



The Reformation
Messenger 
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“Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.” Psalm 51:7
“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.” Isaiah 1:18

WE BELIEVE: The all-wise loving God created all things in the universe by His Son, Jesus Christ. He is the Owner and Sustainer. He met the challenge to His loving leadership and authority by reconciling the world to Himself through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, the Word made flesh. The Holy Spirit, Jesus' representative on earth convicts of sin, guides into truth, and gives strength to overcome all unrighteousness. The Bible is the record of God's dealings with mankind and the standard of all doctrine, the Ten Commandments are the transcript of His character and the foundation of all enduring reform. His people, in harmony with God's word and under the direction of the Holy Spirit call all men everywhere to be reconciled to God through faith in Jesus. Bible prophecy reveals that earth's history will soon close with the visible return of Jesus Christ as King to claim all who have accepted Him as the world's only Redeemer and their Lord.

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“Remember

Lot's

Wife”

As we read the context, it is very obvious that the words were being applied to those living on this planet right now. “In that day” refers to the “day when the Son of man is revealed.” Here is what Jesus actually said:

“Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. Remember Lot's wife.” Luke 17:28–32

What did Jesus mean by that cryptic expression, “remember Lot's wife”? What does that woman of long ago have to do with people who are watching the closeout of history? Why did the Master relate Lot's wife to our day? Jesus used her as a fearful warning. That woman became cold, careless, and disobedient. Finally the judgments of God fell upon her, and she became a pillar of salt on the plains of Sodom. I gather that one of the most deadly perils for God's people in the last days will be to slowly slip away from the truth as Lot's wife did. Jesus warned that the loss of spiritual power takes place almost imperceptibly: “And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.” Matthew 24:12

As pressures of conformity and compromise crowd in, faith gradually erodes and disappears. I confess to you that this is the most perplexing problem we have today. Perhaps a newly baptized family in the church is bubbling with that wonderful first-love experience. They are willing to go anywhere and do anything for the Lord. Their contagious enthusiasm is a joy to behold. But soon the pastor notices that the ardour is beginning to wane a little bit, and the family is no longer excited about their faith. They slowly begin to withdraw from participation and even attendance at church. The pastor visits the family and tries to uncover the problem. To his surprise, he discovers that they still believe as much as ever, but they have lost their love for the truth. How can we explain this slacking of spiritual power? How does the devil steal the very heart out of the Christian experience? One thing is certain: it does not happen suddenly or overnight. People lose their love for the truth by degrees. Little by little they lower the standards and compromise the faith, until nothing remains except a dead, empty formalism.

After reading all that Jesus said about those who are saved, we see one grand absolute truth standing out clearly. *There will be no divided heart in heaven. There will be no half surrender on the part of the redeemed.* Those who enter God's kingdom will be there because they loved God more than anything else in the whole world. The Lord Jesus used Lot's wife as an example of those in the last days who will not be single-minded

for the truth; who will love material things more than the things of God. Christ said, "So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be My disciple." Luke 14:33

Do you remember the story in the Bible about the businessman who went searching for the most priceless gem in the world? At last he located it and learned that it was for sale. But the price was outrageous! In order to buy that pearl he would have to sell his home, his business, and use every penny of his lifelong savings. But mark this: the man's desire for that pearl was so deep and compelling that he did not argue about the cost. He did not consider waiting until he could better afford the purchase. Nor did he attempt to bargain for a lower price. Immediately and eagerly he hurried away, sold everything he had, and brought the money back to buy the gem from the owners. The pearl, of course, represents Christ's righteousness, and those who desire it must be prepared to invest everything they have in order to obtain it.



LOT'S GOOD INTENTIONS

But let us come back to the story of Lot's wife and try to understand what Jesus wants us to learn from her example. According to the Bible record, she belonged to one of the finest families in the East. As the nephew of Abraham, Lot shared the tremendous faith of his uncle and prayed at Abraham's altar. When God's call came to get out of Mesopotamia, Lot went right along with Abraham, not knowing where the call might lead. Together they brought their families to the entering place of the Promised Land and offered their sacrifices of thanksgiving.

Then dissension erupted between the herdsmen of the two wealthy kinsmen. Their vast combined flocks and herds didn't have enough room to graze in such a restricted area, and they had to separate. Lot was given the choice of direction as the whole land stretched out before him. On one side lay the verdant hills with their lofty trees; the other led down into the crowded centers of commerce and trade. The materialistic appeal of the prosperous cities had an immediate impact on Lot,

and the Bible records very simply that he "pitched his tent toward Sodom." Genesis 13:12. The predictable pattern of future tragedy was settled by that early decision to move near those wicked cities.

Lot stands forth as a man of good intentions. Quite obviously he did not actually plan to take his family into the urban environment of sinful Sodom. He would only live in the vicinity, where he could take advantage of the economic opportunities of such a bustling trade capital. Very likely he made special mental reservations about letting his family mingle with the degraded inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah. In fact, he had no idea at all of giving up his religion. His move was prompted by selfish concern over temporal advantages, and he had no intention of losing anything.

But what happened in spite of all the wonderful intentions? Poor Lot lost his wife, his possessions, and almost his own life. Good intentions were not good enough. He moved closer and closer to the cities until finally he actually moved in to dwell with the Sodomites. His plans to guard the spiritual interests of his children failed to materialize. All his rationalization about counteracting the wickedness with stricter prayer schedules and family-altar religion just didn't seem to work out as planned. He gradually compromised with the environment and watched his children slowly assimilate the ways of their heathen neighbours.

I'm sure Lot did not feel at ease when he first settled among the evil citizens of that abominable place. Every day he heard news of the mushrooming crime rate. He must have been repulsed and even horrified by the vile jokes and obscene language. Then he had to watch with alarm the growing fascination of his family for the perverted lifestyle of their friends and associates.

Finally, his daughters fell in love with worldly men and married them. Outside of the home, united with the enemies of God, they lost all faith in the ancestral religion of their childhood and youth. They began to look upon Lot as narrow and bigoted and soon expressed their extreme loathing of his half-hearted appeals to establish true worship in their homes.

Nevertheless, we still tend to sympathize with Lot in his frustrated attempts to hold the reins on his unregenerate wife and children. He had much against him, but most of it had been created by his own weakness and indecision. One compromise led to another, until finally

he must have become totally demoralized over the rebellion of his worldly family.

