

HISTORIC  
**LANDMARKS**  
OF ADVENTISM

*Abraham's  
Test of Faith*

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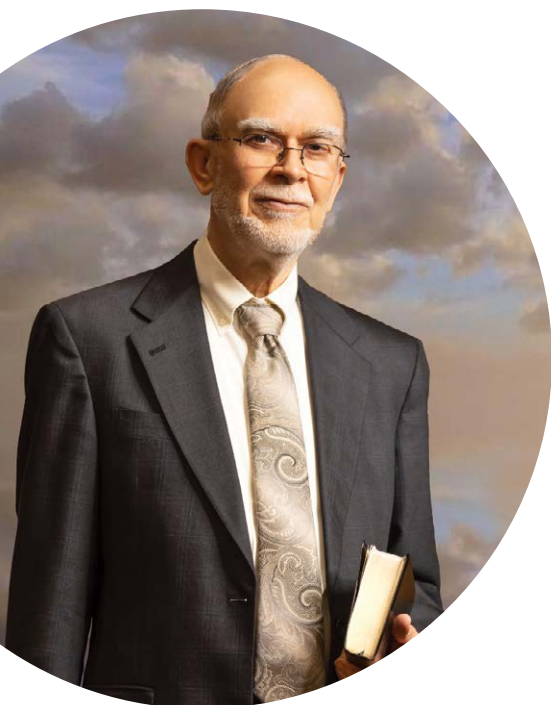
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## From the Editor

*John J. Grosboll*

# The Christian's Inheritance

If a Christian said to me that the Christian's inheritance was eternal life in heaven, I would not argue with his statement. But, to my mind, eternal life in heaven is actually a side benefit of the Christian's inheritance.

The natural inheritance of all human beings is explained briefly and succinctly in the counsel given to ministers: "Tell the people in clear, hopeful language how they may escape the heritage of shame which is our deserved portion."

*Selected Messages*, Book 1, 182

If you look up the word *heritage* in the dictionary, you will see that it is something inherited, a birthright. The dictionary definition of the word *shame* is a strong negative emotion caused by guilt or a painful sense of guilt and unworthiness.

So, our natural inheritance is guilt. This is our deserved portion, and therefore, our natural destination is everlasting death. When Adam sinned, there was only one Person in the universe who could save the human race from everlasting death. Salvation involves an exchange. Jesus, the second person of the Godhead, came to this world and took our inheritance of guilt, shame, and death upon Himself. He took our place

and bore our punishment, while offering to us His place, His inheritance.

What was Jesus' inheritance when He came to this world? He did not have a human father, so He did not inherit from Adam what we inherited from him. God was His Father. Jesus, even as a man, inherited from His Father perfect everlasting righteousness, and this inheritance He offers to you and me. If we have the faith of Abraham, we will inherit, by adoption, the inheritance of Christ, and will no longer be children of the devil (see Ephesians 2:3, 1 John 3:8). Having been born again, we become the children of the Most High and joint heirs with Jesus Christ to an everlasting kingdom. If Adam had not sinned, he would have given to us—his posterity—an inheritance of purity and perfection. "If faithful to God's requirements, he [Adam] would have had perfect descendants, as pure and uncorrupted as he himself was when he came from the hand of God. ... But by his disobedience he spoiled God's plan for himself and for his posterity." *The Review and Herald*, December 15, 1896

The only way that we can receive purity and righteousness is through the second Adam, Jesus Christ. **LM**

HISTORIC

## LANDMARKS

OF ADVENTISM

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### Subscriptions

**United States:** 1 year, \$35.00  
**Other countries:** Cost of postage only

If you are unable to purchase a subscription, please request a gift subscription.

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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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# *Abraham's Test of Faith*

by John J. Grosboll

**F**aith claims God's promises and brings forth fruit in obedience. ... Genuine faith has its foundation in the promises and provisions of the Scriptures. ...

"It is not enough to believe about Christ; we must believe in Him. The only faith that will benefit us is that which embraces Him as a personal Saviour; which appropriates His merits to ourselves. Many hold faith as an opinion. But saving faith is a transaction, by which those who receive Christ join themselves in covenant relation with God. Genuine faith is life. A living faith means an increase of vigor, a confiding trust, by which the soul becomes a conquering power." *Gospel Workers*, 260, 261

The subject of faith is one of great importance. Let's begin our study by looking at 14 points about faith:



**1** “But without faith it is impossible to please Him [God].” Hebrews 11:6, *first part*

**2** Only those who have faith in God are actually part of the true church, but church membership does not give you faith (Luke 16:19–31). “The closing scenes of this earth’s history are portrayed in the closing of the rich man’s history. The rich man claimed to be a son of Abraham, but he was separated from Abraham by an impassable gulf—a character wrongly developed. Abraham served God, following His word in faith and obedience. But, the rich man was unmindful of God and of the needs of suffering humanity. The great gulf fixed between him and Abraham was the gulf of disobedience. There are many today who are following the same course. Though church members, they are unconverted. They may take part in the church service, they may chant the psalm, ‘As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God’ (Psalm 42:1); but they testify to a falsehood. They are no more righteous in God’s sight than is the veriest sinner.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 269, 270

Mrs. White is describing church members who are not converted; they are members of the professed church, but not of the true church. The Bible and Spirit of Prophecy make a very sharp distinction between the true church and the professed church. “Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: ‘The Lord knows those who are His.’” 2 Timothy 2:19, *first part*. Members of the true church and the professed church all make a profession, but not everyone making a profession is a part of His true church. Mrs. White uses the terminology “the professed church” hundreds of times in her writings, making a distinction between it and the true church.

So how can you know whether you are a professed or true member of God’s church? “Therefore know that only those



*Some people are members of the professed church, but not of the true church.*

who are of faith are sons of Abraham.” Galatians 3:7. “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.” Verse 26. “If you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.” Verse 29

**3** Everyone who has faith in God will be saved. Period. No exceptions. Jesus said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.” John 6:47

**4** Jesus predicted that in the last days of earth’s history there would be a great lack of faith, a time of prevailing unbelief. “When the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?” Luke 18:8, *last part*

**5** Lack of faith is one of the main problems of the Laodicean church (Revelation 3:14–22).

**6** Some have more than others, but every person has a measure of faith. “God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.” Romans 12:3, *last part*

Researchers have given polygraph tests to some who say they do not believe in God. The results? They failed the test. There are many stories of an atheist or agnostic who, when confronted with a terrible situation, cried out, “Lord, help me!” And the Lord did. God has given every man some faith on which to build greater faith.

**7** The time of Noah was a time of little faith and big unbelief. They did not believe what Noah said, until the rain came. In the last days, just before Jesus comes again, He said it would be just as it was then (Matthew 24:37–39).

**8** If you desire your faith to grow, you must exercise it. Everyone has some faith, but would you like to have more? “How to exercise faith should be made very plain. To every promise of God there are conditions. If we are willing to do His will, all His strength is ours. ...

“It [faith] grows as exercised in appropriating the word of God. In order to strengthen faith, we must often bring it in contact with the word.” *Education*, 253, 254. That statement is worth a lot of study. God says to us, “If you will do this, I will do that.” We do our part, He does His; that is when miracles begin happening in our lives.

**9** For faith to become strong, it must be tested. This is true with any endeavor be it spiritual, mental, or physical. If you want to become physically strong, you must exercise and use your muscles. In school, students are tested to determine what they have learned. To become spiritually strong, you must be tested, and, as children of God, we should expect to be tested.

“  
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“Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, ‘Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?’ But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do.” John 6:5, 6. If Jesus already knew what He was going to do, why did He ask the question? To test Philip. Sadly, he failed the test. It is important to be tested so that we can grow spiritually in Christ.

**10** If you desire to have strong faith, you must regularly study your Bible. “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Romans 10:17. Mrs. White says we should study our Bible every morning and evening. Some people say they don’t have time to study their Bible more than once a day. Do you have time to eat more than once a day? Yes, because it is necessary if you’re going to be healthy. For your spiritual health, it is necessary to make the time to immerse your mind in the word of God at least twice a day; and that is the minimum. Think of Daniel. Temptations, trials, and struggles in Babylon led him to study the word three times a day. It was so important to him that he did not stop even when he knew it would mean being thrown into the lions’ den.

**11** Faith always obeys the word of God. No obedience, no faith.

**12** “Every failure on the part of the children of God is due to their lack of faith.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 657. Why do we fail? Lack of faith. Do you realize that if you have enough faith, you never have to fail in your Christian experience?

**13** “Through faith in Christ, every deficiency of character may be supplied, every defilement cleansed, every fault corrected, every excellence developed.” *Education*, 257. If you have faith in Christ, everything you need for the perfecting of your character will be supplied, and every defilement will be removed.

**14** “Faith is trusting God—believing that He loves us and knows best what is for our good. ...

“... Faith receives from God the life that alone can produce true growth and efficiency.” *Ibid.*, 253

“By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.” Hebrews 11:8. Faith is best understood when looked at from the standpoint of human experience. Abraham, one of the great men of faith in the Bible, had faith so great that he is called the father of the faithful and the friend of God. There were three big tests of faith in Abraham’s life. Each bigger than the one before it, each requiring greater faith.

When Abraham was around 70 years of age, still a relatively young man in those days, God gave him his first test of faith by directing him to leave his home in Ur of the Chaldees—today the southern part of Iraq—and go to a place that He would reveal to Him. Ur of the Chaldees was a highly civilized city with many “modern” things—running water, street lights at night, paved roads, and masonry buildings. Abraham had lived there all his life with his father and mother and other relatives. Now, God says to him, “Leave your family and all you know, and I will show you where to go.”

Abraham stepped out in faith, gathered his family and herds of cattle and sheep, and headed out to follow God’s instructions. Everyone wanted to know where he was going, but he couldn’t tell them because he didn’t know. The only explanation he could give was that the Lord wanted him to go. They thought he was crazy; it’s possible that Abraham felt a little crazy. Abraham loved his family, but he left them, knowing he would likely never see them again, and he did it because he had faith in God’s direction.

“It was no light test that was thus brought upon Abraham, no small sacrifice that was required of him. There were strong ties to bind him to his country, his kindred, and his home. But he did not hesitate to obey the call. He had no question to ask concerning

the land of promise—whether the soil was fertile and the climate healthful; whether the country offered agreeable surroundings and would afford opportunities for amassing wealth. God had spoken, and His servant must obey; the happiest place on earth for him was the place where God would have him to be.

“Many are still tested as was Abraham. They do not hear the voice of God speaking directly from the heavens, but He calls them by the teachings of His word and the events of His providence. ... Who is ready at the call of Providence to renounce cherished plans and familiar associations? Who will accept new duties and enter untried fields, doing God’s work with firm and willing heart?” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 126, 127

Hard as Abraham’s first test was, the next was still harder. The first recorded promise that God had given Abraham is found in Genesis 12:2, *first part*, 3, *last part*. Leave your home, family, all you know, and “I will make you a great nation. ... And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

“Then Abram said, ‘Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!’ And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, ‘This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.’ Then He brought him outside and said, ‘Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.’ And He said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.” Genesis 15:3–6

A child. The Lord told Abraham that he and Sarah would have a child and from this child his descendants would be as innumerable as the stars and the sand on the seashore. Abraham was about 85, past the age for begetting children, but the Bible says he believed God. We can always believe that what God says He will do, will be done. But one of the biggest problems for us in devel-



oping faith is that when God promises something, we expect to see it happen right now, and God doesn’t always tell us when what He says will happen. Often faith and patience go hand in hand, and that was the case for this particular test.

The time came when Sarah, about 75 years old, passed her childbearing years, and still the promised child had not been born. So she did what was customary in those days. She encouraged Abraham to take a secondary wife, her servant girl Hagar, to bear the child for her. This practice was so common in those days that archeologists have found that a provision was often included in marriage covenants allowing a husband to take a secondary wife in order to preserve the family name—an acceptable practice to them, but not to God.

Abraham followed Sarah’s counsel and Hagar had a son they named *Ishmael*, which means *God will hear*. The Bible says that God came down and Abraham told Him about Ishmael and that now he had an heir. But the Lord told Abraham that Ishmael was not the child of promise. He reminded him that the child would be born of Abraham’s wife, not a surrogate, and certainly not a child conceived by fornication.

Both Abraham and Sarah were beyond the age of conceiving children. In fact, it seemed so ridiculous that they would have a child at their ages that Sarah laughed in her heart. The Lord asked her why she laughed. Was there anything too hard for the Lord to do? They soon realized the answer to that question when they did have a son. They named him *Isaac*, which means *laughter*.

Abraham had failed his second test of faith. He did not believe that God could fulfill His promise of a child in His time and His way. So, he attempted himself to solve what appeared to be an insurmountable problem for God. Because of this failure, Abraham was given a third and unimaginable test of faith.

“Abraham was directed of God to go up to Mount Moriah, and there offer up his son as a burnt offering. There the Lord tested Abraham by a most fearful trial. In taking Hagar for his wife, he showed distrust in the promises of God. If he had patiently waited for the promise to be fulfilled in God’s own time and manner, and had not sought to make a providence himself, he would not have been subjected to this the closest test that was ever required of man.” *The Signs of the Times*, April 1, 1875

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*Some have more than others, but every person has a measure of faith.*

Isaac was about 20 years of age when God sent Abraham to Mount Moriah to sacrifice him as a burnt offering. Can you imagine the confusion in Abraham's mind? Though, as any man, Abraham had made mistakes, and at times lacked faith in God, he believed God to be merciful and loving. How could He ask this of him?

“Then He [the Lord] said, ‘Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.’” Genesis 22:2  
Abraham went to Isaac and explained that the Lord wanted them to go to a distant mountain to offer a sacrifice. Before dawn, they and their servants, set out for the land of Moriah. Mrs. White says that the first day was the longest day of Abraham's life.

Usually when they traveled together, Abraham and Isaac would talk, but it seemed to Isaac on this journey that his father didn't feel like talking. They walked all day, and when night came, Isaac and the servants went to bed and slept. But Abraham couldn't sleep; instead he prayed all night. Tormented by the devil, he suggested to Abraham that God couldn't actually mean for him to kill Isaac; He'd be breaking His own law. But Abraham knew what God had told him to do, and he knew that God could decide anything that He chose. And as a man of faith, he would obey. Remember, faith always obeys the word of God. Abraham asked the Lord to help him to be obedient, if possible, without having to sacrifice Isaac, but there was no answer.

The next morning they got up, ate breakfast, and went on their way again. The second longest day of Abraham's life began.

By evening, he had not slept for 36 hours. Exhausted, as the others slept, again he pleaded with the Lord to send an angel to explain why He was asking Abraham to sacrifice his son. God had spoken to him many times in answer to his prayer, but again there was no answer.

On the third day, God gave Abraham a sign. He saw a bright, glorious cloud over Mount Moriah. The time had come. He had to obey God. When he saw the sign, he told the servants to remain behind, that he and Isaac would go on alone. Abraham could not bear for anyone but God to witness what was about to happen. He continued to plead with the Lord to take his own life rather than the life of Isaac, but the Lord said that Isaac must be the one.

As they made their way up the mountain, Isaac pointed out that they had wood and fire, but that there was no animal for a sacrifice. Abraham could only answer that Jehovah would provide the lamb. The Hebrew word *Jehovah-jireh* means, *God will provide*. At the top of the mountain, they built an altar together. Unable to put it off any longer, Abraham with quivering lip and shaking voice, told Isaac that God had instructed that he was to be the burnt offering. Imagine the fear Isaac must have felt! He was a strong young man and he could have escaped, but Isaac was also a man of faith. He would not violate a command of God.

After helping Abraham place the wood on the altar, Isaac allowed himself to be bound upon the altar. Abraham expressed to him how much he loved him; that his obedience to God in no way indicated a lessening of that love. Father embraced son and they shed what they believed would be the last tears they would shed together in this world.

Mrs. White tells us that Abraham believed that God could restore Isaac's life. This took genuine faith because God had not yet resurrected a human being and would not do so until He raised Moses, hundreds of years later.

Abraham took the knife, lifted it up, and as he brought the knife down, his hand was suddenly stopped. A voice was heard from heaven. “But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, ‘Abraham, Abraham!’ So he said, ‘Here I am.’ And He said, ‘Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.’” Genesis 22:11, 12



“Then Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son.” Verse 13

“By Myself I have sworn,” says the Lord, ‘because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son—blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.’” Verses 16–18. Faith always obeys.

