor and to the world. But many, absorbed in their interest in worldly treasures, become insensible to the claims of God



Whether we recognize it or not, we are stewards, supplied from God with talents and facilities.

and the needs of their fellow men. They regard their wealth as a means of glorifying themselves. They add house to house, and land to land; they fill their homes with luxuries, while all about them are human beings in misery and crime, in disease and death. Those who thus give their lives to self-serving are developing in themselves, not the attributes of God, but the attributes of the wicked one.” *The Ministry of Healing*, 212, 213.

5.b. What is the top priority in the life of every faithful steward? 1 Corinthians 2:2; Matthew 6:33; Luke 9:25.

Note: “When the sinner reaches the cross, and looks up to the One who died to save him, he may rejoice with fullness of joy; for his sins are pardoned. Kneeling at the cross, he has reached the highest place to which man can attain.” *The Review and Herald*, April 29, 1902.

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 How will envy impact your stewardship?
- 2 What kind of association should you have with persons who do not follow the principles of faithful stewardship?
- 3 What is the result of living a greedy life?
- 4 What is the basis of your financial decisions?
- 5 Explain the danger of becoming preoccupied with material goods.

July 18 – 24, 2021

Problems to Overcome (II)

Key Text

“He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful” (Matthew 13:22).

Study Help: *Counsels on Stewardship*, 133–140.

Introduction

“All money lovers ... will one day cry in bitter anguish: ‘Oh, the deceitfulness of riches! I have sold my soul for money.’”
Testimonies, vol. 3, 544, 545.

Sunday

1 DECEPTION

1.a. How does Satan often pervert the heart and the mouth of people who take business advantages? Jeremiah 6:13; Acts 5:3, 4.

1.b. How earnestly did King David struggle against deceit? Psalms 52:2, 3; 101:7; 120:2; Proverbs 30:8.

1.c. As faithful stewards must often be in contact with deceitful people, what prayer should they send up to the throne of grace? Psalm 43:1, *last part*.

1.d. How does God often permit a deceitful person to be the victim of his or her own tricks? Psalm 7:14–16.

Monday

2 DISHONESTY

2.a. How is a dishonest person described? Proverbs 6:12, 13, 14, 16–19.

2.b. How does the Lord consider those who are dishonest in their financial transactions? Deuteronomy 27:17–19; Proverbs 11:1; 20:23.

Note: “The accounts of every business, the details of every transaction, pass the scrutiny of unseen auditors, agents of Him who never compromises with injustice, never overlooks evil, never palliates wrong. ...

“Against every evildoer God’s law utters condemnation. He may disregard that voice, he may seek to drown its warning, but in vain. It follows him. It makes itself heard. It destroys his peace. If unheeded, it pursues him to the grave. It bears witness against him at the judgment. A quenchless fire, it consumes at last soul and body.” *Education*, 144, 145.

2.c. What will happen to gain that is acquired dishonestly? Proverbs 13:11; 15:27; 21:6.



The details of every transaction pass the scrutiny of unseen auditors, agents of Him who never compromises with injustice.

Note: “This is a question that demands consideration by every parent, every teacher, every student—by every human being, young or old. No scheme of business or plan of life can be sound or complete that embraces only the brief years of this present life and makes no provision for the unending future. Let the youth be taught to take eternity into their reckoning. Let them be taught to choose the principles and seek the possessions that are enduring—to lay up for themselves that ‘treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth;’ to make to themselves friends ‘by means of the mammon of unrighteousness,’ that when it shall fail, these may receive them ‘into the eternal tabernacles’ (Luke 12:33; 16:9 RV).” *Education*, 145.

Tuesday

3 INJUSTICE

3.a. What is the command regarding partiality? Leviticus 19:15.

Note: “Do not show partiality to one or more, and neglect other of your brethren because they are not congenial to you. Beware lest you deal harshly with those who you think have made mistakes, while others, more guilty and more deserving of reproof, who should be severely rebuked for their unChrist-like conduct, are sustained and treated as friends.” *The Review and Herald*, March 12, 1895.

3.b. What does the faithful steward relate to disadvantaged persons? Psalm 82:2–4.

Note: “God requires that His people should not allow the poor and afflicted to be oppressed. If they break every yoke and release the oppressed, and are unselfish and kindly considerate of the needy, then shall the blessings promised be theirs. If there are those in the church who would cause the blind to stumble, they should be brought to justice; for God has made us guardians of the blind, the afflicted, the widows, and the fatherless. The stumbling block referred to in the word of God does not mean a block of wood placed before the feet of the blind to cause him to stumble, but it means much more than this. It means any course that may be pursued to injure the influence of their blind brother, to work against his interest, or to hinder his prosperity.