LOT'S WIFE'S RESPONSE TO SODOM

Still, it was an act of flagrant presumption when Lot actually settled within the city. The society there was shameless, degenerate, and entirely sex-perverted. Lot's wife not only moved into Sodom, but Sodom moved into her. She was the type who loved fine things, and the mad whirl of social activities fascinated her from the beginning. She was soon caught up in the excitement of party rounds of pleasure, and the evidence seems to indicate that she eventually shared much of the materialistic mind-set of the Sodomites.

Can we analyze the cause of such a shocking turnabout? How could it happen to the wife of Abraham's relative? Was it, perhaps, because no one was praying for her in that provocative situation? No, indeed. Abraham was presenting his prayers and sacrifices night and morning for his nephew's family. Was it because no warnings were given concerning the spiritual dangers? We cannot believe that those angel messengers left them without full information concerning the snares of Sodom. Then what brought terrible soul-ruin to this woman? Was it because she disbelieved the call of God to get out? No. She did not mock the message as did her married daughters and their husbands. She believed the warning and actually started on her way to safety.

But mark this—there was no eagerness in her heart and no enthusiasm for the program. She was so reluctant to leave the fine appointments of her affluent Sodom home that she lingered. Her heart and life had been so bound to material things that she could hardly pull away from the accumulated treasures of those finely furnished rooms. With death at her heels, she lingered. With life and security awaiting her on the mountaintop, she lingered. What was wrong with the woman? She loved the world more than she loved God. She still believed the truth; she knew what she ought to do; she wanted to be saved—yet she lingered.

We still find many people exactly like Lot's wife. They also believe the truth, know what they ought to do, and want to be saved. They linger, too, just as she did. Like Lot's wife, many of them wait until the pull of the world overpowers the will to act, and they are not able to let go of "things." Why will people linger over the call of God? Have you ever done it? Millions have lingered un-

til the best years of their life are gone. They linger until their children grow up and are lost in the world. They linger until the world holds them with bands of steel and the voice of God dimly fades away.

But at last Lot began to move. The record describes how angels had to take hold of their hands to hurry them out of the doomed city. The angels cried, "**Escape for thy life; look not behind thee.**" Genesis 19:17. But Lot's wife did not reach the safety of the mountains. Why? The Bible tells us that she "looked back," and immediately she was turned into a pillar of salt. Why did God deal with her so severely? Was it not the smallest offense of all just to move the head slightly? The Word of God has a name for that type of action: *sin*. She disobeyed the commandment of the Lord, and her judgment underlines the urgency of obedience. God means what He says. There is no excuse for sin, and God cannot overlook it.

IS THERE A LITTLE SIN?

Nowhere in the Bible does God give the slightest tolerance for men to modify His revealed will. God says what He means to say, and He accepts nothing less than full compliance with His commandments. Some dramatic experiences are recorded in the Scriptures



which emphasize this urgent truth. Two sons of the high priest offered strange fire before the Lord, and they died on the spot. God had required that they use only the sacred fire in the

sanctuary during their priestly ministry. To them it seemed unreasonable that one fire could not burn sacrifices as well as another fire. Using such human judgment, Nadab and Abihu disobeyed the direct command of the Lord and died. They did not understand the seriousness of violating the sanctity of that which God had set apart for a holy use.

Similar arguments are used today in connection with things which have been sanctified by God. Often it is asked, "What is the difference between worshiping on the Sabbath and worshiping on Sunday? One day is just as good as the other." The tremendous difference is

that God made one day holy and wrote an unchangeable law about it on tablets of stone. The day is different because it has God's special blessing upon it. Woe to the man who touches with common hands those holy institutions of God! Nadab and Abihu were not guilty of any rebellious defiance of their faith in other areas of their religious office. They never considered refusing to carry out the proper type of offering in the manner prescribed by the Levitical statutes. The small matter of the fire was the only command which struck them as frivolous and arbitrary. In that area alone, they felt justified in making a tiny change that would more easily and smoothly fit into their idea of functional worship. They reasoned that such a minor deviation in the interests of such a sanctified program could not bring any serious consequences. God would certainly not count it a sin to improve on a program to worship Him. What an irony that much disobedience of God's law takes place in the name of religion! Christ acknowledged that men would be worshiping Him while they substituted the "commandments of men" for His requirements. He rejected such worship as vain and empty. In the Sermon on the Mount, He described a large class who would seek entrance into the kingdom because they had prophesied, cast out demons, and done many wonderful works "in thy name." Yet Jesus will say to them, "I never knew you: depart from me." Matthew 7:23

How can people become so blind and deceived that they feel securely saved while willfully breaking God's commandments? In their vain worship, they bowed regularly in prayer, sang songs of praise, and probably never missed a church service. They professed great love for God and gave moving testimonies of the same.



Is the same problem with us today? Do religious people still disobey God's law while professing to love Him?

TO OBEY IS BETTER

Why do people feel secure in breaking one of the Ten Commandments? For the same reason Saul felt secure in bringing back the forbidden sheep and oxen. God had told him not to bring back a thing after he defeated

the Amalekites. But Saul was going to use those animals to sacrifice in his worship of God. Notice the incredible illogic of his actions. He disobeyed in taking the animals and then tried to justify the disobedience by using the stolen animals in worshiping God.

In the same way, modern church members disobey God by taking the Sabbath for their own use. Then they do like Saul and try to justify their disobedience by worshiping God in the name of what they have stolen. God declared through the prophet Samuel, "To obey is better than sacrifice." Some people are horrified to read about the judgments which fell upon Uzzah when he touched the ark of God and upon Lot's wife when she simply turned her head. Are tiny infractions so serious that sudden death can ensue? Does this indicate that the quantity of sin is not as significant as the quality of it? If Eve's simple act of biting the fruit could precipitate six millennia of planetary suffering and death, surely we dare not measure disobedience in terms of size or appearance. No wonder, then, that Lot's wife suffered the same terrible consequences as all others who trifled with the word of a holy God. The offense of looking back indicated a divided will. It also revealed the fact that her heart was still bound up with the affairs of a corrupt, condemned social order. Two voices were competing for her allegiance: one, the voice of the highlands—the voice of God calling her to liberty, purity, and salvation; the other, the voice of the lowlands—the voice of popularity and pleasure, the voice of Sodom. Slowly the voice from beneath gained the mastery of a badly bent conscience, and Lot's wife stands before us as a tragic example of a divided heart.