“God estimated Abraham’s obedience and unswerving faith, and gave him the name of ‘Father of the faithful.’ The example of Abraham is recorded in sacred history for the benefit of his believing children.” *The Signs of the Times*, April 1, 1875. Why was this done?

“This great act of faith teaches the lesson of implicit confidence in God, perfect obedience to His requirements, and a complete surrender to the divine will.” Ibid.

Everything that you and I have belongs to the Lord—time, money, talents, ourselves. He has lent these things to us to prove us. God recorded this story in the Bible to give us an example of perfect faith and obedience, so that we might understand and better comprehend how real was the great self-denial and infinite sacrifice made by our Father in heaven when He gave His Son to this world. Unlike Isaac, there was no one to stay the hand when Jesus went to His trial. No one to say, “Enough!” The angels were not permitted to interfere. Jesus Christ was insulted, mocked, and derided. He was given up to die a shameful, violent, torturous death—our death.

Abraham knew that God’s promises were infallible and that it was better to obey God, no matter what, than to dis-



*It  
is God's  
blessing that  
places a value on  
everything that  
we possess.*

obey. If God had come to Abraham and told him to give up all he owned—gold, flocks, herds, silver, land—that would have been easy for him. If God had asked him to surrender his own life for His sake, Abraham would have given it. Mrs. White says that if God had asked him for any of those things, he would have gladly turned it over, including his own life. But God’s test was harder than surrendering his own life.

I hear people say, “I wish I could obey the Lord and pay my tithe and keep the Sabbath, but I don’t have the money and I don’t have the time” and they think they are going to live with Abraham someday? “The deepest poverty, with God’s blessing, is better than houses and lands, and any amount of earthly treasure, without it.” Ibid. It is God’s blessing that places a value on everything that we possess. Without it, we can have the whole world, but we will be poor. Jesus said, “For what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?” Mark 8:36

Friend, you are better off obeying God, no matter what your problems

might be, than being disobedient and enjoying the blessings of this world for a time. The Psalmist said, “Though a sinner does evil a hundred times, and his days are prolonged, yet I surely know that it will be well with those who fear God, who fear before Him.” Ecclesiastes 8:12

“Those who profess to be looking for the soon coming of our Saviour, should have Abrahamic faith, a faith that is valued because it has cost them something, a faith that works by love, and purifies the soul. The example of Abraham is left on record for us upon whom the ends of the world have come. We must believe that God is in earnest with us, and that He is not to be trifled with. He means what He says, and He requires of us implicit faith and willing obedience.” *The Signs of the Times*, April 1, 1875 **LM**

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# *Peace that Surpasses All Understanding*

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by John R. Pearson

*The Lord will give strength to His people;  
The Lord will bless His people with peace.*

Psalm 29:11

It is indisputable that the Lord bestows enumerable blessings on the inhabitants of this world. The greatest blessing is a given, but establishing which of those blessings is the second greatest would be a matter of opinion. The second greatest blessing that the Lord bestows upon His people, in my opinion, is an abiding, inner peace. It is that peace that enables us to cope with life's daily challenges and with the increasing turmoil that is so prevalent in the world today.

In John 14, Christ states clearly His desire for His disciples to be at peace.

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." Verse 27

It is notable that He declared this gift just a few hours before He was taken captive in the garden of Gethsemane.

A couple of chapters later, even closer to the time of His arrest, we have record of an interesting exchange between Christ and the apostles.



“A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father.” Then some of His disciples said among themselves, “What is this that He says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see Me; and again, a little while, and you will see Me’; and, ‘because I go to the Father’?” They said therefore, “What is this that He says, ‘little while’? We do not know what He is saying.” John 16:16–18

Then Christ explains in verses 19–28 what He meant—although still a bit cryptically.

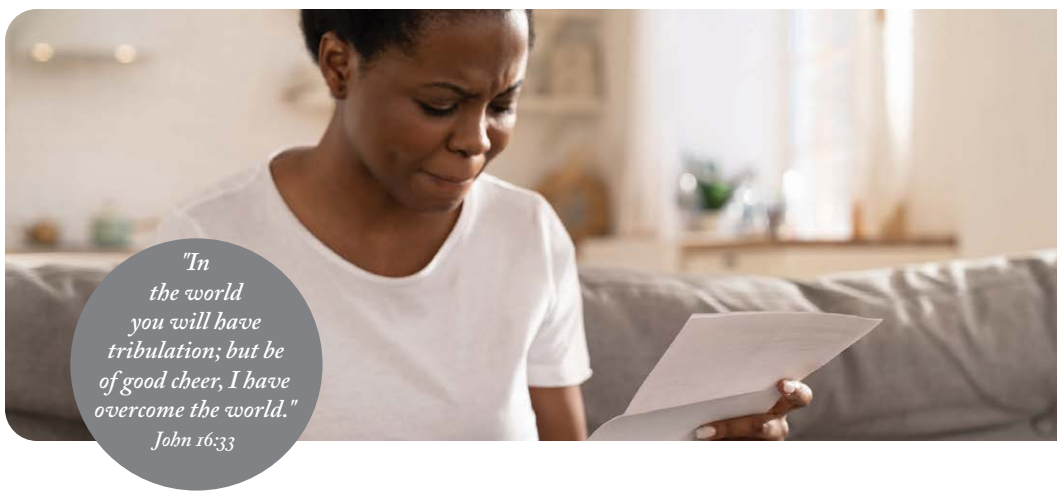
The disciples responded to His explanation: “His disciples said to Him, ‘See, now You are speaking plainly, and using no figure of speech! Now we are sure that You know all things, and have no need that anyone should question You. By this we believe that You came forth from God.’” Verses 29, 30

Then Christ challenges them: “Jesus answered them, ‘Do you now believe? Indeed, the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. ...’” Verses 31, 32

Then in His continuing determination to provide them with comfort—even though He knew that they still did not understand or realize what was going to happen beginning in just a few hours, He added, “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” Verse 33

The events that followed over the following days were the fulfillment of many ancient prophecies. Then at least three times after His resurrection, Christ entreated peace upon His disciples once again. We have a record of those blessings in John 20.

“Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to



*"In  
the world  
you will have  
tribulation; but be  
of good cheer, I have  
overcome the world."  
John 16:33*

them, ‘Peace be with you.’ When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.’” Verses 19–21

Remember that when this scene occurred, Thomas was not present, and because he did not see the resurrected Christ, he refused to believe. His unbelief led to the third recorded time that Christ promised peace to the apostles.

“And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, ‘Peace to you!’” Verse 26

The promise of peace that Christ would reveal, or give, or make possible had been promised hundreds of years before in a prophecy that is very well known and much cherished by the Christian world:

*“For unto us a Child is born,  
Unto us a Son is given;  
And the government will be upon His  
shoulder.  
And His name will be called  
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*

Isaiah 9:6

That promise was repeated when the angels made the grand announcement

to the shepherds attending their flocks. They concluded their announcement with the wonderful statement recorded in Luke 2:14 that meant more than we even understand today: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

Even in the midst of the chaos of end times, the Lord makes this wonderful promise in a prophecy yet to be fulfilled:

*“For the mountains shall depart  
And the hills be removed,  
But My kindness shall not depart  
from you,  
Nor shall My covenant of peace be  
removed,  
Says the Lord, who has mercy on you.”*

Isaiah 54:10

There are equally wonderful promises of peace through Christ in the writings of Paul.

Even though his relationship with Christ began in a way that might be seen as somewhat unsettling, if not even a bit brutal, he nevertheless understood the basis and very foundation of that relationship when he wrote to the Romans, “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” Romans 5:1, 2

As evidence of Paul's conviction of the peace that Christ provides, we need look no further than the salutation of all 13 of his epistles:

“  
*Peace I leave with  
you, My peace I give to  
you; not as the world gives  
do I give to you. Let not your  
heart be troubled, neither  
let it be afraid.*  
*John 14:27*

Romans 1:7  
1 Corinthians 1:3  
2 Corinthians 1:2  
Galatians 1:3  
Ephesians 1:2  
Philippians 1:2  
Colossians 1:2  
1 Thessalonians 1:1  
2 Thessalonians 1:2  
1 Timothy 1:2  
2 Timothy 1:2  
Titus 1:4  
Philemon 1:3.

All begin with some version of the same salutation: “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

It should be indisputably clear that there is nothing more in this world that Christ and those inspired by Christ want for His followers than peace—an inner, abiding peace that can only be obtained through faith in the promises in the inspired word.

It is likely that as you read this article, you have at least one, if not many, favorite promises that instill within you a comforting sense of peace. A favorite for many people is found in Philippians 4:6, 7: “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Earlier in this article, it was noted that Christ and those inspired by Him consistently wish peace for His followers. In the devotional *Our High Calling*, there are several passages that refer to the peace that Christ wants His followers to experience.

“Shortly before His crucifixion Christ bequeathed to His disciples a legacy of peace. ... This peace is not the peace that comes through conformity with the world. It is an internal rather than an external peace.

Without will be wars and fightings, through the opposition of avowed enemies, and the coldness and suspicion of those who claim to be friends. The peace of Christ is not to banish division, but it is to remain amid strife and division. ...

“The peace that Christ gave to His disciples, and for which we pray, is the peace that is born of truth, a peace that is not to be quenched because of division. Without may be wars and fightings, jealousies, envies, hatred, strife; but the peace of Christ is not that which the world giveth or taketh away.” Op. Cit., 328

“Sanctification, unity, peace—all are to be ours through the truth. The belief of the truth does not make men gloomy and uncomfortable. If you have peace in Christ, His precious blood is speaking pardon and hope to your soul. Yes, more, you have joy in the Holy Spirit, through accepting the precious promises. Jesus says, ‘In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.’ John 16:33. Therefore the world shall not overcome you if you believe in Me. It is a world that I have conquered. Because I have overcome, if you believe in Me, you shall overcome. ...

“All that Jesus has promised, He will fulfill; and it is greatly dishonoring to Him for us to doubt Him. All His words are spirit and life. Accepted and obeyed, they will give peace and happiness and assurance forever. ... Christ declares that He has given us peace; it belongs to us. And He has spoken these things, that in Him we may have that which through infinite sacrifice He had purchased for us—what He holds as ours. This peace we need not seek in the world, for the world has it not to bestow. It is in Christ. He will give it, in spite of the world, notwithstanding its threats and decrees, its alluring, deceiving promises.” Op. Cit., 329

*“Mercy and truth have met together;  
Righteousness and peace have kissed.”*

Psalm 85:10 **LM**

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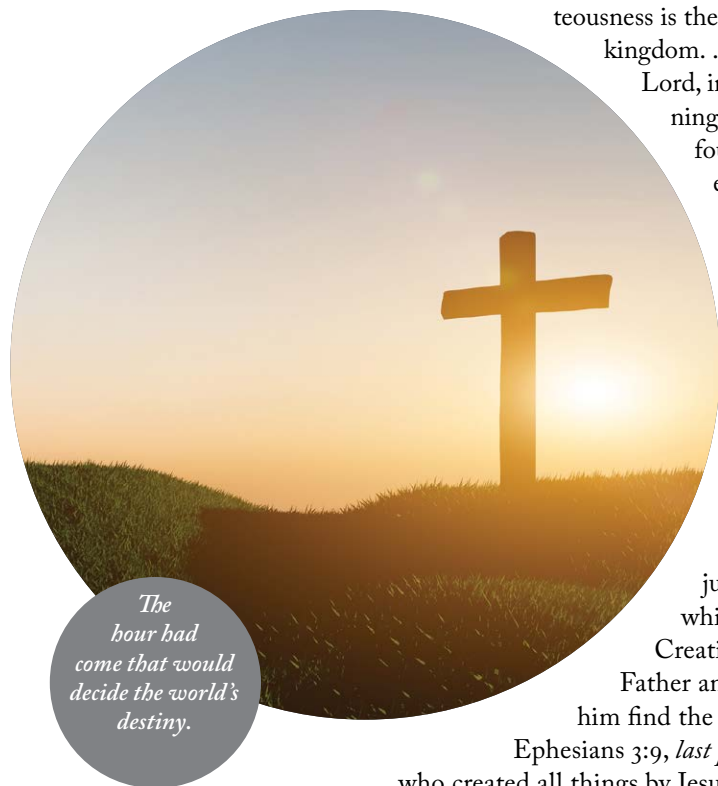


# Jesus & Prayer

by M. L. Andreasen



In His earth life, Jesus ever kept in close touch with the Father. This might be expected, for from eternity They had been co-workers, and were one in planning both for creation and for redemption. Of Christ it is written, “The Lord possessed Me in the beginning of His way, before His works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was . . . . When He prepared the heavens, I was there . . . . Then I was beside Him as one brought up with Him . . . .” Proverbs 8:22, 23, 27, *first part*, 30, *first part*



*The hour had come that would decide the world's destiny.*

God Himself bears this testimony: "But unto the Son He saith, 'Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of Thy kingdom. ... And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of Thine hands.'" Hebrews 1:8, 10

If any reader is perplexed over the statements just quoted, which attribute

Creation to both Father and Son, let him find the solution in

Ephesians 3:9, *last part*: "God, who created all things by Jesus Christ." And again, "But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by Him." 1 Corinthians 8:6. Christ and the Father worked together in the work of Creation.

Having worked closely together in Creation, They were now working closely together in that part of redemption which required Christ to come to this earth, and which would result in His death on the cross. In all that Christ did on earth, He was guided by the pattern outlined in heaven, which was being communicated constantly to Him by the Father. "For I came down from heaven, not to do Mine own will, but the will of Him who sent Me." John 6:38. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He seeth the Father do: for what things soever He doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise." John 5:19

Even the doctrine Jesus taught, He had derived from the Father. "Jesus answered them and said, 'My doctrine is not Mine, but

His that sent Me.'" John 7:16. "And the word which ye hear is not Mine, but the Father's which sent Me." John 14:24, *last part*. "But as My Father hath taught Me, I speak these things." John 8:28, *last part*. "For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth Him all things that Himself doeth ... ." and "For I do always those things that please Him." John 5:20, *first part*; 8:29, *last part*. The prophet had said of Christ, "The Lord God hath given Me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: He awakeneth morning by morning, He awakeneth My ear to hear as the learned." Isaiah 50:4

### The Source of Christ's Power

We shall not go far astray if we accept the view that in Christ's prayer, in His communion with the Father, lay His power. When He appeared before the people, He was always calm and composed. The future had been opened to Him; He knew just what He would meet; nothing could come to Him as a surprise, and He was always master of the situation. Nathanael might in surprise ask how He knew him when they had never met before, and Christ quietly answered, "Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee." John 1:48. The woman at the well was so astonished at what He revealed to her that she completely forgot her errand and left her waterpot at the well, while she went into the city and "testified, He told me all that ever I did." John 4:39. All His power, all His composure, all the authority of His words, all the certainty of His statements and predictions, stemmed from His interviews with His Father. His power lay in His prayer, His communion with God.

It is of interest to note that before important events or decisions, Christ spent the preceding night in the mountains with God. Before His first preaching tour He "departed into a solitary place, and there prayed." Mark 1:35, 38, 39. Before He chose the twelve disciples "He went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, He called unto Him His disciples: and of them He chose twelve, whom also He named

apostles.” Luke 6:12, 13. At the time of the transfiguration, He took Peter and James and John “and went up into a mountain to pray.” Luke 9:28. On this occasion “the fashion of His countenance was altered, and His raiment was white and glistening.” Verse 29. At the time of His baptism, He prayed. Luke 3:21. At the time of the Lord’s Supper, He prayed; in the garden and on the cross, He prayed. Luke 22:19, 41; 23:34. It may safely be said that on every important occasion He prayed, and at times spent the whole night in prayer.

These examples of Christ’s prayers demonstrate the possibilities of prayer. Jesus prayed, and even His garments became glistening. How different from our tame and lifeless prayer!

The disciples could not fail to notice that Christ had sources of strength of which they knew nothing. They would work all day long and, when night came, fall asleep exhausted. Christ would forgo sleep, going out to the mountains alone, and when He came back in the morning He was fully refreshed and ready to minister to the people again. The disciples must have wondered where He got such vitality and how He could keep up His work. He said very little if anything of His night vigils, but it must have become clear to them that there was a close connection between His nights of prayer and His days of strength. No wonder they asked Him to teach them to pray.