“A brother who is blind and poor and diseased, and who is making every exertion to help himself that he may not be dependent, should be encouraged by his brethren in every way possible. But those who profess to be his brethren, who have the use of all their faculties, who are not dependent, but who so far forget their duty to the blind as to perplex and distress and hedge up his way, are doing a work which will require repentance and restoration before God will accept their prayers. And the church of God who have permitted their unfortunate brother to be wronged will be guilty of sin until they do all in their power to have the wrong righted.” *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 519, 520.

Wednesday

4 POOR COMPANY

4.a. While the Lord is our great Counselor, from whom may we seek counsel on this earth? Proverbs 13:20.

Note: “The only safe course for the youth is to mingle with the pure, the holy, and thus natural tendencies to evil will be held in check. By choosing for their companions such as fear the Lord, they will seldom be found disbelieving God’s word, entertaining doubts and infidelity. The power of a truly consistent example is very great for good.” *In Heavenly Places*, 172.

4.b. What is the benefit of not counselling with ungodly persons? Proverbs 14:7; 2 Thessalonians 3:6.

Note: “Let the youth choose the influence of, and become associated with, men and women of bad principles and practices, ... and they are polluted. Silent and unconscious influences weave their sentiments into their lives, become a part of their very existence, and they walk on the very brink of a precipice and sense no danger. They learn to love the words of the smooth tongued, the honeyed words of the deceiver, and are restless, uneasy, and unhappy unless they are carried to the pinnacle of someone’s flattery. ... To walk in the counsel of the ungodly is the first step toward standing in the place of sinners and sitting in the seat of the scornful.” *In Heavenly Places*, 172.

“It is wrong for Christians to associate with those whose morals are loose. An intimate, daily intercourse which occupies time without contributing in any degree to the strength of the intellect or morals is dangerous. If the moral atmosphere surrounding persons is not pure and sanctified, but is tainted with corruption, those who breathe this atmosphere will find that it operates almost insensibly upon the intellect and heart to poison and to ruin. It is dangerous to be conversant with those whose minds naturally take a low level. Gradually and imperceptibly those who are naturally conscientious and love purity will come to the same level and partake of and sympathize with the imbecility and moral barrenness with which they are so constantly brought in contact.” *Testimonies*, vol. 3, 125.

Thursday

5 THE FUTILITY OF ACQUIRING RICHES

5.a. How much of our earthly riches do we retain when we die? Psalm 49:16, 17; Ecclesiastes 5:13–15; 1 Timothy 6:7.

5.b. What can we take with us to the great judgment of humanity? Matthew 16:26; Proverbs 11:4.

Note: “The redeemed will be welcomed to the home that Jesus is preparing for them. There their companions will not be the vile of earth, liars, idolaters, the impure, and unbelieving; but they will associate with those who have overcome Satan and through divine grace have formed perfect characters. Every sinful tendency, every imperfection, that afflicts them here has been removed by the blood of Christ, and the excellence and brightness of His glory, far exceeding the brightness of the sun, is imparted to them. And the moral beauty, the perfection of His character, shines through them, in worth far exceeding this outward splendor. They are without fault before the great white throne, sharing the dignity and the privileges of the angels.

“In view of the glorious inheritance that may be his, ‘what shall a man give in exchange for his soul’ (Matthew 16:26)? He may be poor, yet he possesses in himself a wealth and dignity that the world could never bestow. The soul redeemed and cleansed from sin, with all its noble powers dedicated to the service of God, is of surpassing worth; and there is joy in heaven in the presence of God and the holy angels over one soul redeemed, a joy that is expressed in songs of holy triumph.” *Steps to Christ*, 126.

Friday

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What are the results of a deceptive communication?
- 2 How does dishonesty affect the one who deceives?
- 3 How do faithful stewards treat others in their financial dealings?
- 4 Who is the faithful steward’s financial counselor?
- 5 What should remind us of the temporal nature of material wealth?

July 25 – 31, 2021

Work

Key Text

“And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it” (Genesis 2:15).

Study Help: *Messages to Young People*, 177–180.

Introduction

“The true glory and joy of life are found only by the working man and woman. Labor brings its own reward, and sweet is the rest that is purchased by the fatigue of a well-spent day.”
Christian Temperance and Bible Hygiene, 98.

Sunday

1 LABOR

1.a. At creation, what was graciously supplied to humanity? Genesis 2:15.