Jesus said, "Remember Lot's wife," and He said it to those who would live through the final traumatic moments of earth's history. He is saying it to us right now—"Remember Lot's wife." We need that message. Millions are just as double-minded as Lot's wife. They find no time to pray with their family. Many read magazines more than the Bible, and thus they have only a superficial form of religion. Like Lot, they linger around the edges of sin and make no strong decision to go all the way in obedience to God.

GOD'S ULTIMATUM TO LOT

As the True Witness of the Laodicean church, He calls upon this last-day religious remnant to repent. Just as those heavenly messengers laid down the ultimatum so long ago, we are also being called to leave it all or perish. There is no more time to be divided. Get off the

fence, God says, and be either hot or cold. Come all the way out and live, or stay lukewarm and perish.

The story of Lot and his family proves that God will not long tolerate a double lifestyle on the part of His professed people. Those who are trying to live in two worlds must make a decision. God's Word declares that the friendship of the world is enmity with God. "Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." James 4:4. Another Bible writer, who was the closest of Christ's disciples, declared, "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." 1 John 2:15

WHAT ONE SIN CAN DO

Why did Jesus say, "Remember Lot's wife"? Because He knew that many others would be just as attached to "things" as she was. What do modern church members know about the principle of self-denial and forsaking all? The book of Revelation foresaw the unholy mixture of Laodicean Christianity of which He said, "I will spue [vomit] thee out of My mouth." Revelation 3:16. In the Old Testament, God used equivalent rhetoric in calling for His vacillating people to get off the fence. "If the Lord be God, follow Him: but if Baal, then follow him." 1 Kings 18:21

Just as the angels pleaded with Lot and his family to make a total surrender, the Holy Spirit urges upon us the same kind of commitment today. The call is for separation and urgent action. Multitudes linger in the twilight zone of indecision while the fires of destruction are poised for the annihilation of this world. Worldlings and professed Christians alike are hearing the plea of God to turn loose. The door of probation is open for just a few moments more. To every soul there comes a golden last moment of decision before the door shuts. Will all be able to recognize that moment? We can truthfully assure every sinner right now that his sentence of death has already been legally satisfied and executed upon his substitute, Jesus. What a fantastic truth!

But the most glorious consequence of the atonement is seen in the experience of the ones who claim personal justification through faith in His blood. Paul described it thus: "Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I

say, at this time His righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." Romans 3:24-26. Here is clearly revealed a picture of individual acceptance of all those who claim Jesus as forgiver and justifier. What is accomplished for the ones who enter this intimate relationship of justification by faith? Are they merely delivered from the guilt of sin, or do they also receive deliverance from the sin itself? Paul answered that question. "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by Whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." Galatians 6:14. In this verse we find that victory over the world system of evil is definitely tied to the atonement of the cross. No one has been delivered from sins of the flesh without receiving that deliverance as a gift through the merits of Christ's suffering and death. We are made dead to the world's appeal by looking into the face of our Substitute and Saviour. His agape love, revealed at the cross, melts the stubborn will and weans the heart away from every attraction the world can devise. That is how Jesus is "made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption." 1 Corinthians 1:30. It is all in the cross. Look at it daily and remember Lot's wife, that you may be saved from her terrible fate. This is my wish and prayer AMEN!

Nicholas Anca

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Satan Is NOT Imaginary!

“Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary, the devil, like a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” 1 Peter 5:8

PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 1

Satan, the devil is real! He does not exist only in fantasy! We must not act as though there were no tempting devil. He is an enemy of mankind, bitterest enemy of Christ, more cruel, and restless than even the worst, meanest, wicked of men! He is an adversary (opponent in a law suit); not just a common adversary, but a powerful enemy that provokes you, and litigates or disputes against you in your grand journey and aims at the very depths of your souls!

Moreover, the devil is the “grand accuser of all the brethren.” This title is derived from a word in the Greek which signifies “to strike through or to stab.” He would strike with a malignity (like cancer) into our natures and poison into our souls, a malignity to persecute and deceive—and resistant to therapy. He strives through our sufferings to draw man into ultimate apostasy and ruin (Isaiah 1:4–6).

He is a roaring lion, seeking prey, hungry, strong, and cruel, the fierce and greedy pursuer of souls! By his business “he walks about, seeking whom (someone) he may devour;” his whole design is to devour and destroy souls. Seen behind all is a personal devil. To this end he is unwearied and restless, a cunning foe that never sleeps in his malicious endeavours, for he always, night and day, goes about studying and contriving whom he may ensnare to their eternal ruin.

DARK AGES

We are living in an age when Satan works according to a definite plan. A giant intellect, a masterful mind, a serpentlike wisdom and skill; he works with intense energy and sharpness on hearts, minds, individuals,

families, churches, and even nations. He works in secrecy, crookedness, and deception, but most successfully in darkness (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 308), and most effectually in disguise (*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 79).

He is on our right hand, left hand, before us and behind us (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 709). It seems almost hopeless to escape his clutches, for he has 6000 years of experience in deceiving and tempting men. But, for 6000 years faith has builded upon Christ. For 6000 years the floods and tempests of satanic wrath have beaten upon the Rock of our salvation, but it stands unmoved (*The Desire of Ages*, p.413).

DISLOYAL PRINCE

Yet, before his rebellion he was a bright angel in glory, Lucifer, the day star, an anointed cherub, the highest of all created beings, the prince of angels, leader of the angelic choir, and bowed in adoration to Christ (Isaiah 14:12–14; Ezekiel 28:12–18). But, because of his pride and rebellion, he was expelled from heaven with one-third of heaven’s angels, cast down to earth, falling as a flash of lightning.

All of this because of his desire for supremacy in heaven—to be God Himself! Now he was prince of the world—but a disloyal prince, claiming to be Christ and the rightful owner and ruler of the world (*Medical Ministry*, p. 87; *Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 286; *The Great Controversy*, p. 663).

BAD NEWS

Satan is the hidden force behind the traumatic oppositions, riots, protests, bombings, revolts, uprisings,

plagues, disasters, and catastrophes (Revelation 7:3). He is the culprit, also, causing drug abuse, despair, abortions, suicides, and accidents. Violence, pestilences, heinous crimes, corruptions and wars are running rampant globally—**but you can resist and defeat him!**

When I hear people doubt the existence of the Devil, I tremble and shudder. He is without a doubt—real! That he is wielding unholy power and evil influence and affects all nations today, there can be no doubt.