We have no record of what took place in those night seasons which Father and Son spent together alone. That it had to do principally with Christ’s work seems evident, but beyond this we cannot go. We know that on the mount of transfiguration Moses and Elijah talked “of His decease which He should accomplish at Jerusalem.” Luke 9:31. These two men had both been on earth. One had died and been raised again; the other had not tasted death. They were now discussing with Jesus His impending death. They had both been saved and taken to heav-



*"By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another."*

*John 13:35*

en in anticipation of the sacrifice Christ was to make, and truly represented all the saved from all ages, most of whom would taste death, but some of whom would be translated at Christ’s coming.

Beyond these few facts, we know nothing of those night seasons of prayer. They must have been precious occasions, invigorating to body as well as to soul. Christ did not always have eight hours of sleep. He did not always have regular meals. He had meat of which the disciples did not know; He had sources of strength from above.

The last few days of Christ’s ministry on earth were spent instructing His disciples and forewarning them of the events to come. He concluded His instruction with what has come to be called His high-priestly prayer, dedicating them, as well as Himself, to God. Immediately after the prayer, He went to Gethsemane.

This prayer is recorded in John 17 and contains a resume of His work. Lifting up His eyes to heaven and addressing His Father, He said, “The hour is come.”

Verse 1. This was the hour that He had looked forward to with apprehension and He had even thought of asking the Father that He might be saved from it. He immediately rejected such a suggestion, saying that it was for this hour He had come into the world (John 12:27). Would He be able to glorify God in His suffering? Could He calmly face torture and death? This weighed on His mind. For this would be His hour of glory if He victoriously could meet it. All creation was vitally and absorbingly interested in this time when Christ should enter the domain of death and through death wrest from Satan his prey. For Christ this would be the supreme hour, and God would be glorified if He triumphantly passed the test. So He prayed, “Father, glorify Thy name.” God answered, “I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.” Verse 28

### **The Hour Had Come**

Now the hour had come that would decide the world’s destiny, and Christ prayed, “Glorify Thy Son, that Thy Son





“  
*For God so loved  
 the world that He gave  
 His only begotten Son, that  
 whoever believes in Him  
 should not perish but have  
 everlasting life.*

*John 3:16*

also may glorify Thee.” John 17:1. This was a prayer not for glory to the Son as such, but a prayer that God would sustain Him in the ordeal, that when the hour of darkness should come, Christ would be enabled to glorify God in His death and that through His death Satan would be defeated. Entering Satan’s stronghold to liberate the prisoners, entering alone to match powers with the evil one and overcome him and take away from him his armor would be a wonderful victory and the deciding one. Should Christ fail, it would be a victory for Satan, and Christ’s work would be in vain. Christ trembled as He thought of the momentous issues depending upon this hour, and He said, “Now is My soul troubled.” John 12:27. But receiving encouragement that God would sustain and glorify Him, He resolutely exclaimed: “Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.” Verse 31

Christ had so far finished the work given Him to do, and He now asked God to sustain Him in the dark hour ahead (John 17:4, 5). He assured the Father, “I have given unto them the words which Thou gavest Me,” and that they had received them and had believed. Verses 6–8. Then He prayed, “Holy Father, keep through Thine own name

those whom Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, as We are.” Verse 11

“While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Thy name.” “I pray not that Thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldst keep them from the evil.” Verses 12, 15. He prayed that they might be sanctified, and for their sakes He sanctified Himself; and then He made the momentous statement, “As Thou hast sent Me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.” Verse 18

This means nothing less than as Christ was sent into the world to reveal the Father, to preach the gospel, and to heal the sick, so we are sent. His prayer did not apply to the disciples only, but to them “also which shall believe on Me through their word.” Verse 20. Thus this prayer reaches to the end of time and takes in every soul who shall believe. Christ prayed for Peter. “Satan hath desired to have you,” said Christ, “that he may sift you as wheat; but I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.” Luke 22:31, 32. And now Christ said that He prayed for all who

shall believe on Him “through their word.” John

17:20

If we take this literally, it means that Christ has prayed for us, for you, for me, for all who shall believe. And for what has He prayed?—“That they all may be one: ... that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me.” Verse 21. The unity of the church is here mentioned as being effective in helping the world to believe. How important then, that there be no divisions among God’s people, “all one body we.” “By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another.” John 13:35

“Father, I will.” Christ wants His church with Him, and He makes a definite demand to that end. Then He closed the prayer with the hope that “the love wherewith Thou hast loved Me may be in them, and I in them.” John 17:26. Then came Gethsemane.

It will be noted that Christ’s prayer is concerned with others. He planned and prayed for those whom He loved. He knew what awaited Him. But even in this hour His thoughts were for others.

*Prayer*, M.L. Andreasen, ©1957, 159–165  
 [All scripture taken from the King James Version.] **LM**



## *And Can It Be?*

And can it be that I should gain  
An interest in the Saviour's blood?  
Died He for me who caused His pain!  
For me who Him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be  
That Thou, my God, should die for me?

'Tis mystery all! The Immortal dies!  
Who can explore His strange design?  
In vain the firstborn seraph tries  
To sound the depths of love Divine.  
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,  
Let angel minds inquire no more.

He left His Father's throne above,  
So free, so infinite His grace!  
Emptied Himself of all but love,  
And bled for Adam's helpless race.  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,  
For O my God, it found out me!

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,  
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;  
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray;  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
My chains fell off, my heart was free,  
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;  
Alive in Him, my living Head,  
And clothed in righteousness divine,  
Bold I approach the eternal throne,  
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

Charles Wesley, 1738



# Christian Character

## Clues – KJV

### Across

- C21 Samson demanded a \_\_\_\_\_ that pleased him well. .... Judges 14:3  
 D13 Abraham was told to walk before God and be \_\_\_\_\_. .... Genesis 17:1  
 E8 The word of God is \_\_\_\_\_. .... Hebrews 4:12  
 F18 God created both male and \_\_\_\_\_. .... Genesis 1:27  
 G9 By one man's \_\_\_\_\_, many will be made righteous..... Romans 5:19  
 I5 We were shaped in \_\_\_\_\_ and conceived in sin..... Psalm 51:5  
 I16 One purpose of marriage in Eden was to \_\_\_\_\_. .... Genesis 1:28  
 J2 We are advised to \_\_\_\_\_ in God's ways to have life. .... Deuteronomy 30:16  
 K20 Whatever a man sows, that will he also \_\_\_\_\_. .... Galatians 6:7  
 M7 Cease to do \_\_\_\_\_. .... Isaiah 1:16  
 N12 We have \_\_\_\_\_ with others when we walk in the light. .... 1 John 1:7  
 P18 Branches of the vine are expected to bear \_\_\_\_\_. .... John 15:2  
 Q4 God declared His creation was \_\_\_\_\_. .... Genesis 1:31  
 R11 Though our first parents were naked, they were not \_\_\_\_\_. .... Genesis 2:25  
 R21 Jesus told Nicodemus to be \_\_\_\_\_ again. .... John 3:3  
 U5 Those who wait upon the Lord will \_\_\_\_\_ the earth..... Psalm 37:9  
 U15 Daniel purposed not to \_\_\_\_\_ himself with the king's food..... Daniel 1:8  
 W3 Jesus was manifested to \_\_\_\_\_ away our sins. .... 1 John 3:5  
 W16 Your body is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Ghost..... 1 Corinthians 6:19

### Down

- B17 A characteristic of those who inherit the earth..... Matthew 5:5  
 B19 As the \_\_\_\_\_ loved Jesus, He loves us. .... John 15:9  
 C14 God gives power to those who \_\_\_\_\_ on the name of Jesus..... John 1:12  
 C23 Delilah tricked Samson for \_\_\_\_\_. .... Judges 16:18  
 E11 To be one with Christ is to be a new \_\_\_\_\_. .... 2 Corinthians 5:17  
 F7 Run with \_\_\_\_\_ the race that is set before us..... Hebrews 12:1  
 G16 Samson's wife was given to his \_\_\_\_\_, who was his friend. .... Judges 14:20  
 H3 God \_\_\_\_\_ a garden eastward in heaven..... Genesis 2:8  
 H5 God said man was made in His \_\_\_\_\_. .... Genesis 1:26  
 H20 If we claim to know Christ, but do not obey, we are a \_\_\_\_\_. .... 1 John 2:4  
 K13 Eat for \_\_\_\_\_ and not for drunkenness..... Ecclesiastes 10:17  
 L9 Nadab and Abihu offered strange \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord..... Leviticus 10:1  
 N19 In Gaza, Samson liked this type of woman. .... Judges 16:1  
 P11 Without this, we are sounding brass..... 1 Corinthians 13:1  
 P22 Enoch walked with God so closely He \_\_\_\_\_ him. .... Genesis 5:24  
 P24 Jesus describes Himself as a \_\_\_\_\_. .... John 15:5  
 Q6 By one man's \_\_\_\_\_, death reigned for all. .... Romans 5:17  
 Q16 Who did Eve blame for eating fruit from the forbidden tree? .... Genesis 3:13  
 R3 \_\_\_\_\_ the devil and he will flee from you..... James 4:7  
 T9 God shall judge the poor, and \_\_\_\_\_ in pieces the oppressor. .... Psalm 72:4  
 V21 What is the end result of sin?..... Romans 6:21

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Answer Key:

Z	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		22	23	24	25	Z
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## *Talk Faith, and Move Forward*

*“These words spake Jesus, and lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify Thy Son, that Thy Son also may glorify Thee: As Thou hast given Him power over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as Thou hast given Him. And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent. I have glorified Thee on the earth: I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do.”*

John 17:1-4

**W**hile we know Christ in one sense, that He is the Saviour of the world, it means more than this. We must have a personal knowledge and experience in Christ Jesus, an experimental knowledge of Christ, what He is to us, and what we are to Christ. That is the experience that everyone wants. Now, I cannot have it for any of you, nor can you have it for me.



The work that is to be done for us, is to be through the manifestation of the Holy Spirit of God upon human minds and human hearts. The heart must be purified and sanctified. ...

What is the matter with us? "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him." It shall be given him. There are no "ifs" nor "ands" about it. "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering" (James 1:5, 6).

You pray, and ask God for wisdom, strength, and efficiency, and feel you must have them. But perhaps, right after that prayer, it will seem as though a hellish shadow of Satan was cast right athwart your pathway, and you see nothing beyond. What was that? Why, the devil wanted to obscure your faith in that cloud. But there is no necessity for you to do that. Is feeling to be our criterion, or is it to be the word of the living God? Are we to sink our faith in the cloud? That is what Satan wants us to do. But we should not give him so much pleasure as that. What are we going to do? ...

"Ask in faith, nothing wavering." Don't let one single suggestion of the devil come in. It is to be "nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea" (verse 6). The Lord will do great things for us if we will only show our trust in Him. ...

When we come to the hardest places, we may know that all heaven is interested and will bear us up, if we will not fail or be discouraged. Cling to the mighty One. Do not talk unbelief at all, because the more you talk unbelief the more unbelief you will have; and the more you talk darkness, the more darkness you will have; and the more you talk light, the more light you will have; and the more you talk faith, you will have faith. ...

You must put your foot right on the Word, and say, I believe; I will believe; I will press to the mark of the prize, and everything that hinders me shall be swept away; I will not allow

anything to interpose between my soul and God.

No, the dark shadow of Satan will come right across our pathway if we let our faith sink into it. But we must do as the eagle does when he is in the cloud and bewildered in the fog.

He does not go one way and another as though distracted, but presses upward through the cloud, until he comes into the light above. And so we should press upward beyond the hellish shadow of Satan, when he tries to eclipse the rays of light that come from God.

Now, we want the life of Christ in our hearts to make us one, and there will be united action. We must press to the mark of the prize of the high calling which is in Christ Jesus our Lord; and what we need is that living, active faith that takes God at His word. We must have it, and God will let us have it if we will.

We must not be discouraged. We want to get rid of unbelief; we do not want to talk it, or act it, or think it, but press forward to the mark of the prize of the high calling that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. ... I know that the time has come when God's people should put on their beautiful garments. "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee." It is the word of infinite power that He wants you to eat and drink. He wants you to eat His flesh and drink His blood, and then the power of God will be in your midst. Then the voice will be touched with a peculiar power. ...

... Do not think about your brethren and sisters for fear they are not ready,

but think about yourself. You want to know where you are, and to know that Christ is formed within, the hope of glory. You want to be constantly singing, and when you do that you will stop your criticizing. If you are beholding Him, you will not have time

for anything else. And if you see His face, it will be reflected in your face, and all this mourning and groaning is dishonoring God, for "whoso offereth praise, glorifieth God. ..."

Just keep praising God, and when the devil tempts you, sing. When Christ was a child He was tempted

in every way, and what did He do? He sang psalms, and praised God, and there was music in His voice. And there was an impression made upon the hearts and minds of those who heard Him. He wants you to have heaven in view, and heaven is a good deal nearer than you think. God's holy, anointed ones are right by you, and here is His church, the greatest object of His love that it is possible for Him to have. He is watching over every one of us.

I love Him because He first loved me. I love Him because He gave His life for me. And God forbid that I should be a coward. When the children of Israel went out to fight, God told them to sing, and as soon as they began to sing, their enemies fled, for they saw the whole army of heaven before them. They were afraid of their destruction and fled. God wants us to vanquish the enemy. Let us pray as we never prayed before. We do not pray half enough. ... May God bless you, and may the Spirit of God be with us. *Sermons and Talks*, Vol. 1, 303-311 LM

“  
*The more you talk  
unbelief the more unbelief  
you will have; and the more  
you talk darkness, the more  
darkness you will have.*”



## Successful Successor

**A**n emperor had no children. He decided to select a suitable successor to his throne from the boys of his empire. He proclaimed that the interested boys should assemble in the palace in the morning on a specified date. When the boys arrived, he said, “There is a simple test for you. I will give a seed to each of you. You must take it home and carefully plant it in a pot. Tend it giving all possible care and bring the pot to me at the same time next year. I will examine the pots and adopt the one I choose as my successor to the throne of this vast empire.”

The boys carried the seeds home and planted them. One of the boys found that his seed did not sprout even though he gave all possible care. He continued to tend the pot and water it daily, but could not get any result. The others tended their plantlets with the utmost care and grew beautiful and healthy plants in their pots. Some of their plants developed buds and flowers.

After one year, all the boys reached the palace to proudly display the result

of their sustained effort. The poor boy alone sat there without any plant to display. The emperor examined each pot and returned to his throne. He summoned the boy who could not grow the plant to come near him. The other boys laughed at the poor boy who was holding his barren pot. The king stood up and declared, “I had given each of you a seed after cooking it by prolonged and vigorous boiling in water to destroy its viability and to assure that it would not grow at all. But all of you, except this honest young man, have managed to raise plants using your own seeds to impress me and gain the throne by fraudulent means. Honesty, truthfulness, courage, and integrity are the qualities I expected in my successor. Only this boy has succeeded in the test. Hence, I proclaim that he shall be my successor.” The emperor embraced


the boy. The other boys left the scene in shame.

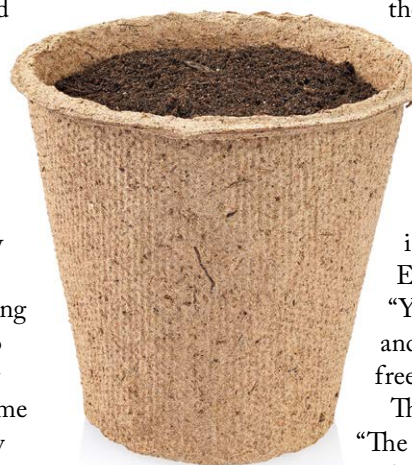
It is a good rule that we should be faithful and truthful in every action—both big and small. A true Christian should not tell a lie even if telling the truth may cause loss, suffering, or pain. We should not tell a lie even if telling

the lie may give us money, power, or pleasure. The apostle Paul advises, “Put away lying, and speak truthfully to your neighbor, because we are all members together in the body of Christ.”

Ephesians 4:25. Jesus said, “You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8:32

The Bible reminds us, “The Lord sees everything you do, and He watches where you go.” Proverbs 5:21. “The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on those who are evil and those who are good.” Proverbs 15:3

Source: *Christian.moral-stories.com* 





## On Being Perfect

**T**he Bible tells us that God has a standard of perfection that those who would be ready for heaven will attain. I used to qualify anything I said about what that standard is by saying that we don't know what it is because so many people have a huge problem with the idea that we can reach perfection in this life. But God knows exactly what that standard is and He promises that we will reach it.

So what is it? It's been right in front of us the whole time—the life of Jesus Christ. Plain and simple, Jesus lived a perfect life and this is the life we are told that we are to live in the same way and by the same power that He did.