Note: “God appointed labor as a blessing to man, to occupy his mind, to strengthen his body, and to develop his faculties. In mental and physical activity Adam found one of the highest pleasures of his holy existence. And when, as a result of his disobedience, he was driven from his beautiful home, and forced to struggle with a stubborn soil to gain his daily bread, that very labor, although widely different from his pleasant occupation in the garden, was a safeguard against temptation and a source of happiness. Those who regard work as a curse, attended though it be with weariness and pain, are cherishing an error. The rich often look down with contempt upon the working classes, but this is wholly at variance with God’s purpose in creating man. What are the possessions of even the most wealthy in comparison with the heritage given to the lordly Adam? Yet Adam was not to be idle. Our Creator, who understands what is for man’s happiness, appointed Adam his work. The true joy of life is found only by the working men and women.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 50.

1.b. What portion of a wise person’s labor belongs to him or to her? Ecclesiastes 3:13.

Monday

2 THE COMMAND TO WORK

2.a. What is an intrinsic part of the fourth commandment? Exodus 20:9.

Note: “The religion you profess makes it as much your duty to employ your time during the six working days as to attend church on the Sabbath. You are not diligent in business. You let hours, days, and even weeks pass without accomplishing anything. The very best sermon you could preach to the world would be to show a decided reformation in your life, and provide for your own family. Says the apostle: ‘If any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel’ (1 Timothy 5:8).”
Testimonies, vol. 5, 179.

“Laziness and indolence are not the fruit borne upon the Christian tree.” *Child Guidance*, 124.

2.b. How do faithful stewards do their work? Colossians 3:23.

Note: “The path of toil appointed to the dwellers on earth may be hard and wearisome; but it is honored by the footprints of the Redeemer, and he is safe who follows in this sacred way. By precept and example, Christ has dignified useful labor. From His earliest years He lived a life of toil. The greater part of His earthly life was spent in patient work in the carpenter’s shop at Nazareth. In the garb of a common laborer the Lord of life

trod the streets of the little town in which He lived, going to and returning from His humble toil; and ministering angels attended Him as He walked side by side with peasants and laborers, unrecognized and unhonored.” *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, 276.

“You are not to neglect the duty that lies directly in your pathway, but you are to improve the little opportunities that open around you. You must go on doing your very best in the smaller works of life, taking up heartily and faithfully the work God’s providence has assigned you. However small, you should do it with all the thoroughness with which you would do a larger work. Your fidelity will be approved in the records of heaven.” *The Signs of the Times*, June 16, 1890.

Tuesday

3 THE FAMILY FIRM

3.a. When should training begin concerning God’s statutes and judgments? Deuteronomy 6:7.

Note: “The education of the child for good or for evil begins in its earliest years. The children should be taught that they are a part of the family firm. They should be trained to act their part in the home. They are not to be continually waited upon; rather, they should lighten the burdens of father and mother. As the older children grow up, they should help to care for the younger members of the family. The mother should not wear herself out by doing work that the children might do and should do.” *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 10, 206, 207.

3.b. When should parents teach their children the principles of work and the duties of life? Proverbs 22:6.

Note: “In the home school the children should be taught how to perform the practical duties of everyday life. While they are still young, the mother should give them some simple task to do each day. It will take longer for her to teach them how than it would to do it herself; but let her remember that she is to lay for their character building the foundation of helpfulness. Let

her remember that the home is a school in which she is the head teacher. It is hers to teach her children how to perform the duties of the household quickly and skillfully. As early in life as possible they should be trained to share the burdens of the home. From childhood boys and girls should be taught to bear heavier and still heavier burdens, intelligently helping in the work of the family firm.” *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, 122.

3.c. What is the inevitable outcome of idleness? Proverbs 19:15.

Note: “Where there is an abundance of idleness, Satan works with his temptations to spoil life and character.” *The Youth’s Instructor*, October 18, 1894.

Wednesday

4 IMPROPER REST

4.a. What is the counsel for those who do not fulfill the command to work on the six common days of the week and rest on the seventh day as given in the fourth commandment? 2 Thessalonians 3:10; Proverbs 6:9–11.

Note: “God has given men six days wherein to labor, and He requires that their own work be done in the six working days.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 307.

“The word of God declares that if a man will not work, neither shall he eat. The Lord does not require the hard-working man to support others in idleness. With many there is a waste of time, a lack of effort, which brings to poverty and want. If these faults are not corrected by those who indulge them, all that might be done in their behalf would be like putting treasure into a bag with holes.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 247.

“Those who are endeavoring to reform should be provided with employment. None who are able to labor should be taught to expect food and clothing and shelter free of cost. For their own sake, as well as for the sake of others, some way should be



The true glory and joy of life are found only by the working man and woman.

devised whereby they may return an equivalent for what they receive. Encourage every effort toward self-support. This will strengthen self-respect and a noble independence. And occupation of mind and body in useful work is essential as a safeguard against temptation." *The Ministry of Healing*, 177.