For those of you that have the courage, turn on the radio or observe the news media, if you need more concrete evidence. Just scan your newspapers or Internet devices. Now, how else can you explain the acts of hatred and violence that are all too common? It is all senseless, mindless, insane, mindboggling!

Could hearts filled with only God's love deliver such acts of wanton destruction? Would sane, thinking men and women behave in this way if they were not in the grips of evil? We see more and more examples of the Devil's power as we move toward the ultimate battle of good and evil—between the bright beam of the Sun of Righteousness and the dark clouds of the evil one—the distinction between those who are of the world and those who are of Christ.

We are near the close of the great controversy between the Prince of light, and the prince of darkness, and soon the delusions of the enemy will try our faith, of what sort it is. Satan will work miracles in the sight of the beast, and deceive them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast (Revelation 13:14).

BARBAROUS AGE

We are living in a barbarous age when Satan is out to destroy all of mankind. And he is using all the tricks in his unlimited arsenal to meet those ends. He uses pornography, lust, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, greed, impatience, desire, hatred, jealousy, envy, pride, homosexuality, pedophilia, and on and on. Riots, uprisings, atrocities, executions, are more and more frequent; we see countless examples of people falling into the trap of instant gratification; looting, shooting, killing, raping. Satan is a warrior! Furthermore, seen even in football, or soccer matches (sports of brutality), where rioting, stampeding fans behave wildly, trampling on one another, killing, mutilating, crippling—unmercifully. Also, Satan is pleased to hear his name used in sport and

mockery (*The Great Controversy*, p.516)

It is all numbing, dreadful! We often see hundreds more killed in masses of believers trampling on one another, escaping from bombed Mosques or Shrines; a hideous example of Satan's works. The persecution of Christians, furthermore, are alarmingly increasing in places such as Egypt, Africa, etc. A grotesque scenario is unfolding. Those people whom he cannot lead into sin, he persecutes (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 295).

NO JOKE!

Satan has existed since the pristine days of Adam and Eve, and he has slaughtered, plundered, and bludgeoned his way through the centuries. Some people consider the Devil a joke, a laughable cartoon character, because in the Middle Ages the Devil was portrayed as a buffoon (clown) with pointed horns, a long evil tail, a hideous monster with cloven feet and bat's wings, a pitchfork, and painted as half animal and half-human (*The Great Controversy*, p.516). Many today still make light of his existence. They have a personal delusion that there is no Satan (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p.295).

The Devil, however, in reality bears a kingly form, is resourceful, crafty, highly intelligent, powerful spirit; and not always wears a ferocious look of a lion, but with cunning and sly eyes, noble features, a broad forehead that recedes from his eyes, full of anxiety, care, deceit, hate, malice, mischief, pride, presumption, and unhappiness (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p.287; *Early Writings*, p.152).

WHEN?

The devil is a constant force at our side, coaxing, pushing, tempting, enticing, prodding. Ah! This force is never more obvious than when we are at our weakest moments. When? Well, when we are frightened. When we are anxious about our jobs and welfare, or when unemployed, hungry, homeless, addicted; when we are faced with uncertainty in our future; when the pressures of modern life seem overwhelming. When you are faced with a personal dilemma—a death, the sickness of a loved one, an affliction, conflict, an injustice, a separation, a handicap, loneliness—it is easy to feel that God has abandoned you.

CAUTION—DEVIL AT WORK!

In your dark hours, just remember this fact: The Devil is

at work! Ah! He is trying to coax you into a decision that will ruin you for eternity. We walk a fine line between life and death! Yet, even in the worst situation, you must remember that Christ has not deserted you. God's love is here, and whatsoever stumbling block the Devil puts in your path, God can carry you across in His arms. Yet, too many people today are searching for a fast and easy way out of their dilemmas, or problems—but, they are searching in vain.

Today we have millions of people gambling on lottery tickets. But would great wealth end the problems we face? If we had no poverty, would we not still face: Depression? Anxiety? Pain? Suffering? Frustration? Certainly we would! Money is not the remedy! Moses did not institute a lottery. Raising money by lottery was condemned, yet many poor people were tempted to spend money on lotteries. The business of lottery is a fraud (*Evangelism*, p.254; *Counsels on Stewardship*, p.201, 241; *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p.318).

HOW TO DEFEAT SATAN!

1) PRAYER—The solution to all of man's needs lies in prayer! In your hour of darkness and despair, pray that the Lord will be at your side. With God, nothing is impossible (Luke 18:27). No job is too great. No problem too complex to solve. No burden so heavy His love and protection cannot provide relief. Furthermore, the only hope of our churches is to keep wide awake. Those who are well grounded in the truth of the Word, those who test everything by a "thus saith the Lord" are safe.



The Holy Spirit will guide those who prize the wisdom of God above the deceptive sophistries of satanic agencies. Let there be much praying, not in human lines but under the inspiration of love of the truth as it is in Jesus Christ. (*Ye Shall Receive Power*, p.125). In praying, pledge the blood of Jesus and Satan will flee!

2) BIBLE—When a message is presented to God's people, they should not rise up in opposition to it; they should go to the Bible—go to God. Tell Him what you want, take your Bible and search as for hidden treas-

ures. Take your Bible and present yourself before your heavenly Father, saying, "enlighten me; teach me what is truth."

Never study the Bible without praying first and by asking for the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, and it shall be given (John 1:47). Compare the message with the law and the testimony, and if it does not bear this test, it is not true (Isaiah 8:20; Revelation 12:17; 19:10).

3) LAW OF GOD—If they belittle the Law of God (Ten Commandments) (Exodus 20:1-17); if they pay no heed to His will as revealed in the testimonies of His Spirit, they are deceivers. They are controlled by impulse and impressions, which they believe to be from the Holy Spirit, and consider more reliable than the Inspired Word. But while they think that they are led by the Spirit of God, they are in reality following an imagination wrought upon by Satan (*Ye Shall Receive Power*, p.100, 119).