The law of God is our standard and Jesus came to this world, the embodiment of the law, perfectly obeying it, and seeking always to do the will of the Father. His life was an example for us to follow in our own lives.

“If you would have beauty and loveliness of character, the divine law must be written upon the heart and carried out in the life.” *Conflict and Courage*, 26

Someone might say that it would be impossible for us to live a life like Jesus.

And they'd be right if we had to achieve it alone, but we don't.

“Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.” *Philippians* 1:6

“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror, for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.” *James* 1:22–25

If the law of God is written on our hearts, then everything we do and say will be a reflection of it, an outworking of that principle of righteousness which we do not have, but God promises to give.

“True beauty of character is not something that shines out only on special occasions; the grace of Christ dwelling in the soul is revealed under all circumstances. He who cherishes this grace as an abiding presence in the life will reveal beauty in character under trying

as well as under easy circumstances. In the home, in the world, in the church, we are to live the life of Christ. There are souls all around in need of conversion. When the law of God is written upon the heart, and is witnessed to in a holy character, those who know not the power of the grace of Christ will be led to desire it, and will be converted.” *Our Father Cares*, 298

“As in water face reflects face, so a man's heart reveals the man.” *Proverbs* 27:19

Dear Father, may we, by  
Your grace and power,  
work for that perfection of  
character that You require  
and promise to give. **LM**





"The December issue of *LandMarks* was just wonderful and insightful as always. ... it's such a blessing to receive such a flood of warm spiritual light that comes into our homes through this divinely-instructed magazine carefully put together by those who I just know, personally and wholeheartedly, wrestle with the Lord as to what they are to share with each of us in their upcoming articles."

—SS, Pennsylvania

"Thank you for the *LandMarks* magazines. They are so inspiring, and I learn so much from the Bible studies and articles."

—KW, Virginia

"Really enjoy the *LandMarks*. Thank you."

—JCB, Oregon

### August Sermon of the Month

## Why Do You Believe What You Believe?

By John J. Grosboll

How will you answer? Some will stand before courts, legislatures, and kings. What will be your testimony?"

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

### August 2023

Dear Friend,

Jesus gave this great commission to His followers: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15. By doing as Jesus did during His lifetime on earth, we can fulfill His commission to us.

It does not take great intellect or learning, talent, or much money to do what Jesus did. Here are some examples:

1. He visited people both in their place of work and in their homes. He was not pushy, showing sympathy for those who were in any kind of trouble.
2. He brought relief to the poor, sometimes providing them with food, and other times giving advice and counsel.
3. He ministered to the sick and relieved pain and suffering.
4. He spoke words of encouragement to those in despair and feeling hopeless. He showed them that there was still hope for everyone.
5. He brought comfort to those who were sorrowing and grieving.
6. He gave counsel to the inexperienced.
7. He gave instruction to those in ignorance, telling them what they needed to know.
8. He prayed with and for man.

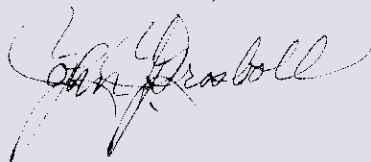
His work is summed up in this way:

"The world needs today what it needed nineteen hundred years ago—a revelation of Christ. A great work of reform is demanded, and it is only through the grace of Christ that the work of restoration, physical, mental, and spiritual, can be accomplished.

"Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as One who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'" *The Ministry of Healing*, 143

"Many have no faith in God and have lost confidence in man. But they appreciate acts of sympathy and helpfulness. As they see one with no inducement of earthly praise or compensation come into their homes, ministering to the sick, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, comforting the sad, and tenderly pointing all to Him of whose love and pity the human worker is but the messenger—as they see this, their hearts are touched. Gratitude springs up. Faith is kindled. They see that God cares for them, and they are prepared to listen as His word is opened." *Ibid.*, 145

Your fellow worker,



John J. Grosboll



# Elderberries

**T**he elderberry is a member of the *Sambucus* genus of flowering plants. The berries are found in clusters and are typically either black, blue-black or red in color. In its raw state, the elderberry contains glycoside which makes it poisonous, but when cooked, it is edible.

Because of the elderberry's natural anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, antiviral, and immune-stimulating properties, it is used for medical purposes. Elderberry syrup is probably one of the best home-made herbal remedies you can make, and is particularly good at fighting colds and flus.



## Elderberry Syrup

Put six cups of fresh elderberries (or three cups dried) in a pot with six cups of water.

Bring to a boil over medium heat, then lower the heat and simmer **uncovered** for about one hour, or until reduced by nearly half. Leaving the pot uncovered while simmering, allows the steam to escape and will help to remove any potential toxins. It will also help the mixture to reduce. If you feel the mixture is reducing too fast, partially cover the pot while it is simmering.

Remove the pot from the heat and set aside to cool, but you'll want it to cool

to a warm room temperature so that the honey will easily dissolve, but not too hot or the benefits of the raw honey will be lost.

Strain the elderberries using a fine mesh sieve, pressing the berries to get any extra liquid out. You might want to line the sieve with cheesecloth. This will help squeeze out all the liquid from the berries. You should end up with at least one quart of mixture.

Add  $\frac{2}{3}$  cup of raw honey and stir until it dissolves. Do not heat again.

Ladle the syrup into a quart jar, placing the lid and ring to fingertip tight. Let it cool completely and refrigerate for up to six months. Elderberry syrup can also be frozen. Discard the berries. With all the beneficial compounds now in the elderberry and water mixture, the berries have no real use at this point.

For medicinal use adults should take 1-2 tablespoons of the syrup 2-3 times per day at the onset of a cold or flu, and throughout the duration of the illness. While you might want to use the syrup for a short time as a preventative if you believe you were exposed to illness, but not yet experiencing symptoms, it is not recommended to take it daily as a preventative, especially for those with autoimmune issues. The syrup is safe for children **over the age of one**—because of the raw honey in the syrup, it would be harmful for children under the age of one year old. A child's dose would be 1-2 teaspoons twice a day. The dosage can be increased as the child grows.

Beyond its medicinal uses, elderberry syrup is also delicious and full of vitamins, minerals, and flavonoids! It can be used in moderation as a treat on



pancakes, in ice cream and tea, desserts, candies, jams and jellies, or as a nice cold drink on a hot summer's day.

## Black Elderberry Slushie

2 cups ice  
1 cup juice (orange, grape, pomegranate)  
1 tsp black elderberry syrup

Place all ingredients in a blender in the order listed.

Pulse a few times, then blend until the consistency of a slushie.

Serve immediately, drizzle with additional black elderberry syrup if desired.

Sources: [growforagecookferment.com/elderberry-syrup/](https://growforagecookferment.com/elderberry-syrup/); [Wikipedia.org/wiki/Sambucus](https://Wikipedia.org/wiki/Sambucus) 

# *We Will Be Going Home*

by Martin Bernar

The 2023 Steps to Life camp meeting is over. We heard some powerful messages and heavenly music. I have attended camp meetings in the past, but this time I realized more than ever how important it is for God's people to meet together. No DVD nor live broadcast can convey the solemn atmosphere—the presence of the Holy Spirit and the love of God's people for each other—as actually being there can. I recall quotes such as this one with more urgency than ever: “Therefore come to the camp meeting, even though you have to make a sacrifice to do it, and the Lord will bless your efforts.” *Letters and Manuscripts*, Vol. 8, 1175

It's not just about the messages, it's the strength and unity of God's people that encourages me for the whole year ahead. It's the joyful moments of seeing like-minded believers I haven't seen for a long time, as well as meeting new ones! I met a sister in Christ from Arizona who had never been to a Steps

to Life camp meeting before. She spoke to me about the group of believers meeting in a home church back home. For the longest time, they thought that they were the only home church in the whole world. Can you imagine the strength she gained when she found out that she has brothers and sisters meeting in home churches all over the world? We embraced each other's story and I welcomed her to her newfound family of believers.

It used to be that meeting another Adventist Christian felt like meeting a family member, even if it happened in another country in another corner of our world. As the Adventist identity is being constantly watered down and the mainline church is becoming just as any other Sunday-keeping denomination, this strong sense of belonging has disappeared. Yet at Steps to Life meetings, I always realize that I do have a spiritual family. Not only that, I have made some strong friendships over the years that I am sure will last for eternity.

The few days of the spiritual meetings quickly passed. As I embarked on my long drive home, I inserted a newly-acquired music CD by Laura Williams into my car's CD player. What uplifting music that makes any long drive a breeze! I sang along with the CD's last song entitled “Midnight Cry:”

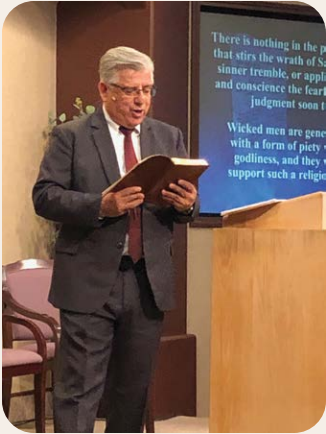
I can almost hear the trumpet  
And Gabriel sounds the cord  
At the midnight cry  
We'll be going home.

Oh friends, we will be going home, sooner than we think! It may be that Jesus will come before next year's camp meeting and we will meet together, finally, at the joyous camp meeting in heaven. Or it may be, that for some of us, God will see fit that we go to our rest to wait until His return. But until we see His face, I encourage you, if you are able, to make any sacrifice to be a part of the next camp meeting, whether it be at Steps to Life or in heaven. **LM**



The DVD set of the entire camp meeting messages will soon be available. You may order them by phone at 316-788-5559 or through the online bookstore. You will truly be blessed.







# The Megapode

**T**he megapode, also called the Australian incubator bird, is a medium-to-large sized, chicken-like bird with a small head, heavy legs, and big feet with sharp claws. The name literally means *large foot*. They typically live in wooded areas, and are browsers—herbivores that eat leaves and the fruit of shrubs. There are 20 living species of the bird. Found in Oceania—a geographical region including Australasia (Australia, New Zealand, and surrounding Pacific islands), Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia—their eggs are considered a delicacy. The egg is twice the size of a chicken egg, weighs about half a pound, and the yolk is about four times bigger, making up 50-70% of the egg's weight. The megapode itself weighs about 3.5 to 4 pounds.

The male megapode builds the nest—a massive nest as much as 50' across and 20' high—out of decaying vegetation, like a huge mulch pile.

The female has only two jobs: approving the nest and laying eggs. She digs around in the nest and if it meets with her approval, good for her mate. But if it doesn't, he builds a new one. Keep in mind the size of the nest in relationship to the size of the bird; this is major craftsmanship. Once the nest is approved, the female will lay 25 to 30 eggs, one egg every 3 days for up to 7 months. The shell is very thick with pores that are shaped like ice cream cones. Once the eggs are laid, she leaves.

The man of the nest now takes over responsibility for the nest and eggs. He tends his nest by adding or removing litter to regulate the internal heat while the eggs develop, keeping the temperature at about 91° F and 99.5%

humidity. If the temperature varies much more than 1°, the chicks will die. If it gets too dry, the chicks will die. So much pressure! So each day he digs in the nest and checks the temperature and humidity. If the mound is too hot, too cold, or too dry, he goes to work to cool it off or warm it up or increase the humidity. Once the chicks are hatched, his work is done.

In the egg, as the chicks grow, it eventually can't get enough air and begins to scrape off the inside of the egg to make the ice-cream-cone-shaped air holes bigger. Unlike other chicks, a megapode chick does not have an eggtooth, the sharp, temporary projection at the end of the beak to chip away at the eggshell until it is able to breathe and ultimately break free. Instead, the chick uses its powerful claws, and once free from the shell, lays on its back, tunneling its way through the sand and vegetable matter to the surface of the mound. It does this by packing the sticks and dirt that fall on its chest under its wings, repeating this for up to three days, until it has reached the surface.

Chicks hatch fully feathered, ready and able to fly, and to live independently of their parents because, well, they've already left. So they start to search for and find food. They raise themselves to maturity with no training, and go on to either build a nest or make eggs for the next generation.

So did the megapode evolve or was there some master plan to their design and very specific habits? Let's see.

How does the female know if the nest is just right? Why is she not involved in caring for the eggs like most other bird species?

How does the male know how to build this complicated nest, and have the ability and knowledge to keep the temperature and humidity precisely controlled?

How were the air vents shaped like ice cream cones with the tip pointing toward the chick? And how does the chick know to scrape at these vents to get more air as it chips away to finally hatch out of the shell?


How does the chick know to dig out of the nest, which way to dig, and how to pack the debris beneath it?

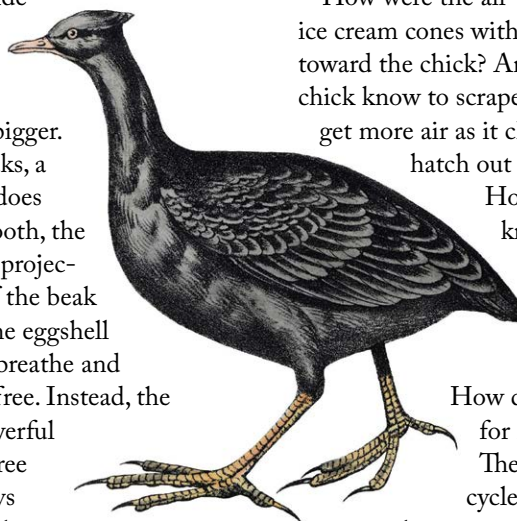
How does it know to hunt for food and catch it?

Then the next year, the cycle begins again with

the mature chicks taking on their roles with no training.

How could all of this be a product of mindless, random, accidental, purposeless chance over a massive time period? These physical attributes, instincts, skills, and knowledge had to be designed and instilled in these birds by a Creator or the whole species would have been extinct with the first pair of birds. Only God, the Creator, could do this.

SOURCES: Adapted from materials by Dr. Jobe Martin D.M.D., TH.M.; [wikipedia.org/wiki/Megapode](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Megapode); [beautyofbirds.com/megapodes](http://beautyofbirds.com/megapodes) 



Q:

*Can there  
ever be true  
unity?*

A:

Of course, there can be no unity with the world or the devil—not in one single thought or action—if our desire is to be saved.

“Satan is rich in this world’s goods, and he is full of cunning to deceive, and his most effective agents are those whom he can lead to take a form of godliness while they deny the power of God by their un-Christlike characters. The children of God are to stand firmly for the right under all circumstances. They are not to be deceived by those who have the mind and spirit of the world.” *In Heavenly Places*, 168

“Christ and the world are not in partnership. ... The slightest diversion from Christ is so much influence, power, and efficiency given to the enemy.” *The Review and Herald*, August 23, 1892

“Satan’s deceptive workings are constantly being carried on in every place. Those who truly love God will reveal their love for Him in every and under every circumstance. ... They will not be persuaded to forget the Lord at any time. ...

“We must be as decidedly a peculiar people, holy unto the Lord, as the Israelites were required to be, else we cannot properly represent our wise, compassionate, glorified Redeemer.” *Lift Him Up*, 146

“When absolute homage is paid to the word of God in matters of doctrine and principle, there will be no easy fellowship with the world.” *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 4, 412

For those who believe in God and who seek to do His will, there is unity in thought, spirit, action, and purpose.

“A Christian, as described by the Scriptures, is a person who is separated from the world in his aims and practices and is united with Christ ...” *In Heavenly Places*, 168

“The secret of unity is found in the equality of believers in Christ. 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.” *That I May Know Him*, 99

“... if all are seeking the meekness and lowliness of Christ they will have the mind of Christ. Then there will be unity of spirit.” *Last Day Events*, 92

“The animating Spirit of God, working through human agencies, leads the believers to be of one mind, one soul, unitedly loving God and keeping His commandments—preparing here below for translation.” *The Review and Herald*, October 20, 1904 [LM](#)



*We  
must be  
as decidedly  
a peculiar  
people.*



## *Enticements and Desires*

---

by John J. Grosboll

**U**nderstanding how we are tempted is helpful in understanding how to overcome temptation. It is important to understand how the devil works and why his temptations are so successful against us. Once we understand that, then we can know how to resist temptation and not yield to them.

“Each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires [lusts] and enticed.” James 1:14. Although the New Testament typically uses the word *lust* to describe a very strong, forbidden and unlawful desire, there are a few times when it is used in a different way. When Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper, He used lust to express His strong desire to eat the last supper with them. However, most often, the New Testament uses it to describe a strong, forbidden desire for something unlawful.