"Indolent, careless habits indulged in secular work will be brought into the religious life and will unfit one to do any efficient service for God. Many who through diligent labor might have been a blessing to the world, have been ruined through idleness. Lack of employment and of steadfast purpose opens the door to a thousand temptations. Evil companions and vicious habits deprave mind and soul, and the result is ruin for this life and for the life to come.

"Whatever the line of work in which we engage, the word of God teaches us to be 'not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.' 'Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might,' 'knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance; for ye serve the Lord Christ' (Romans 12:11; Ecclesiastes 9:10; Colossians 3:24)." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 345, 346.

Thursday

5 "HIS REST" (Hebrews 4:1)

5.a. When did the Lord institute His rest day for humanity? Genesis 2:2; Hebrews 4:4, 5. How did the Lord confirm His original institution? Mark 2:27, 28.

Note: "God Himself measured off the first week as a sample for successive weeks to the close of time. Like every other, it consisted of seven literal days. Six days were employed in the work of creation; upon the seventh, God rested, and He then blessed this day, and set it apart as a day of rest for man." *Christian Education*, 190.

5.b. How do you prepare for what the Lord calls "My Sabbaths" or "My rest" (Exodus 31:13; Hebrews 4:5)? Mark 15:42; Luke 23:54, 56.

Note: "On Friday let the preparation for the Sabbath be completed. See that all the clothing is in readiness and that all the cooking is done. Let the boots be blacked and the baths be taken. It is possible to do this. If you make it a rule you can do it. The Sabbath is not to be given to the repairing of garments, to the cooking of food, to pleasure seeking, or to any other worldly employment. Before the setting of the sun let all secular work be laid aside and all secular papers be put out of sight. Parents, explain your work and its purpose to your children, and let them share in your preparation to keep the Sabbath according to the commandment." *Testimonies*, vol. 6, 355, 356.

"Those who neglect to prepare for the Sabbath on the sixth day, and who cook food upon the Sabbath, violate the fourth commandment, and are transgressors of God's law." *Spiritual Gift*, vol. 3, 253, 254.

Friday

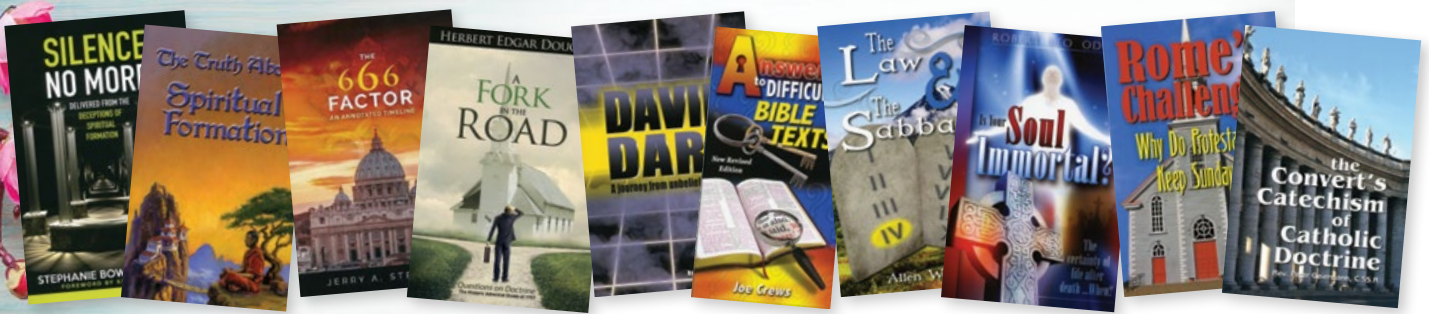
PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What is the purpose of labor?
- 2 What is part of the fourth commandment?
- 3 When should we begin to appreciate labor?
- 4 What happens if we are not productive during the week?
- 5 Describe the nature of the Christian and his or her rest on God's holy day.

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FLAXSEED WAFFLES

Ingredients

2 cups oats
 ½ cup cornmeal
 ½ cup cashew pieces
 ½ cup flaxseed
 ¼ cup cornstarch or arrowroot powder
 ½ tsp. salt
 2+ cups water
 1 Tbsp. apple or orange juice concentrate
 or 2 tsp. honey or agave syrup
 or 1 pitted date

Process

Place all in blender and blend until smooth—at least one minute. If necessary, add more water to achieve batter-like consistency.
 Pour into hot waffle iron and bake until done.
 Serve with your choice of topping.





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