But, "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God that we keep His commandments, and His commandments are not grievous." 1 John 5:2, 3. "And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." 1 John 2:3, 4

The theme of Deuteronomy is: "The Law Restated." The Lord states, "Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day: and a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known." Deuteronomy 11:26–28

The promise of the Spirit's indwelling, the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, furthermore declares, "If ye love me, keep my commandments. He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me; and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him." John 14:15, 21

Jesus Christ, in His relation to the law, declared, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets; I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.” Moreover, “The Lord is well pleased for His righteousness’ sake; He will magnify the Law, and make it honorable.” Isaiah 42:21. Note: The law is truly honourable, and the things of it are great things; and, if men will not magnify it by their obedience to it, God will magnify it Himself by punishing them for their disobedience. He will magnify the Law by accomplishing what is written in it, will magnify its authority, its efficacy, its equity! He will do it at last, when all men shall be judged by the law of liberty (James 2:12). He is doing it every day! So, what is it that God is doing in the world, but magnifying the law and making it honourable?!

4) HOLY SPIRIT—All kinds of theories will be presented to divert the minds of men and women from the very truth that defines the position we can occupy with safety in this time, when Satan is working with power upon religionists, leading them to make a pretense of being righteous, but fail of placing themselves under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit will give you clear discernment, that you may see and appropriate every blessing that will act as an antidote to grief, as a branch of healing to every draught of bitterness that is placed to your lips (*Selected Messages*, Book 2, p. 272–274; *Ye Shall Receive Power*, p.125).

5) SUFFERING—is universal. Problems come and go. But suffering is a way of uncovering your true character. We are also made perfect through suffering. It is a test. Now is our time of test and trial. But, do not look for the quick fix. The easy way out may well be the work of the devil. Always look toward the long haul, the path that leads toward eternity. God will be at hand to aid and comfort you. Pray!! Keep the Lord’s faith. In that way you will be able to crushingly defeat the Devil and endure to the end!!

6) FAITH—Finally, there are thousands that are being deceived by trusting some special emotion, and discarding the Word of God. The grace of Christ will be made manifest in their daily conduct. We may safely ask those that profess to be sanctified, do the fruits of the Spirit appear in your life? The best evidence that any of us can have of our connection with the God of heaven is that we keep His commandments. But, the best proof of faith in Christ is distrust of self and de-

pendence upon God. The only proof of our abiding in Christ is to reflect His image (*Signs of the Times*, February 28, 1895).

Again, let there be much praying done, and even with fasting, that one shall not move in darkness, but move in the light as God is in the light. Many follow a wrong course of action because they do not follow Jesus fully. They follow impulse and their own imagination (*Special Testimonies Relating to Various Matters in Battle Creek*, p. 17–18). In fact, faith is the overcoming principle in the world conflict!

In these days of delusion, everyone who is established in the truth will have to contend for the faith once delivered to the saints. Every variety of error will be brought out in the mysterious working of Satan, which would, if it were possible, deceive the very elect, and turn them from the truth. Satan will work in a most subtle manner to introduce human inventions clothed with angelic garments. Cling, therefore, to the Word in fervent faith.

The gaining of eternal life will ever involve a struggle, a conflict. We are continually to be found fighting the good fight of faith. For Christ’s sake we are to endure trials as soldiers of Christ. Christianity is a battle and a march. It is not mimic battles in which we are engaged. We have to meet powerful adversaries; who will win?

7) ARMOUR—There are many who do not understand the conflict that is going on between Christ and Satan over the souls of men. They do not realize that if they would stand under the blood-stained banner of Prince Emmanuel they must be willing to be partakers of His conflicts and wage a determined war against the powers of darkness.



Victories are not gained by ceremonies or display but by simple obedience to the highest General, the Lord God of heaven. He who trusts in this Leader will never know defeat (*In Heavenly Places; Armed For The Conflict*, p. 259).

When thinking on the conflict, Paul writes to his Ephesian brethren, exhorting them to “be strong,” not feeble, not wavering, tossed to and fro like the waves of

the sea. But, in what are they to be strong? In their own might? No! "Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might."

He says, "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Ephesians 6:11–12

8) WORK—How do you stand before God today? The question is not HOW you will stand in the day of trouble, or at some future time, but how is it with your soul today? Will you go to work today? We want a personal, individual experience today. Today, we want Christ abiding with us (*The Review and Herald*, April 9, 1889). God has a special work for everyone to do, and each one of us may do well the work which God has assigned him.

The only thing we have to fear on our part is that we will not keep our eyes continually fixed upon Jesus, that we will not have an eye single to the glory of God, so that if we were called to lay down our armor and sleep in death, we might not be ready to give an account of our trust (*Ye Shall Receive Power*, p. 135).