There are two elements to temptation—the lust that is common within our own nature and the enticement we experience from an outside source. James is saying, and this is an important point to remember, the lust that is involved when we are tempted is our own lust on the inside. To be enticed is to be seduced, lured, or drawn out. Enticement has to do with craftiness, deceit, guile, or subtlety from the outside, to be seduced by promises or persuasions to do something that is evil.

“Temptations from without find an answering chord within the heart, and the feet slide imperceptibly into sin.” *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, 425. This statement brings together the desire of the heart (the carnal, sinful nature within) and the art of enticement (subtle deceit from without). Enticement meets an answering chord in the sinful nature of man, and the result is that we imperceptibly slide into sin unaware that we are yielding to temptation.

I knew a man who was struggling to quit smoking and hadn’t smoked for many days. But one day, while going through a grocery store checkout, the person ahead of him lit up a cigarette and handed one to him. He took the cigarette, and before he even realized it, had smoked the cigarette half through. The enticement came from the outside when the other man handed him the cigarette, but he responded because of the answering chord that existed within his heart.

The temptation from without is the promise of a liar enticing us to sin, but the responding chord from within is our own desire for something forbidden.

“A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; but an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.” Luke 6:45. It is in the heart that we find the seat of these lustful desires, the emotions of good or evil. How does

Inspiration describe the condition of the heart of man?

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and incurably wicked. Who can even know it?” Jeremiah 17:9, literal translation.

Moses said, “And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” Genesis 6:5.

Because of the sinful nature of man’s heart, the imagination of the thoughts are evil continually.

The word *imagination* has to do with a forming of or, figuratively, a conception, something framed in a person’s mind. The imaginations of man’s heart are the conceptions and purposes that are formed or framed in his mind. So Moses, talking about the heart, is referring to the mind in these verses when he talks about the imagination of the heart.

Mrs. White says, regarding the heart and the mind, “What is the new heart? It is the new mind. What is the mind? It is the will.” *Sermons and Talks*, Vol. 1, 210. When the word heart is used figuratively, it is generally associated with the things that we love. “The mind controls the whole man. All our actions, good or bad, have their source in the mind.” *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 426. “The will is the governing power in the nature of man, the power of decision, or choice.” *Education*, 289. These references reveal the role of the mind in relation to the will.

The mind is the link between the heart (what we love) and the will (what we choose to do). When you understand this, then this next quotation makes perfect sense. “Every mind is controlled

either by the power of Satan or the power of God.” *The General Conference Bulletin*, March 30, 1903

What will happen if Satan is in control of my mind? This is imperceptible to us, so we do not recognize that

the intelligence controlling our minds today is not the same as it was in the past, once we experience the “new man” conversion. “Full of all subtlety and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?”

Acts 13:10 (KJV)

What will we do if Satan controls our minds? “You are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father you will do.” John 8:44, *first part*

So, a quick recap of everything we looked at over the last few issues.

When man was created, God was in control of his mind and his nature was pure and holy, governed by the principles of righteousness. But at the Fall, when Adam, the legal representative and father of our race, yielded his allegiance to Satan by eating the forbidden fruit, Satan took control of his mind, and the natural desire of his heart—now governed by the principles of selfishness—was changed. Everything was changed.

The Bible tells us that they immediately began to find fault with each other. Adam blamed Eve. Eve blamed the serpent. But they both, by extension, blamed God. Having sinned, the devil now was in control of their minds and immediately there was contention in their paradise home.

“The carnal mind [the fleshly mind] is enmity against God: it is not subject

“  
The temptation from  
without is the promise  
of a liar enticing us to sin,  
but the responding chord  
from within is our own  
desire for something  
forbidden.”

to the law of God, neither indeed can be.” Romans 8:7. Notice, it is impossible for the carnal mind to be subject to the law of God. When someone says, “I can’t overcome this,” they are telling the truth. The carnal mind is enmity against God, and therefore, it cannot keep the law of God, no matter how much it might want to.

“Human nature could not keep the law, even if it would. Apart from Christ, without union with Him, we can do nothing.” *The Signs of the Times*, May 30, 1895. The carnal mind is now our natural mind, the same one that every son and daughter of Adam possesses. And why is this mind of man hostile toward God?

“When man sinned all heaven was filled with sorrow; for through yielding to temptation, man became the enemy of God, a partaker of the satanic nature. The image of God in which he had been created was marred and distorted. The character of man was out of harmony with the character of God; for through sin man became carnal, and the carnal heart is enmity against God, is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.” *Ibid.*, February 13, 1893. When Adam sinned, he became a partaker of the satanic nature, yielding control to Satan, and as a consequence, all of his descendants bear the same.

Inspiration uses heart, mind, and will synonymously. “You need to drink daily at the fountain of truth, that you may understand the secret of pleasure and joy in the Lord. But you must remember that your will is the spring of all your actions. This will, that forms so important a factor in the character of man, was at the Fall given into the control of Satan ...” *Testimonies*, Vol. 5, 515

Everything that we think, say, and do is formed in and springs from a will, heart, and mind now controlled by Satan. “... And he has ever since been working in man to will and to do of his own pleasure, but to the utter ruin and misery of man.” *Ibid.* That’s

why, speaking to the people of His day, Jesus said, “O generation of vipers. How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”

Matthew 12:34

“As Satan had done in heaven, so he did on earth—declared God’s government unjust, the restrictions of His law unnecessary, and bade men, as he had angels, to throw aside the yoke and let the dictates of their own nature be their only guide and law.” *The Signs of the Times*, December 15, 1914

This was a scary statement when he made it to the perfect angels in heaven. But then Satan told man, and continues to tell man, to let the dictates of his own nature be his only guide and law. What a terrible delusion! “I decide what to do with my life because I know what’s best for me.” I might believe that I am in control of my life, but in reality, it is Satan who is controlling me.

Satan is subtle and cunning, using deception and craftiness to lead men astray. “Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made.” Genesis 3:1, *first part*. “That old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceives the whole world; he was cast into the earth.” Revelation 12:9. The devil is a liar, a murderer, a deceiver and it is his determined purpose to deceive the whole world.

How does he achieve this? “Satan must deceive in order to lead away. ‘In vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird.’ Underhand work must be done; a deceptive influence must be exerted; pretenses must be set forth as truth; suspicion must be lulled to sleep.” *The Review and Herald*, September 14, 1897

When the enticement comes from the outside and finds a receptive chord inside our mind and heart, temptation comes with overwhelming power. The devil looks into each of our lives to see our strongest desires and weaknesses. The strength of his outside enticement matches the strength of our inward desire, and we are trapped. The devil intimately knows every single one of us. He puts in our hearts the belief that we can overcome it later, but it’s just too hard to do it right now. He tells us that God won’t hold it against us, that He will

“

*The heart is deceitful  
above all things, and  
incurably wicked. Who can  
even know it?*

*Jeremiah 17:9*

forgive us, and seeking justification so that we can do what we want to do, we believe what he says.

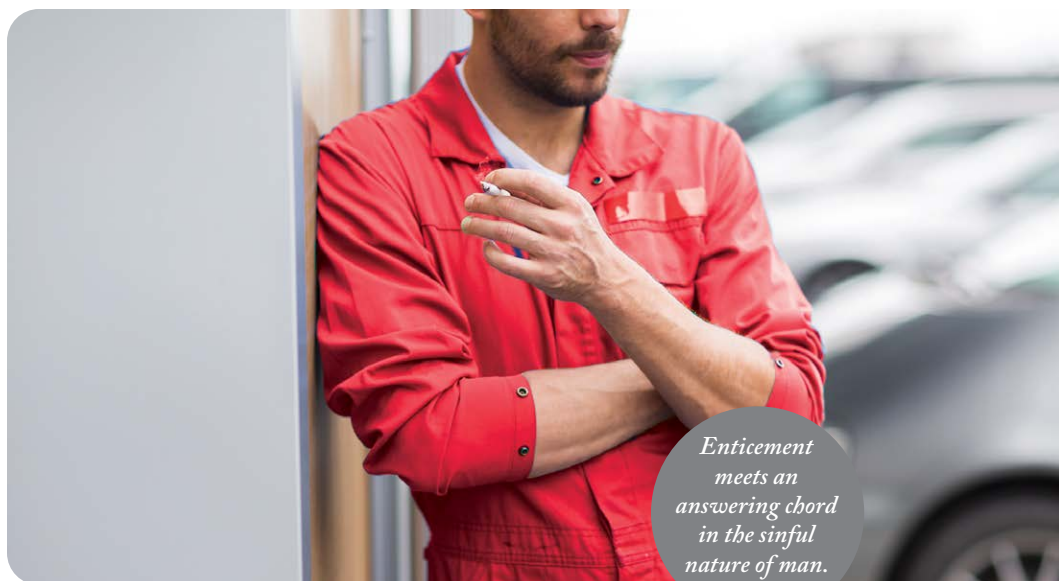
But when a man decides to serve God, and no longer be controlled by his inward desires and the devil's outside enticements, the devil changes his tactics from deception to oppression and persecution. "No man can serve God without enlisting against himself evil men and evil angels. Evil angels well know that one soul accepting the truth as it is in Jesus, will by precept and example weaken their hold upon other souls, for the truth is aggressive. Alarmed because he is losing his prey, Satan will first seek to deceive, next to oppress and persecute." *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 3, 118

"The way in which Satan tempted Christ, he is today tempting every soul. He seeks to hold men under his reasoning." *The Review and Herald*, May 3, 1906. The devil wants to keep you under his control. He first deceives you to believe that you are a terrible sinner, too weak to overcome, that you are lost. He does this to every soul—including you and me.

Imagine a person whose besetting sin is impatience. After decades of expressing impatience in thousands of circumstances, a habit has developed that holds him like chains of steel, impossible for him to break. He will never be free from the sin of impatience unless he is set free by divine power, nor will he be able to be patient without divine aid.

The standard of the gospel is the same for everyone. But the devil is trying to keep us under the control of his deceptive reasoning. A person intends to overcome, but he may say just not right now. He has not reached the point where he can say, "Lord, I want to overcome today."

Satan has a very special deception for those who proclaim to be followers of Christ. He has deceived even the most educated Adventists into believing that it may be a sin under these circumstances, but in this case, it is not. The world calls that "situation ethics." "Satan



Enticement  
meets an  
answering chord  
in the sinful  
nature of man.

clothes temptation and sin with the garments of righteousness, and by this deception he wins many to his side." *The Review and Herald*, September 14, 1897. Reason all you can, but sin is sin no matter what form it may take. There are no circumstances under which we can justify sin to make it right.

I was in a Sabbath School class many years ago when a young man was trying to prove that in certain situations it was all right to tell a lie. I was young myself and not very tactful. I said, "Listen to this." And I read him this verse: "And why not say, 'Let us do evil, that good may come?'—as we are slanderously reported and as some affirm that we say. Their condemnation is just." Romans 3:8

"Through his deception and delusion, Satan would, if possible, deceive the very elect. His is no minor deception. He will seek to annoy, to harass, to falsify, to accuse, and misrepresent all whom he cannot compel to give him honor and help him in his work. His great success lies in keeping men's minds confused, and ignorant of his devices, for then he can lead the unwary as it were, blindfolded." *Selected Messages*, Book 3, 423

You and I must daily ask the Lord to make clear to us the deceptions that the devil has especially prepared

for God's people. It is his determined purpose to keep us under the control of his deceptive reasoning. He intends to raise up false christs and prophets, to show great signs and wonders so that, if it is possible, he might deceive even the elect people of God. We must beware. We need to stay awake or we, too, will be deceived.

"The nearer we come to the close of this earth's history, the more delusive will be the snares of the enemy. As time passes, his attacks will grow fiercer and more frequent. Satan's supreme effort is made to ensnare and deceive if possible the very elect—the church and the ministers of Christ." *The Review and Herald*, November 14, 1912. Satan is trying everything he can imagine to deceive the members and ministers of the Adventist church. Sadly, he has been too successful.

"With all their ingenuity he and his agencies are working to deceive if possible the very elect. If he can lull them to indifference to their high calling, his triumph is certain." *Ibid*. What is my high calling? The promise of the gospel is that God will reproduce the very likeness of Jesus Christ in my mind if I cooperate. Peter said, "Having escaped the corruptions that are in the world through lust you might be partakers of



the divine nature.” 2 Peter 1:4. John says that we can once again be partakers of the divine nature, having a Christlike character (See 1 John 3:2, 3). That is our high calling. If the devil can lull us to be indifferent toward receiving Christ’s likeness in our own character, or deceive us into believing it has already happened when it has not, or convince us that we are okay as we are, then his triumph is certain.

Webster tells us that *indifference* is a state of mind in which there is no feeling of anxiety or interest in what is presented to it. Satan’s supreme effort is to lull the very elect to indifference to their high calling. And his great success will be in keeping our minds confused and ignorant of his devices. So how important is it for me to know what my high calling is—for me to be awake to my peril and not to be confused or ignorant about the devices of the enemy working against my soul?

Paul said to the Philippians, “Forgetting those things that are behind, pressing toward those things that are before, I press [I urge] toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:13, *last part*, 14. To the Colossians he said, “The mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Colossians 1:26, 27. God has promised that the spiritual image of Christ will be reproduced in every one of His children. I must claim

that promise every day in prayer. I see myself as miserable, poor, blind, naked, and completely destitute, but God has promised to reproduce the image of Christ in me, and I can rely on God to keep His word.

Paul continues by saying, “that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth, and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” Ephesians 3:16–19. “Great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh.” 1 Timothy 3:16

Satan has been misrepresenting the character of God to mankind for 6,000 years. He wants us to doubt and distrust Him. On the one hand, Satan says that God is not loving and merciful, but vengeful; while on the other hand, he posits that if God were loving and merciful, then He would overlook just a little sin. If we fall for the devil’s lies, no matter how they are presented to us, then we will yield to temptation and fall into sin every single time.

I must claim God’s promises, fully surrendering to the power of the Holy Spirit, believing that He says what He means and means what He says. Then, through that power, the character of Christ will be reproduced in my character. It won’t matter that I have a fallen human nature where no good thing can be found. It won’t matter that

I am assaulted from without by the enticements of the devil or that inside I have an answering chord that strains to respond to them. None of it will matter, because if I surrender and claim the promise, the Lord will work a miracle in my life and I will seek to do His will. I don’t have to be lost.

“You cannot comprehend what a terrible thing it is to be lost. Your conscience has become hardened in sin and transgression and unbelief; but you may, if you will, fall on the Rock Christ Jesus and be broken before it is utterly too late, crying, ‘Jesus of Nazareth, have mercy on me.’ If you do this, God will not leave you to perish. . . .” *Testimonies on Sexual Behavior, Adultery, and Divorce*, 145

“The whole mind must be molded by the Holy Spirit. Divine power will combine with human effort, when we seek earnestly to be complete in Christ Jesus. The Lord will help everyone who seeks Him with all his heart.” *Sons and Daughters of God*, 285

“By the transforming agency of His grace, the image of God is reproduced in the disciple; he becomes a new creature.

“It is the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, which Jesus said He would send into the world, that changes our character into the image of Christ; and when this is accomplished, we reflect, as in a mirror, the glory of the Lord.” *God’s Amazing Grace*, 246

Whatever suggestions Satan may make to keep your soul bound in sin and despair, no matter how much your inner desires may want to respond to his enticements, go to Jesus, the sin-pardoning Saviour, without delay. The Lord, who is mighty to save, will rescue you from the snare of the devil.

“God is faithful who also will do it.” 1 Thessalonians 5:24 **LM**

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“  
*What is the new heart?  
It is the new mind. What is  
the mind? It is the will.*”

August 27 – September 2, 2023

# Human Nature

## Key Text

“Then God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. ... So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” Genesis 1:26, *first part*, 27

**Study Help:** *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 52–62

## Introduction

“Man was to bear God’s image, both in outward resemblance and in character. ... Man was formed in the likeness of God. His nature was in harmony with the will of God.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 45

## Sunday

### 1 THE DIVINE IMAGE

1.a. What was the condition of man at creation?  
Genesis 1:27

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**Note:** “All heaven took a deep and joyful interest in the creation of the world and of man. Human beings were a new and distinct order. They were made ‘in the image of God,’ and it was the Creator’s design that they should populate the earth.” *The Review and Herald*, February 11, 1902

“When Adam came from the Creator’s hand, he bore, in his physical, mental, and spiritual nature, a likeness to his Maker. ‘God created man in His own image’ (Genesis 1:27), and it was His purpose that the longer man lived the more fully he should reveal this image—the more fully reflect the glory of the Creator.” *Education*, 15

1.b. What kind of garment did Adam and Eve wear?  
Genesis 2:25

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**Note:** “The white robe of innocence was worn by our first parents when they were placed by God in holy Eden. They lived in perfect conformity to the will of God. All the strength of their affections was given to their heavenly Father. A beautiful soft light, the light of God, enshrouded the holy pair.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 310, 311

## Monday

### 2 PERFECT HEALTH

2.a. What did God say about man on the sixth day?  
Genesis 1:26–28, 31

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**Note:** “Man came from the hand of God perfect in every faculty of mind and body; in perfect soundness, therefore in perfect health.” *My Life Today*, 126

2.b. What kind of food was provided for our first parents? Genesis 1:29

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**Note:** “In order to know what are the best foods, we must study God’s original plan for man’s diet. He who created man and who understands his needs appointed Adam his food. ‘Behold,’ He said, ‘I have given you every herb yielding seed, ... and every tree, in which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for food.’ Genesis 1:29, A.R.V. Upon leaving Eden to gain his livelihood by tilling the earth under the curse of sin, man received permission to eat also ‘the herb of the field.’ Genesis 3:18

“Grains, fruits, nuts, and vegetables constitute the diet chosen for us by our Creator. These foods, prepared in as simple and natural a manner as possible, are the most healthful and nourishing. They impart a strength, a power of endurance, and a vigor of intellect that are not afforded by a more complex and stimulating diet.” *The Ministry of Healing*, 295, 296

## 2.c. How can we best describe the Eden lifestyle? Genesis 2:8–10, 15

**Note:** “In this garden [in Eden], were trees of every variety, many of them laden with fragrant and delicious fruit. There were lovely vines, growing upright, yet presenting a most graceful appearance, with their branches drooping under their load of tempting fruit of the richest and most varied hues. It was the work of Adam and Eve to train the branches of the vine to form bowers, thus making for themselves a dwelling from living trees covered with foliage and fruit.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 47

## Tuesday

### 3 MARRIAGE—A DIVINE INSTITUTION

#### 3.a. What else was provided for man’s happiness on the sixth day? Genesis 1:27; 2:18, 21–24

**Note:** “He [Jesus] referred them [the Pharisees] to the blessed days of Eden, when God pronounced all things ‘very good.’ Then marriage and the Sabbath had their origin, twin institutions for the glory of God in the benefit of humanity. Then, as the Creator joined the hands of the holy pair in wedlock, saying, A man shall ‘leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one’ (Genesis 2:24).” *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, 63

#### 3.b. What is God’s purpose in the marriage institution? Genesis 1:28; 2:18

**Note:** “He enunciated the law of marriage for all the children of Adam to the close of time. That which the Eternal Father Himself had pronounced good was the law of highest blessing and development for man.” *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, 63, 64

“God made from the man a woman, to be a companion and helpmeet for him, to be one with him, to cheer, encourage, and bless him, he in his turn to be her strong helper. All who enter into matrimonial relations with a holy purpose—the husband to obtain the pure affections of a woman’s heart, the wife to soften and improve her husband’s character and give it completeness—fulfill God’s purpose for them.

“Christ came not to destroy this institution, but to restore it to its original sanctity and elevation. He came to restore the moral image of God in man, and He began His work by sanctioning the marriage relation.

“He who gave Eve to Adam as a helpmeet performed His first miracle at a marriage festival. In the festal hall where friends and kindred rejoiced together, Christ began His public ministry. Thus He sanctioned marriage, recognizing it as an institution that He Himself had established. He ordained that men and women should be united in holy wedlock, to rear families whose members, crowned with honor, should be recognized as members of the family above.

“The divine love emanating from Christ never destroys human love, but includes it. By it, human love is refined and purified, elevated and ennobled. Human love can never bear its precious fruit until it is united with the divine nature and trained to grow heavenward. Jesus wants to see happy marriages, happy firesides.” *The Adventist Home*, 99

## Wednesday

### 4 HUMAN NATURE PERVERTED

#### 4.a. As a result of Adam’s and Eve’s disobedience, what happened to their nature? Romans 5:12, 17, 19

**Note:** “After their sin Adam and Eve were no longer to dwell in Eden. They earnestly entreated that they might remain in the home of their innocence and joy. They confessed that they had forfeited all right to that happy abode, but pledged themselves for the future to yield strict obedience to God. But they were told that their nature had become depraved by sin; they had lessened their strength to resist evil and had opened the way for Satan to gain more ready access to them. In their innocence they had yielded to temptation; and now, in a state of conscious guilt, they would have less power to maintain their integrity.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 61



4.b. What is the condition of humanity today? Psalm 51:5;  
Romans 7:14–20

**Note:** “A perception of right, a desire for goodness, exists in every heart. But against these principles there is struggling an antagonistic power. The result of the eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil is manifest in every man’s experience. There is in his nature a bent to evil, a force which, unaided, he cannot resist. To withstand this force, to attain that ideal which in his inmost soul he accepts as alone worthy, he can find help in but one power. That power is Christ. Cooperation with that power is man’s greatest need.” *Education*, 29

“The strongest evidence of man’s fall from a higher state is the fact that it costs so much to return. The way of return can be gained only by hard fighting, inch by inch, hour by hour. In one moment, by a hasty, unguarded act, we may place ourselves in the power of evil; but it requires more than a moment to break the fetters and attain to a holier life. The purpose may be formed, the work begun; but its accomplishment will require toil, time, perseverance, patience, and sacrifice. ...

“The life of the apostle Paul was a constant conflict with self. He said, ‘I die daily.’ 1 Corinthians 15:31. His will and his desires every day conflicted with duty and the will of God. Instead of following inclination, he did God’s will, however crucifying to his nature.” *The Ministry of Healing*, 452, 453

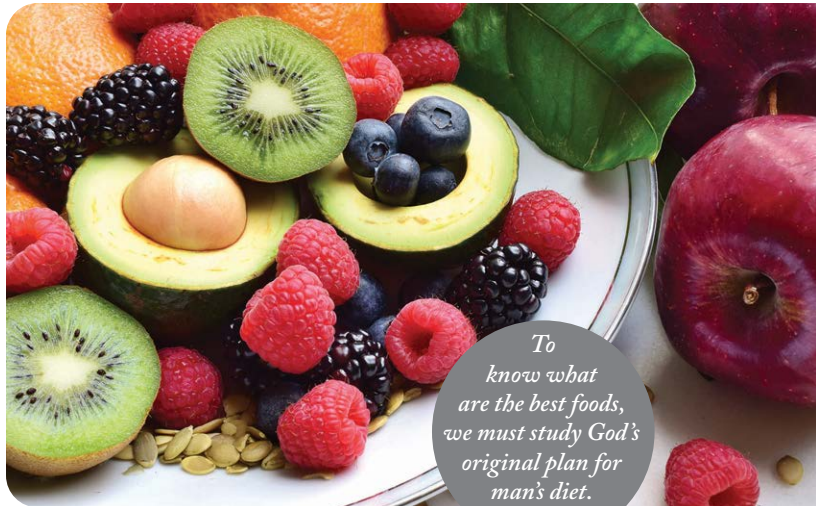
## Thursday

### 5 THE WAGES OF SIN

5.a. What is the final consequence of sin? Romans 6:21, 23

**Note:** “Adam, in transgressing the law of Jehovah, had opened the door for Satan, who had planted his banner in the midst of the first family. He was made to feel, indeed, that the wages of sin was death.” *Confrontation*, 23

“He who chooses a course of disobedience to God’s law is deciding his future destiny; he is sowing to the flesh, earning the wages of sin, even eternal destruction, the opposite of life eternal. Submission to God and obedience to His holy law bring the sure result. ‘This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.’ John 17:3.” *The Faith I Live By*, 71



5.b. Since man is free to choose either eternal life or eternal death, what advice does the Lord give us? Deuteronomy 30:15–19

**Note:** “We need to be active, working Christians, unselfish in heart and life, having an eye single to the glory of God. Oh, what wrecks we meet everywhere! what silent lips and fruitless lives! ‘This,’ said the angel, ‘is because of falling under temptation. Nothing mars the peace of the soul like sinful unbelief.’

“You should not give up in despair, thinking you must live and die in the bondage of doubt and unbelief. In the Lord, we have righteousness and strength. Lean upon Him; and through His power you may quench all the fiery darts of the adversary and come off more than conqueror. You may yet become sanctified through the truth; or you may, if you choose, walk in the darkness of unbelief, lose heaven, and lose all. By walking in the light and working out the will of God, you may overcome your selfish nature.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 4, 213, 214

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What was the garment of Adam and Eve before the Fall?
- 2 Explain the original diet designed for humanity.
- 3 Summarize God’s plan for marriage according to Genesis 2:18–24.
- 4 What happened to man’s nature after the Fall?
- 5 What kind of death is the result of the wages of sin?

September 3 – 9, 2023

# A New Creation

## Key Text

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”  
2 Corinthians 5:17

**Study Help:** *The Desire of Ages*, 167–177

## Introduction

“Through the power of Christ, men and women have broken the chains of sinful habit. They have renounced selfishness. The profane have become reverent, the drunken sober, the profligate pure. Souls that have borne the likeness of Satan have become transformed into the image of God.” *The Acts of the Apostles*, 476

## Sunday

### 1 THE NEW BIRTH

1.a. What basic truth did Christ tell Nicodemus?

John 3:3, 5

**Note:** “Nicodemus had come to the Lord thinking to enter into a discussion with Him, but Jesus laid bare the foundation principles of truth. He said to Nicodemus, It is not theoretical knowledge you need so much as spiritual regeneration. You need not to have your curiosity satisfied, but to have a new heart. You must receive a new life from above before you can appreciate heavenly things. Until this change takes place, making all things new, it will result in no saving good for you to discuss with Me My authority or My mission.” *The Desire of Ages*, 171

1.b. When does this new birth take place, and what should be our immediate response to it? John 1:12, 13

**Note:** “Henceforth you are not your own; you are bought with a price. ‘Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold ... but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.’ 1 Peter 1:18, 19. Through this simple act of believing God, the Holy Spirit has begotten a new life in your heart. You are as a child born into the family of God, and He loves you as He loves His Son.” *Steps to Christ*, 52

“Jesus leads the way. Do not wait and continue in disobedience, hoping circumstances may change, making it easier for you to obey. Go forward, for you know the will of God.” *The Signs of the Times*, April 10, 1893

## Monday

### 2 FORGIVENESS—THE BEGINNING OF A NEW LIFE

2.a. What happens when the repentant sinner is justified or forgiven? 1 John 1:9; Psalm 51:10

**Note:** “God’s forgiveness is not merely a judicial act by which He sets us free from condemnation. It is not only forgiveness for sin, but reclaiming from sin. It is the outflow of redeeming love that transforms the heart.” *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, 114

2.b. How will the forgiven sinner deal with others?  
Matthew 6:12, 14, 15

**Note:** “He who is unforgiving cuts off the very channel through which alone he can receive mercy from God. We should not think that unless those who have injured us confess the wrong we are justified in withholding from them our forgiveness. It is their part, no doubt, to humble their hearts by repentance and confession; but we are to have a spirit of compassion toward those who have trespassed against us, whether or not they confess their faults. However sorely they may have wounded us, we are not to cherish our grievances and sympathize with ourselves over our injuries; but as we hope to be pardoned for our offenses against God we are to pardon all who have done evil to us.” *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, 113, 114

2.c. What is essential for us so that we may forgive others? 1 Corinthians 13:1–8; 1 John 4:16

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**Note:** “The one thing essential for us in order that we may receive and impart the forgiving love of God is to know and believe the love that He has to us. ... Satan is working by every deception he can command, in order that we may not discern that love. He will lead us to think that our mistakes and transgressions have been so grievous that the Lord will not have respect unto our prayers and will not bless and save us. In ourselves, we can see nothing but weakness, nothing to recommend us to God, and Satan tells us that it is of no use; we cannot remedy our defects of character. When we try to come to God, the enemy will whisper, It is of no use for you to pray; did not you do that evil thing? ... When we feel that we have sinned and cannot pray, it is then the time to pray. Ashamed we may be and deeply humbled, but we must pray and believe.”  
*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, 115

## Tuesday

### 3 WALKING WITH CHRIST

3.a. Besides accepting Christ as our Saviour, what is essential for us to begin a new life? Colossians 2:6; 1 John 1:7

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**Note:** “Now that you have given yourself to Jesus, do not draw back, do not take yourself away from Him, but day by day say, ‘I am Christ’s; I have given myself to Him;’ and ask Him to give you His Spirit and keep you by His grace. As it is by giving yourself to God, and believing Him, that you become His child, so you are to live in Him. The apostle says, ‘As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him.’ Colossians 2:6.” *Steps to Christ*, 52

“As the flower turns to the sun, that the bright beams may aid in perfecting its beauty and symmetry, so should we turn to the Sun of Righteousness, that heaven’s light may shine upon us, that our character may be developed into the likeness of Christ. ...

“You are just as dependent upon Christ, in order to live a holy life, as is the branch upon the parent stock for growth and fruitfulness. Apart from Him you have no life. You have no power to resist temptation or to grow in grace and holiness. Abiding in Him, you may flourish. Drawing your life from Him, you will not wither nor be fruitless. You will be like a tree planted by the rivers of water.

“Many have an idea that they must do some part of the work alone. They have trusted in Christ for the forgiveness of sin, but now they seek by their own efforts to live aright. But every such effort must fail. Jesus says, ‘Without Me ye can do nothing.’ Our growth in grace, our joy, our usefulness—all depend upon our union with Christ. It is by communion with Him, daily, hourly—by abiding in Him—that we are to grow in grace.”  
*Ibid.*, 68, 69

3.b. How did Enoch walk with God? Genesis 5:22–24; Hebrews 11:5

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**Note:** “Enoch’s walk with God was not in a trance or a vision, but in all the duties of his daily life. He did not become a hermit, shutting himself entirely from the world; for he had a work to do for God in the world. In the family and in his intercourse with men, as a husband and father, a friend, a citizen, he was the steadfast, unwavering servant of the Lord. ...

“There are few Christians who would not be far more earnest and devoted if they knew that they had but a short time to live, or that the coming of Christ was about to take place. But Enoch’s faith waxed the stronger, his love became more ardent, with the lapse of centuries.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 85

## Wednesday

### 4 WALKING WITH CHRIST (continued)

4.a. What message did God Himself give to Abraham? Genesis 17:1–5; John 8:56

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**Note:** “There is hope for us only as we come under the Abrahamic covenant, which is the covenant of grace by faith in Christ Jesus. The gospel preached to Abraham, through which he had hope, was the same gospel that is preached to us today, through which we have hope. Abraham looked unto Jesus, who is also the Author and the Finisher of our faith.” *The Youth’s Instructor*, September 22, 1892

#### 4.b. What are the various ways by which today’s true children of Abraham will reflect the character of that patriarch of old? Hebrews 11:8–10; Galatians 3:6–9

**Note:** “The ten holy precepts had not been written upon the tables of stone by the finger of God in Abraham’s day. But Abraham was acquainted with them. They had been handed down from generation to generation; parents had taught their children the will of the Creator. Having educated himself to obey the law of God, the spirit of the commandments given in Eden was woven into the character of Abraham, fashioning his life after the divine pattern; and as a result his family was enlightened. He feared the Lord with all his house; for God’s standard of holiness was made known by Abraham to both masters and servants.