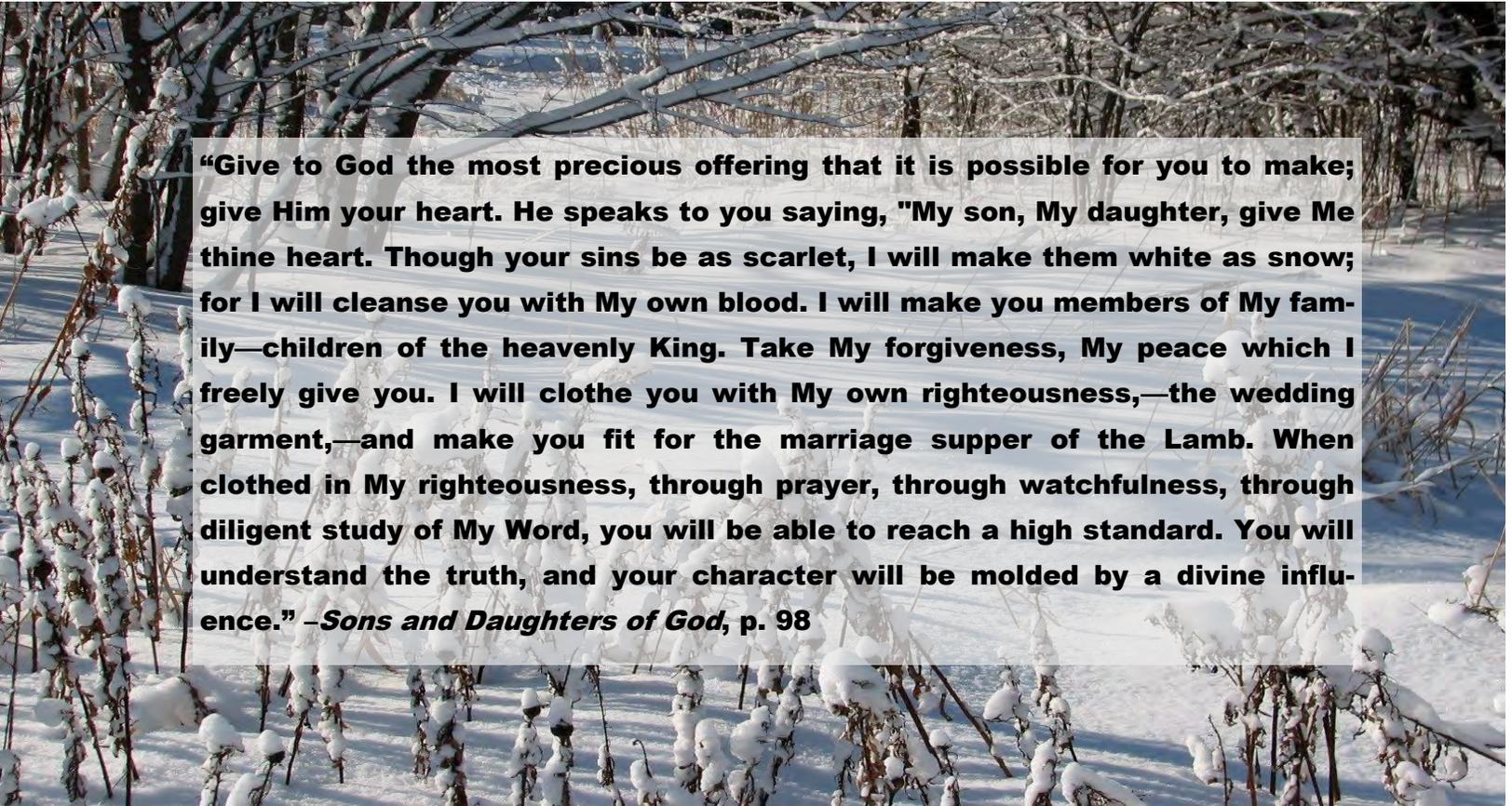
Finally, therefore, Jesus gained the victory through submission and faith in God, and through the apostle He says to us, "Submit yourselves, therefore to God." "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." We cannot save ourselves from the tempter's power; he has conquered humanity, and when we try to stand in our own strength, we shall become a prey to his devices; but "the name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe." Proverbs 18:10.

"My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not." Proverbs 1:10. We must not put ourselves on the enemy's ground. We are only here as probationers. We must not act as though there were no tempting devil. We want to know that our feet are in safe paths (*In Heavenly Places*, p. 254).

Satan trembles and flees before the weakest soul who finds refuge in that Mighty Name of Jesus. For though the case for many be sad, it is not desperate or hopeless!

But, remember, dear brethren and friends, **SATAN IS NOT IMAGINARY!** A hearty Amen!

John Theodorou, USA



"Give to God the most precious offering that it is possible for you to make; give Him your heart. He speaks to you saying, "My son, My daughter, give Me thine heart. Though your sins be as scarlet, I will make them white as snow; for I will cleanse you with My own blood. I will make you members of My family—children of the heavenly King. Take My forgiveness, My peace which I freely give you. I will clothe you with My own righteousness,—the wedding garment,—and make you fit for the marriage supper of the Lamb. When clothed in My righteousness, through prayer, through watchfulness, through diligent study of My Word, you will be able to reach a high standard. You will understand the truth, and your character will be molded by a divine influence." —Sons and Daughters of God, p. 98



An Experience

On September 19, 2011, I went with my daughter Nidia to Cookstown Outlet Mall, which is a shopping mall about 25 minutes from our home. Before we left, I said to my daughter, "I don't really feel like going out, but it is the last week that you are going to be here and I need to practice driving before you go to the missionary school in Atlanta." When we left the mall it was raining. Nidia drove home, and when we came to a red light and Nidia tried to stop, she couldn't control the car. The only thing I said to her was "What are you doing, Nidia?" She replied, "I can't control the car." It was just in seconds that I saw my daughter fighting with the car, trying to control it, and as a mother I felt powerless. I started thinking so many things but I didn't say anything, and God saw our need, our powerless human nature. I only saw that our car was going right and left and then going on to the sidewalk and heading straight for a post. The closer we were getting to the post, the more I saw us coming to a crash. Miraculously the car stopped a few steps away from the post. When I turned to look around, all the cars had stopped. Neither my daughter nor I knew what to do. I do not how these words came, but I said to her, "Do you want me to drive home?" She looked at me and she answered, "No, Mom, I can drive, but tell me what to do." I turned and I told her, "It looks like all the drivers are waiting for us; they know that we are in trouble, so I guess they are expecting us to move first." And no one moved until they saw that we started moving. Nidia drove for a while and then I told her, "I'll drive home now."

When I think about it, I realize that if the car had hit that post, it would have been a big impact. I remember that I told Nidia that it was good that I didn't scream. When I saw that big post in front of me, I felt a big relief that the post was on my side and not on my daughter's side. Since we were driving a little bit faster than the speed limit in that area, the crash probably would not have been a small collision. Therefore, I am very thankful that God sent His angels.

The next day I was lying on my bed and thinking how wonderful God is and about this great miracle. He pro-

tected us, and thanks to Him, nothing happened to me and my daughter. I remember I said to her, "God protected us from this danger." I also wrote the following:

I am a sinner and I deserve death.

Great and merciful—You are my Lord,
You deliver us from tragedy and death.

Thank you God for Your blessing and the protection of Your angels, whom You send day and night; they protect us from the dangerous labyrinth in which we live.

Thank you for the life that I enjoy and every day that I am given with my family.

On September 22, 2011 of the same week, Nidia went to say good-bye to her friends. Before she left I told her, "I wish you wouldn't go out, since on Monday we almost had an accident." Then I told her, "Just drive carefully." About two hours had passed when she came back and very calmly she told me that a car had bumped into her car. She said that it had not been her fault and that the car was okay. She drove the car home without knowing whether the car was going to work and be safe to drive afterward. I asked her, "But are you okay? Nothing is hurting? Come, let us have a prayer." But she replied, "I already prayed, Mom."