“He who combines faith and works will command his household after him, and like Abraham, will fear the Lord with all his house.” *The Gospel Herald*, August 1, 1906

“The faith of Abraham should be our example, yet how few will patiently endure a simple test of reproof for the sins which imperil their eternal welfare. How few receive reproof with humility, and profit by it. God’s claim upon our faith, our services, our affections, should meet with a cheerful response. We are infinite debtors to the Lord and should unhesitatingly comply with the least of His requirements.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 4, 253

“We must dwell as pilgrims and strangers here if we would gain ‘a better country, that is, an heavenly.’ Those who are children of Abraham will be seeking the city which he looked for, ‘whose builder and maker is God.’” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 170

## Thursday

### 5 NEW CREATURES IN THE NEW EARTH

#### 5.a. What will be realized by all who will inhabit the New Earth? Matthew 5:5; Revelation 21:1–7; 22:14

**Note:** “‘I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.’ Revelation 21:6. This promise is only to those that thirst. None but those who feel their need of the water of life, and seek it at the loss of all things else, will be supplied. ‘He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son.’ Verse 7. Here, also, conditions are specified. In order to inherit all things, we must resist and overcome sin.” *The Great Controversy*, 540

“An infinite price has been paid to bring us into connection with Christ. Self-indulgence must cease. We must come into right relations with God, and we must be cleansed from all iniquity, and walk worthy of the vocation whereunto we are called.” *The Signs of the Times*, July 29, 1889

#### 5.b. What will be the reward of the wicked, and how will God’s good name be vindicated? Revelation 21:8; 22:15; Psalm 37:9

**Note:** “Some are destroyed as in a moment, while others suffer many days. All are punished ‘according to their deeds.’ The sins of the righteous having been transferred to Satan, he is made to suffer not only for his own rebellion, but for all the sins which he has caused God’s people to commit. His punishment is to be far greater than that of those whom he has deceived. After all have perished who fell by his deceptions, he is still to live and suffer on. In the cleansing flames, the wicked are at last destroyed, root and branch—Satan the root, his followers the branches. The full penalty of the law has been visited; the demands of justice have been met; and heaven and earth, beholding, declare the righteousness of Jehovah.” *The Great Controversy*, 673

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 When are we really born again?
- 2 What is included in God’s forgiveness?
- 3 What does it mean to “walk with Christ”?
- 4 How can we become children of Abraham in a spiritual sense?
- 5 Who will live in the New Earth?

September 10 – 16, 2023

# The True Vine

**Key Verse**

“I am the vine, you are the branches. He that abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.” John 15:5

**Study Help:** *The Desire of Ages*, 674–678; *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 139–149

**Introduction**

“Do not disappoint Him who so loved you that He gave His own life to cancel your sins. . . . Remember this. If you have made mistakes, you certainly gain a victory if you see these mistakes and regard them as beacons of warning. Thus you turn defeat into victory, disappointing the enemy and honoring your Redeemer.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 332

**Sunday**

**1 THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES**

**1.a. How can one profess to be “in Christ,” yet bear no fruit? John 15:1, 2, *first part*, 6**

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**Note:** “If we stand in a position of perfect indifference, without acknowledging Him as our Saviour, we bear no fruit. If by failing to be a partaker of His divine nature we bear no fruit, we are taken away. Worldly influences take us away from Christ, and our portion is the same as that of the unfruitful branch.” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 5, 1143

**1.b. What is the work of Christ in behalf of those who bear fruit? John 15:2, *last part***

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**Note:** “If we do not bear any fruit, the powers of darkness take possession of our minds, our affections, our service, and we are of the world, though we profess to be children of God. This is neither a safe nor a pleasant position, because we lose all the beauty and the glory and the satisfaction that it is our privilege to have. By abiding in Christ, we may have His sweetness, His fragrance, His light. Christ is the Light of the world. He shines in our hearts. His light in our hearts shines forth from our faces. By beholding the beauty and the glory of Christ, we become changed into the same image.” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 5, 1143

**Monday**

**2 CLEANSED BY THE WORD**

**2.a. How can we have our character purified? John 15:3**

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**Note:** “The truths of the word of God meet man’s great practical necessity—the conversion of the soul through faith. These grand principles are not to be thought too pure and holy to be brought into the daily life. They are truths which reach to heaven and compass eternity, yet their vital influence is to be woven into human experience. They are to permeate all the great things and all the little things of life.

“Received into the heart, the leaven of truth will regulate the desires, purify the thoughts, and sweeten the disposition. It quickens the faculties of the mind and the energies of the soul. It enlarges the capacity for feeling, for loving.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 100, 101

**2.b. What changes will be revealed in the life of true believers? Isaiah 1:16, 17**

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**Note:** “The selfish, money-loving man lives only to secure for himself the riches, honors, and pleasures of this world. He loses the eternal world from his reckoning. But with the follower of Christ these things will not be all-absorbing. For Christ’s sake he will labor and deny self, that he may aid in the great work of saving souls who are without Christ and without hope in the world. Such a man the world cannot understand; for he

is keeping in view eternal realities. The love of Christ with its redeeming power has come into the heart. This love masters every other motive, and raises its possessor above the corrupting influence of the world.

“The word of God is to have a sanctifying effect on our association with every member of the human family. The leaven of truth will not produce the spirit of rivalry, the love of ambition, the desire to be first. True, heaven-born love is not selfish and changeable. It is not dependent on human praise. The heart of him who receives the grace of God overflows with love for God and for those for whom Christ died. Self is not struggling for recognition. He does not love others because they love and please him, because they appreciate his merits, but because they are Christ’s purchased possession. If his motives, words, or actions are misunderstood or misrepresented, he takes no offense, but pursues the even tenor of his way. He is kind and thoughtful, humble in his opinion of himself, yet full of hope, always trusting in the mercy and love of God.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 101, 102

## Tuesday

### 3 MUTUAL CONNECTION

3.a. How can we live a fruitful spiritual life? John 15:4, 5

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**Note:** “A union with Christ by living faith is enduring; every other union must perish. Christ first chose us, paying an infinite price for our redemption; and the true believer chooses Christ as first and last and best in everything. But this union costs us something. It is a union of utter dependence, to be entered into by a proud being. All who form this union must feel their need of the atoning blood of Christ. They must have a change of heart. They must submit their own will to the will of God. There will be a struggle with outward and internal obstacles. 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 that they try to attach themselves to Christ without first detaching themselves from these cherished idols.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 5, 231

3.b. How is it possible to preserve our union with Christ? Hebrews 12:1, 2

**Note:** “After the union with Christ has been formed, it can be preserved only by earnest prayer and untiring effort. We must resist, we must deny, we must conquer self. Through the grace of Christ, by courage, by faith, by watchfulness, we may gain the victory.

“Believers become one in Christ, but one branch cannot be sustained by another. The nourishment must be obtained through the vital connection with the vine. We must feel our utter dependence on Christ. We must live by faith on the Son of God. That is the meaning of the injunction: ‘Abide in Me.’ The life we live in the flesh is not to the will of men, not to please our Lord’s enemies, but to serve and honor Him who loved us and gave Himself for us. A mere assent to this union, while the affections are not detached from the world, its pleasures and its dissipations, only emboldens the heart in disobedience.

“As a people we are sadly destitute of faith and love. Our efforts are altogether too feeble for the time of peril in which we live. The pride and self-indulgence, the impiety and iniquity, by which we are surrounded have an influence upon us. Few realize the importance of shunning, so far as possible, all associations unfriendly to religious life.” *Testimonies*, Vol. 5, 231, 232

## Wednesday

### 4 PRAYERS ANSWERED

4.a. What are the key conditions for obtaining answers to our prayers? John 15:7; 1 John 2:3–5

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**Note:** “Many are forfeiting the condition of acceptance with the Father. We need to examine closely the deed of trust wherewith we approach God. If we are disobedient, we bring to the Lord a note to be cashed when we have not fulfilled the conditions that would make it payable to us. We present to God His promises, and ask Him to fulfill them, when by so doing He would dishonor His own name. ...

“One of Christ’s last commands to His disciples was ‘Love one another as I have loved you.’ John 13:34. Do we obey this command, or are we indulging sharp, unchristlike traits of character? If we have in any way grieved or wounded others, it is our duty to confess our fault and seek for reconciliation. This is an essential preparation that we may come before God in faith, to ask His blessing.

“There is another matter too often neglected by those who seek the Lord in prayer. Have you been honest with God? By the prophet Malachi the Lord declares, ‘Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from Mine ordinances, and



have not kept them. Return unto Me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return? Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed Thee? In tithes and offerings.' Malachi 3:7, 8." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 143, 144

**4.b. With what other conditions must we comply before God can answer our prayers? Psalm 66:18; Mark 11:24**

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

"The beloved John, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, speaks with great plainness and assurance: 'If we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us: and if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him.' 1 John 5:14, 15. Then press your petition to the Father in the name of Jesus. God will honor that name." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 148

## Thursday

### 5 ABIDING IN CHRIST'S LOVE

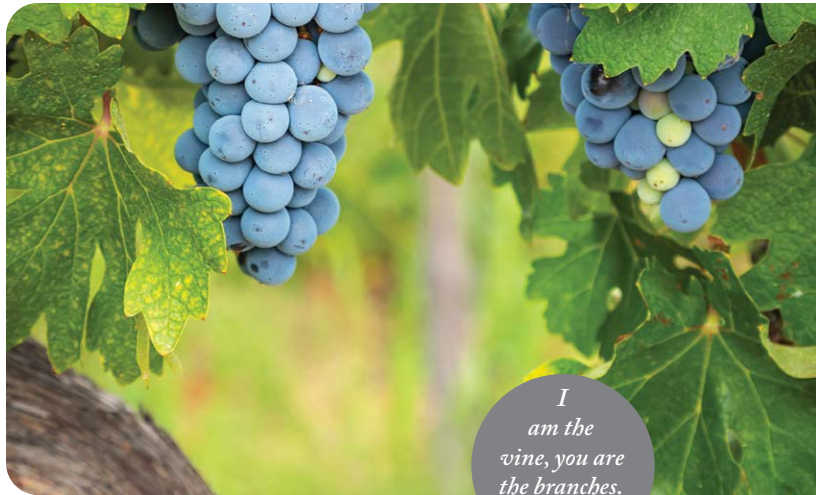
**5.a. On what condition can we abide in Christ's love? John 15:9, 10**

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**Note:** "Always kind, courteous, ever taking the part of the oppressed, whether Jew or Gentile, Christ was beloved by all. By His perfect life and character, He answered the question asked in the fifteenth Psalm: 'Lord, who shall abide in Thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in Thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.' In childhood and youth, His course was such that when engaged in work as a teacher, He could say to His disciples, 'If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide in My love: even as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love.'" *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, 402



*I  
am the  
vine, you are  
the branches.  
John 15:5*

**5.b. How did Christ summarize the law and reveal its essence? John 15:12, 13**

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**Note:** "Christ has given us an example of pure, disinterested love. You have not as yet seen your deficiency in this respect, and your great need of this heavenly attainment, without which all your good purposes, and your zeal, even if it be of that nature that you could give your goods to feed the poor and your body to be burned, is nothing. You need that charity which suffereth long, is not easily provoked, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Without the spirit of love, no one can be like Christ. With this living principle in the soul, no one can be like the world.

"The conduct of Christians is like that of their Lord. He erected the standard, and it is left for us to say whether or not we will rally around it. Our Lord and Saviour laid aside His dominion, His riches and glory, and sought after us, that He might save us from misery and make us like Himself."

*Testimonies*, Vol. 2, 169, 170

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 How can we be fruitful Christians?
- 2 What does it mean to be connected with the Vine?
- 3 Mention some basic conditions for receiving answers to prayers.
- 4 What is the evidence that we are connected with the Vine?

September 17 – 23, 2023

# Warning Against Disobedience

## Key Text

“For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by the obedience of one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous.” Romans 5:19

**Study Help:** *The Acts of the Apostles*, 309–322

## Introduction

“The basis of a right character in the future man is made firm by habits of strict temperance in the mother prior to the birth of her child.” *The Health Reformer*, February 1, 1880

## Sunday

### 1 POOR EXCUSES

1.a. By disobeying God’s instruction, what sin, among others, did Adam and Eve commit? Genesis 3:6

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**Note:** “Adam and Eve lost Eden through the indulgence of appetite, and we only regain it by the denial of the same.” *The Review and Herald*, October 21, 1884

1.b. After transgressing, whom did they blame for their fall? Genesis 3:11–13

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**Note:** “He [Adam] who, from love to Eve, had deliberately chosen to forfeit the approval of God, his home in paradise, and an eternal life of joy, could now, after his fall, endeavor to make his companion, and even the Creator Himself, responsible for the transgression. So terrible is the power of sin. ...

“Like Adam, she [Eve] charged God with the responsibility of their fall. The spirit of self-justification originated in the

father of lies; it was indulged by our first parents as soon as they yielded to the influence of Satan, and has been exhibited by all the sons and daughters of Adam. Instead of humbly confessing their sins, they try to shield themselves by casting the blame upon others, upon circumstances, or upon God—making even His blessings an occasion of murmuring against Him.”

*Patriarchs and Prophets*, 57, 58

## Monday

### 2 MORE THOROUGH PRENATAL CARE

2.a. What specific instructions did God give Manoah and his wife? Judges 13:3, 4, 13, 14

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**Note:** “God had an important work for the promised child of Manoah to do, and it was to secure for him the qualifications necessary for this work that the habits of both the mother and the child were to be carefully regulated. ‘Neither let her drink wine or strong drink,’ was the Angel’s instruction for the wife of Manoah, ‘nor eat any unclean thing: all that I commanded her let her observe.’ The child will be affected for good or for evil by the habits of the mother. She must herself be controlled by principle and must practice temperance and self-denial, if she would seek the welfare of her child. Unwise advisers will urge upon the mother the necessity of gratifying every wish and impulse, but such teaching is false and mischievous. The mother is by the command of God Himself placed under the most solemn obligation to exercise self-control.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 561

2.b. What are the consequences of disobeying the divine instructions on temperance? Galatians 6:7

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**Note:** “Fathers as well as mothers are involved in this responsibility [to exercise self-control]. Both parents transmit their own characteristics, mental and physical, their dispositions and appetites, to their children. As the result of parental intemperance children often lack physical strength and mental and moral power. Liquor drinkers and tobacco users may, and do, transmit their insatiable craving, their inflamed blood and irritable

nerves, to their children. The licentious often bequeath their unholy desires, and even loathsome diseases, as a legacy to their offspring. And as the children have less power to resist temptation than had the parents, the tendency is for each generation to fall lower and lower. To a great degree parents are responsible not only for the violent passions and perverted appetites of their children but for the infirmities of the thousands born deaf, blind, diseased, or idiotic.

“The inquiry of every father and mother should be, ‘What shall we do unto the child that shall be born unto us?’ The effect of prenatal influences has been by many lightly regarded; but the instruction sent from heaven to those Hebrew parents, and twice repeated in the most explicit and solemn manner, shows how this matter is looked upon by our Creator.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 561

## Tuesday

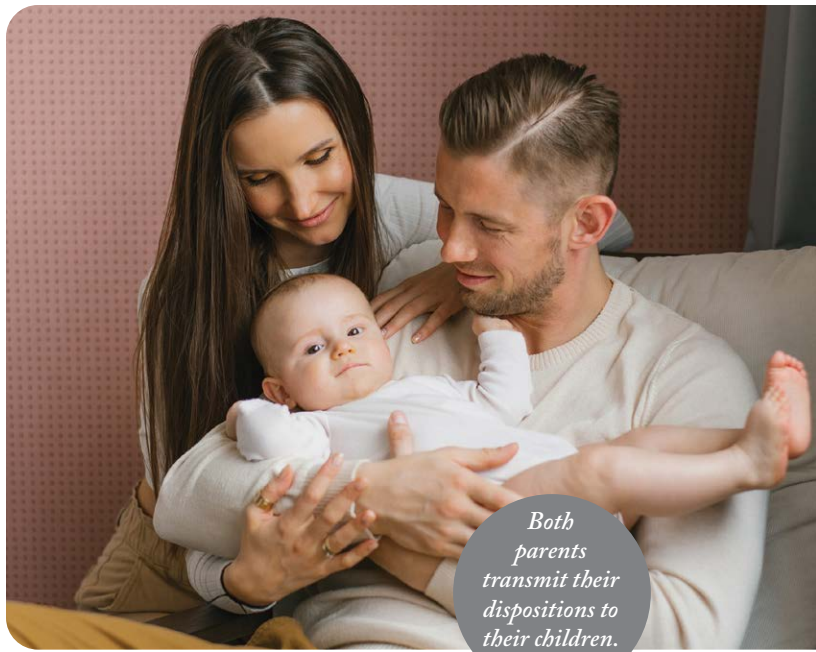
### 3 SAMSON'S FOLLY

- 3.a. What was Samson's first big mistake? How did he ignore God's commands? Judges 14:1-3; 2 Corinthians 6:15, 16

**Note:** “Association with idolaters corrupted him [Samson]. The town of Zorah being near the country of the Philistines, Samson came to mingle with them on friendly terms. Thus in his youth intimacies sprang up, the influence of which darkened his whole life. A young woman dwelling in the Philistine town of Timnath engaged Samson's affections, and he determined to make her his wife. To his God-fearing parents, who endeavored to dissuade him from his purpose, his only answer was, ‘She pleaseth me well.’ The parents at last yielded to his wishes, and the marriage took place.

“Just as he was entering upon manhood, the time when he must execute his divine mission—the time above all others when he should have been true to God—Samson connected himself with the enemies of Israel. He did not ask whether he could better glorify God when united with the object of his choice, or whether he was placing himself in a position where he could not fulfill the purpose to be accomplished by his life. To all who seek first to honor Him, God has promised wisdom; but there is no promise to those who are bent upon self-pleasing.

“How many are pursuing the same course as did Samson! How often marriages are formed between the godly and the ungodly, because inclination governs in the selection of husband or wife! The parties do not ask counsel of God, nor have His glory in view. Christianity ought to have a controlling



influence upon the marriage relation, but it is too often the case that the motives which lead to this union are not in keeping with Christian principles.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 562, 563

- 3.b. What was the end of Samson's wrong step? Judges 14:20

**Note:** “The wife, to obtain whom Samson had transgressed the command of God, proved treacherous to her husband before the close of the marriage feast. Incensed at her perfidy, Samson forsook her for the time, and went alone to his home at Zorah. When, afterward relenting, he returned for his bride, he found her the wife of another.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 563

## Wednesday

### 4 BROKEN VOWS

- 4.a. What other commandment did Samson break? Judges 16:1



**Note:** “The Philistines were well acquainted with the divine law, and its condemnation of sensual indulgence. They kept a vigilant watch over all the movements of their enemy, and when he degraded himself by this new attachment, and they saw the bewitching power of the enchantress, they determined, through her, to accomplish his ruin.” *The Signs of the Times*, October 13, 1881

“Samson, that mighty man of valor, was under a solemn vow to be a Nazarite during the period of his life; but becoming infatuated by the charms of a lewd woman, he rashly broke that sacred pledge. Satan worked through his agents to destroy this ruler of Israel, that the mysterious power which he possessed might no longer intimidate the enemies of God’s people. It was the influence of this bold woman that separated him from God, her artifices that proved his ruin. The love and service which God claims, Samson gave to this woman. This was idolatry. He lost all sense of the sacred character and work of God, and sacrificed honor, conscience, and every valuable interest, to base passion.” *Ibid.*, July 1, 1903

#### 4.b. What was the final result of his reckless actions? Judges 16:20, 21

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**Note:** “When he had been shaven, Delilah began to annoy him and cause him pain, thus making a trial of his strength; for the Philistines dared not approach him till fully convinced that his power was gone. Then they seized him and, having put out both his eyes, they took him to Gaza. Here he was bound with fetters in their prison house and confined to hard labor.

“What a change to him who had been the judge and champion of Israel!—now weak, blind, imprisoned, degraded to the most menial service! Little by little he had violated the conditions of his sacred calling. God had borne long with him; but when he had so yielded himself to the power of sin as to betray his secret, the Lord departed from him. There was no virtue in his long hair merely, but it was a token of his loyalty to God; and when the symbol was sacrificed in the indulgence of passion, the blessings of which it was a token were also forfeited.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 566

## Thursday

### 5 REPENTANCE AND MERCY

#### 5.a. What is the evidence that, by God’s mercy, Samson found repentance, and how is his final exercise of faith enshrined in Scripture? Judges 16:28–30; Hebrews 11:32

**Note:** “Samson learned more of his own weakness than he had ever known before; and his afflictions led him to repentance. As his hair grew, his power gradually returned; but his enemies, regarding him as a fettered and helpless prisoner, felt no apprehensions.

“The Philistines ascribed their victory to their gods; and, exulting, they defied the God of Israel. A feast was appointed in honor of Dagon, the fish god, ‘the protector of the sea.’ From town and country throughout the Philistine plain the people and their lords assembled. Throngs of worshipers filled the vast temple and crowded the galleries about the roof. It was a scene of festivity and rejoicing. There was the pomp of the sacrificial service, followed by music and feasting. Then, as the crowning trophy of Dagon’s power, Samson was brought in. Shouts of exultation greeted his appearance. People and rulers mocked his misery and adored the god who had overthrown ‘the destroyer of their country.’ After a time, as if weary, Samson asked permission to rest against the two central pillars which supported the temple roof. Then he silently uttered the prayer, ‘O Lord God, remember me, I pray Thee, and strengthen me, I pray Thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines.’ With these words he encircled the pillars with his mighty arms; and crying, ‘Let me die with the Philistines!’ he bowed himself, and the roof fell, destroying at one crash all that vast multitude. ‘So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life.’

“The idol and its worshipers, priest and peasant, warrior and noble, were buried together beneath the ruins of Dagon’s temple. And among them was the giant form of him whom God had chosen to be the deliverer of His people.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 566, 567

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 After the Fall, whom did Adam and Eve try to blame?
- 2 How did God instruct Samson’s mother in prenatal care?
- 3 What was Samson’s first great mistake, and what results followed?
- 4 Describe God’s victory over Dagon and its worshipers.

September 24 – 30, 2023

# Victorious Temperance

## Key Text

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.” Galatians 5:22, 23

**Study Help:** *Child Guidance*, 394–400; *The Desire of Ages*, 114–123

## Introduction

“As the youth are educated, and as their characters are molded in their childhood to virtuous habits, self-control, and temperance, so will their influence be upon society.” *The Adventist Home*, 15

## Sunday

### 1 APPETITES AND PASSIONS

1.a. How do our appetites and passions affect our ability to perform noble service? Ecclesiastes 10:17

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**Note:** “You need to exercise temperance in all things. Cultivate the higher powers of the mind, and there will be less strength of growth of the animal. It is impossible for you to increase in spiritual strength while your appetite and passions are not under perfect control.” *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, 63

1.b. What effect do appetite and passions have upon spiritual life? Luke 21:34

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**Note:** “Every true Christian will have control of his appetite and passions. Unless he is free from the bondage and slavery of appetite, he cannot be a true, obedient servant of Christ. It is the indulgence of appetite and passion which makes the truth of none effect upon the heart. It is impossible for the spirit and power of the truth to sanctify a man, soul, body, and spirit, when he is controlled by appetite and passion.” *Counsels on Health*, 86

1.c. What does the Bible say about the bodies of true Christians? 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20

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## Monday

### 2 THE CHRISTIAN RACE

2.a. What practical illustration did Paul use in regard to the Christian life? 1 Corinthians 9:24, 25

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**Note:** “In the hope of impressing vividly upon the minds of the Corinthian believers the importance of firm self-control, strict temperance, and unflagging zeal in the service of Christ, Paul in his letter to them made a striking comparison between the Christian warfare and the celebrated foot races held at stated intervals near Corinth. ... Young men of rank and wealth took part in them and shrank from no effort or discipline necessary to obtain the prize.” *The Acts of the Apostles*, 309

2.b. What testimony did the apostle Paul give about his own struggle? 1 Corinthians 9:26, 27

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**Note:** “In referring to these races as a figure of the Christian warfare, Paul emphasized the preparation necessary to the success of the contestants in the race—the preliminary discipline, the abstemious diet, the necessity for temperance. ... How much more important that the Christian, whose eternal

interests are at stake, bring appetite and passion under subjection to reason and the will of God! Never must he allow his attention to be diverted by amusements, luxuries, or ease. All his habits and passions must be brought under the strictest discipline. Reason, enlightened by the teachings of God's word and guided by His Spirit, must hold the reins of control.

"And after this has been done, the Christian must put forth the utmost exertion in order to gain the victory. In the Corinthian games, the last few strides of the contestants in the race were made with agonizing effort to keep up undiminished speed. So the Christian, as he nears the goal, will press onward with even more zeal and determination than at the first of his course. ...

"To win a perishable prize, the Grecian runners spared themselves no toil or discipline. We are striving for a prize infinitely more valuable, even the crown of everlasting life. How much more careful should be our striving, how much more willing our sacrifice and self-denial!" *The Acts of the Apostles*, 311, 312

"That he might not run uncertainly or at random in the Christian race, Paul subjected himself to severe training. The words, 'I keep under my body,' literally mean to beat back by severe discipline the desires, impulses, and passions." *Ibid.*, 314

## Tuesday

### 3 DANIEL AND HIS COMPANIONS

3.a. From what history had Daniel and his fellow captives been warned early in youth? *Leviticus 10:1, 2*

**Note:** "From the fate of the sons of Aaron, they [the four Hebrew youth] knew that the use of wine would confuse their senses, that the indulgence of appetite would becloud their powers of discernment; and as wine had been prohibited to all who should engage in the service of God, they resolved that they would not partake of it." *The Youth's Instructor*, October 29, 1907

3.b. Besides refusing strong drink, what further stand did they maintain even under the pressure facing them in the Babylonian court? *Daniel 1:8*

**Note:** "As they [the Hebrew worthies] were brought to the test, they placed themselves fully on the side of truth and righteousness. By earnest prayer and study of the Scriptures, they were prepared to act intelligently in the matter. Flesh meat had not composed their diet in the past, and they determined

that it should not come into their diet in the future." *The Youth's Instructor*, October 29, 1907

"Daniel and his companions knew not what would be the result of their decision; they knew not but that it would cost them their lives; but they determined to keep the straight path of strict temperance even when in the courts of licentious Babylon." *Ibid.*, August 18, 1898

3.c. How did these young men distinguish themselves—both initially and then after a three-year period of training? *Daniel 1:11–15, 18–20*

**Note:** "They [the four Hebrew youth] did not feel that the blessing of the Lord was a substitute for the taxing effort required of them. They were diligent in study; for they discerned that through the grace of God their destiny depended upon their own will and action. ...

"Here are revealed the conditions of success. To make God's grace our own, we must act our part. The Lord does not propose to perform for us either the willing or the doing. His grace is given to work in us to will and to do, but never as a substitute for our effort." *The Youth's Instructor*, August 20, 1903

"Their keen apprehension, their choice and exact language, their extensive knowledge, testified to the unimpaired strength and vigor of their mental power." *My Life Today*, 147

## Wednesday

### 4 JESUS—OUR EXAMPLE

4.a. After His baptism, how did Christ prepare Himself for the imminent temptation? *Luke 4:1, 2; Matthew 4:1, 2*

**Note:** "When Jesus was led into the wilderness to be tempted, He was led by the Spirit of God. He did not invite temptation. He went to the wilderness to be alone, to contemplate His mission and work. By fasting and prayer, He was to brace Himself for the bloodstained path He must travel. But Satan knew that the Saviour had gone into the wilderness, and he thought this the best time to approach Him." *The Desire of Ages*, 114



4.b. What was Christ's first temptation, and how did He face it? Matthew 4:3, 4

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**Note:** "From the time of Adam to that of Christ, self-indulgence had increased the power of the appetites and passions, until they had almost unlimited control. Thus men had become debased and diseased, and of themselves it was impossible for them to overcome. In man's behalf, Christ conquered by enduring the severest test. For our sake He exercised a self-control stronger than hunger or death. And in this first victory were involved other issues that enter into all our conflicts with the powers of darkness." *The Desire of Ages*, 117

4.c. What should we learn from the second temptation? Matthew 4:5-7

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**Note:** "The wily foe himself presents words that proceeded from the mouth of God. He still appears as an angel of light, and he makes it evident that he is acquainted with the Scriptures, and understands the import of what is written. As Jesus before used the word of God to sustain His faith, the tempter now uses it to countenance his deception." *The Desire of Ages*, 124

4.d. What strategy did Satan use in the third temptation, and how did Jesus answer? Matthew 4:8-10

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## Thursday

### 5 POWER TO OVERCOME

5.a. How did Christ overcome? Hebrews 5:7-9

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**Note:** "The Captain of our salvation was perfected through suffering. His soul was made an offering for sin. It was necessary for the awful darkness to gather about His soul because of the withdrawal of the Father's love and favor; for He was standing in the sinner's place, and this darkness every sinner must experience. The righteous One must suffer the condemnation and wrath of God, not in vindictiveness; for the heart of God yearned with greatest sorrow when His Son, the guiltless, was suffering the penalty of sin. This sundering of the divine powers will never again occur throughout the eternal ages." *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, 924

5.b. What is expected from His followers? 1 Peter 2:21

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**Note:** "The Lord has a people on the earth, who follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. He has His thousands who have not bowed the knee to Baal. Such will stand with Him on Mount Zion. But they must stand on this earth, girded with the whole armor, ready to engage in the work of saving those who are ready to perish. Heavenly angels conduct this search, and spiritual activity is demanded of all who believe present truth, that they may join the angels in their work.

"We need not wait till we are translated to follow Christ. God's people may do this here below. We shall follow the Lamb of God in the courts above only if we follow Him here. Following Him in heaven depends on our keeping His commandments now. We are not to follow Christ fitfully or capriciously, only when it is for our advantage. We must choose to follow Him. In daily life, we must follow His example, as a flock trustfully follows its shepherd. We are to follow Him by suffering for His sake, saying, at every step, 'Though he slays me, yet will I trust in him.' His life practice must be our life practice." *The Review and Herald*, April 12, 1898

## Friday

### PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1 What is temperance?
  - 2 How is our experience reflecting that of Daniel in the courts of Babylon?
  - 3 How are we strengthened to overcome sin, even as Christ overcame?
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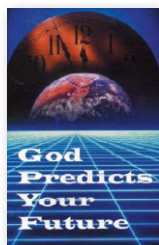
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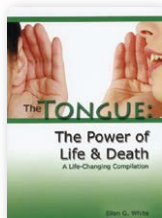
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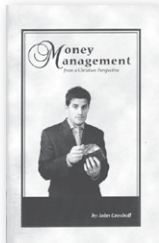
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# Edible Flowers

It is generally believed that nourishing foods consist of fruits, vegetables, nuts, greens, and proteins. But have you ever considered flowers? They are exquisite extensions of plants, fortifying the pollinating community of birds, bees, and other wildlife. We tend to forget that some flowers are edible, full of vitamins and minerals, antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties, and are a beautiful way to elevate any dish. There are up to a hundred varieties to grace your plate. It is essential though to correctly identify a flower to deem it safe before ingesting. Source: [forsythfamilymagazine.com/eat-the-flower-its-good-for-you](http://forsythfamilymagazine.com/eat-the-flower-its-good-for-you); [alayanaturals.com/blogs/news/a-guide-to-edible-flowers](http://alayanaturals.com/blogs/news/a-guide-to-edible-flowers) 

NAME	DESCRIPTION
Nasturtium	These showy flowers have a sweet, peppery tang. The leaves are also edible, delicious in salads while providing a high concentration of vitamin C.
Violet	Sweet and aromatic, the blue, purple, white, and yellow flowers—high in vitamins A and C—help alleviate pain, reduce headaches, and soothe coughs due to their mucilage content.
Tulip	Rather than eating a stuffed pepper, try a stuffed tulip! The flavor depends upon the color. Red petals are sweet, while white have a slight pepper aftertaste.
Hibiscus	The large colorful blossom has properties to boost the immune system, treat inflammation, and prevent cell damage. Often used as an ingredient in teas, it is similar in taste to the pomegranate.
Rose	Rose petals have a refreshingly sweet, smooth texture, rich in vitamins and antioxidants. Consider sprinkling the petals on a salad, or use to improve the flavor of water.
Squash blossom	These bright yellow and orange flowers are high in vitamins C and A, calcium and iron. Delightful stuffed, baked, or added to soups and salads.

Fruit

Vegetables

Legumes

Nuts/Seeds

Grains



## EDIBLE FLOWER SALAD

### Ingredients

- 5 cups mixed greens
- ½ sweet onion or 2 small shallots, thinly sliced
- 4 radishes, sliced
- 2 Tbs. pine nuts, pistachios, or sunflower seeds
- Edible flowers

### Lemon Basil Vinaigrette

- ⅓ cup olive oil
- 2-3 Tbs. fresh lemon juice
- 1 Tbs. lemon zest, or to taste
- ⅛ tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. garlic powder or small garlic clove
- ⅓ cup packed fresh basil

### Process

Blend all dressing ingredients until smooth. Arrange salad in a bowl and, just before serving, drizzle with desired amount of dressing and toss. Sprinkle nuts or seeds and flowers over salad. Beautiful and delicious.





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## Edible Flowers

*A 2020 study shows that some flowers' nutritional profiles meet several dietary requirements for fibre and protein. Research also shows that some flowers have anti-inflammatory, gastroprotective, anti-diabetic and antimicrobial properties.*