How thankful I am, dear Lord, that nothing happened to my daughter. I said God sent His angels, and I know that sometimes things, struggles, and accidents still happen; only God knows what is best for us. "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28

These days could have turned out to be very dramatic, but God in His mercy came to protect us and save us from danger.

Thanks to God that my daughter and I are still here, and I truly believe that God has a mission for me and my family.

Lucia Flores



Friends And Enemies

We all have both, friends and enemies. But sometimes we can be confused about them. Do we really know in every situation who is our friend and who is an enemy to us? Judas gave a friendly kiss to Jesus, but in reality he betrayed Jesus to His enemies. Satan, in the form of a serpent was very friendly with Eve, but in reality he was out to destroy her. This reveals that there is a danger of being confused between friends and enemies. A salesman may be very friendly when he tries to sell you something, but sometimes instead of loving you he may only love your money.

On the other hand people may reject their Best Friend. Jesus came to His own people in order to save them, but they hated Him and finally put Him to death.

When you go door-to-door canvassing with a purpose of saving people for eternal life, many rudely tell you to leave because they are not interested in your offer.

A true friend is a person who likes your company. He wants to talk to you, visit you, and always speaks well about you publicly to others. Even though he knows your faults and weaknesses, and will speak to you only privately regarding these, he is still loyal to you and defends you when false accusations are brought publicly against you.

An enemy is a person who does not enjoy your company. He is happy when something goes wrong in your life. He does not defend you when false accusations are publicly brought against you.

Satan is our main enemy. He comes to us as a friend, offering the pleasures of sin to us. In the time of Noah, the estimated 100 million people living at that time all followed Satan; the friends of God were only one family, eight people. Jesus prophesied, "But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matthew 24:37. And in Luke 18:8 He said, "When the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?" Again it will be a small company who believe in Him and are faithful to Him and love Him.

In the case of John the Baptist, although his friends claimed to love him they were not really true friends because they discouraged him while he was in prison.

When John the Baptist was in prison his disciples visited him and sympathized with him. However, they said that if Jesus would have been the true Messiah, He would not permit John to be in prison, therefore doubts came to John about Jesus.

"These questions were not without effect. Doubts which otherwise would never have arisen were suggested to John. Satan rejoiced to hear the words of these disciples, and to see how they bruised the soul of the Lord's messenger. Oh, how often those who think themselves the friends of a good man, and who are eager to show their fidelity to him, prove to be his most dangerous enemies! How often, instead of strengthening his faith, their words depress and dishearten!" —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 215. A true friend will always encourage faith in Jesus and seek to uplift the discouraged and downtrodden.

The Spirit of Prophecy goes even further in presenting the danger that we sometimes have to face. "The friendship of the ungodly is more dangerous than their enmity. It misleads, and destroys thousands who might, by proper and holy example be led to become children of God." — *The Signs of the Times*, June 2, 1881

Sister and Brother White had to suffer a lot by opposition and hostility from false brothers of the church. "About this time, my husband, as he reviewed the past, began to lose confidence in almost everyone. Many of those whom he had tried to befriend had acted the part of enemies, and some whom he had helped the most by his influence and from his scanty purse, were continually trying to injure him and cast burdens upon him. One Sabbath morning as he was going to our place of worship, such an overpowering sense of injustice came over him that he turned aside and wept aloud, while the congregation waited for him." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 247

This enmity was similar to what Jesus had to suffer. He was hated for not respecting the traditions of the Pharisees. All that was written in His word, He obeyed, but the "commandments of men" that they added He had no respect for. "Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men."

Mark 7:7–8. Therefore, Jesus continued to heal on the Sabbath and this filled His enemies with so much anger that they decided to kill Him. Satan works best by his agents who are disguised as Christians that he has brought into the church of God.

“How was it with the early church? Ananias and Sapphira joined themselves to the disciples. Simon Magus was baptized. Demas, who forsook Paul, had been counted a believer. Judas Iscariot was numbered with the apostles. . . . He has said that false brethren will be found in the church till the close of time.” —*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 73

False brethren in the church can be recognized by their manner of condemning, criticizing, and by a fault-finding spirit. They are not peacemakers, but rather troublemakers. They do not exhibit Christian courtesy.

“There are tares among the wheat. There are betrayers, accusers, traitors, in the camp. These will wound, misrepresent, and falsely accuse you. They are false brethren, meddling and indiscrete, stumbling-blocks to others. They are doing a work for Satan far more successfully than if they were not connected with the church. Some who have not spiritual discernment will fail to distinguish between the false and the true, and will highly esteem those who have no connection with God. Those who have been indifferent and neglectful, and have failed to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the truth, will be deceived. They do not comprehend the first principles of doctrine and experience, which secure to man the perfection of Christian character.” *Review & Herald*, January 8, 1884.

In the end God will separate these false members in His shaking.

“The Redeemer does not want to lose one soul; His experience with Judas is recorded to show His long patience with perverse human nature; and He bids us bear with it as He has borne. He has said that false brethren will be found in the church till the close of time.” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 72

We also have friends whom God has placed close to us. They support us, encourage us, and help us in every possible way. The woman caught in sin heard the comforting words: “Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.” John 8:11. The thief on the cross heard the words, “Today shalt thou be with Me in Paradise.” Luke 23:43. Jesus was called the friend of sinners, and this is what we need to be called. We are to leave the ninety and nine righteous ones and go after the one lost soul, and show him the greatest love and attention that we have learned from Jesus.

“A man that hath friends must show himself friendly: and

there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.” Proverbs 18:24

With one wrong word, a friendship can be broken which may have taken years to create.

The friend that sticketh closer than a brother is Jesus, and He is the best friend that you can trust; all others can disappoint you, and leave you when you need encouragement the most.

Personally I rejoice for having had the privilege to see Jesus in my dreams at night and I talked to Him, I have seen heaven—a place that is more beautiful than any place on this earth. The Lord has given several other dreams to me that have made Jesus a very close friend to me, and increased my homesickness for heaven more than ever before.

We must choose whom we love and whom we serve. Every day we must choose between being a friend or an enemy. When you decide to read the Bible, you choose Christ. When you choose to watch vain television shows, you choose Barabbas.

One hundred and twenty from two million Jews received the early rain given by the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost; how many will receive the latter rain, we do not know. Will it be more or will it be less?

Our worst enemy whom we must fear the most is ourselves. Satan cannot take our salvation away, but we can. Our own heart can deceive us. “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” Jeremiah 17:9

For this reason there is a war going on in our being.

“For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.” Romans 7:22–23

According to Scripture, it seems that almost the whole world is losing this battle.

“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world.” Revelation 12:9

Satan is out to deceive, if possible, the very elect. What he hates is unity and love in the church. Somehow he must destroy the love and harmony amongst God’s church. He wants to make the members of the church hate one another. The Pharisees thought that they did service to God by condemning Jesus and putting Him to death. The Apostle Paul thought that God was pleased with his work of persecuting Christians.

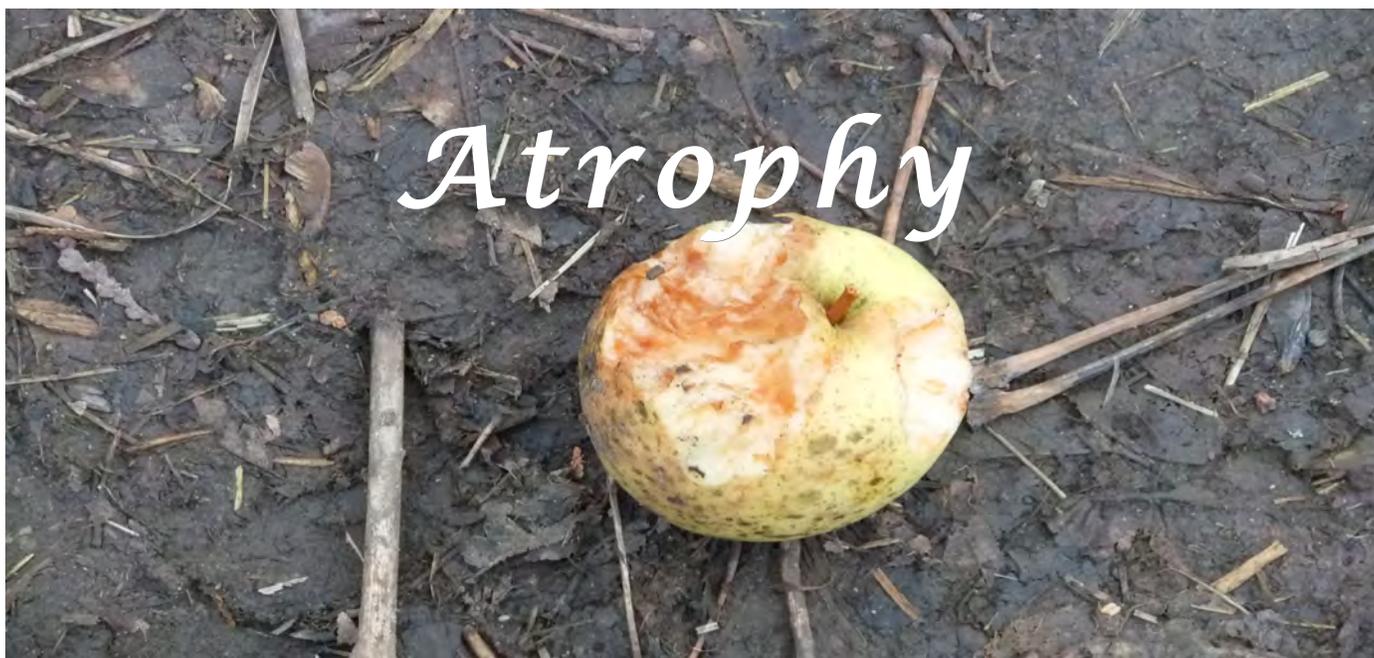
Sister White writes, “The children of God should never be rough and discourteous in their bearing toward one another. They should never blame and condemn. To those who want to give vent to a spirit of faultfinding, I would say, Go out among the rocks and stumps, and there relieve your mind of its evil thoughts; for these inanimate objects will not be harmed by your words.” – *Miscellaneous Collections, Spalding and Magan Collection*, pp. 407–408 (1985)

When you are condemning and faultfinding you have made Satan your friend. He is a terrible friend, and one day you will realize it. If you make Jesus your friend you will love even your enemies and pray for them. Then

you will be a peacemaker and you will be called a child of God.

Think in your mind, which do you prefer? To have a lot of enemies, or friends who love you and support you? In this world, we will always have enemies, but we can choose so spend time with, and surround ourselves with, those who have proven to be our true friends. True friends will continue to be your friends in heaven and throughout eternity. May the Lord help each one of us to learn of Jesus how to treat one another. AMEN

Timo Martin



“And thou hast filled me with wrinkles, which is a witness against me: and my leanness rising up in me beareth a witness to my face.” Job 16:8

“My bone cleaveth to my skin and to my flesh, and I am escaped with the skin of my teeth.” Job 19:20

Atrophy is a disease that was found in the Bible and is still referred to as such. The types of atrophy are several and they vary between internal types and external types; however, the type that will be discussed here is muscle atrophy. In a general way, atrophy is similar to leprosy because, like leprosy, it is a wasting away of muscle, nerves, etc., but that is where the similarities end. In the biblical reference to atrophy, no name is actually given, but today modern science has coined it with the term “atrophy”.

“Muscle atrophy is the wasting or loss of muscle tissue” (Ron Jonk—Muscle Atrophy). This is

one kind of atrophy, but even this kind can be divided further into two different categories. The first kind of muscle atrophy occurs because of the disuse of that particular muscle; it is most likely to occur with those who lead a sedentary lifestyle or who are bedridden. This kind, however, can be treated and fixed simply by exercising. The second kind occurs more suddenly than the first and is more severe, and is called neurogenic atrophy. This kind “occurs when there is an injury to, or disease of, a nerve that connects to the muscle.” Ron Jonk—*Muscle Atrophy*

The signs and symptoms of this disease are few as the first kind is a degenerative disease that is characterized—for lack of a better term—by a flabby appearance. As for the second kind, it comes suddenly, so there can be no signs. However, for the first kind, an individual would know that the longer they spent being sedentary or bedridden, the higher their likelihood of

developing muscle atrophy. As well, over time they would begin to notice their muscle looking “saggy” and wasted, and eventually that muscle would not work as well or as efficiently as it once did.

“Decreased blood supply and diminished nutrition occur in inactive tissues. After some months, fragmentation and disappearance of the muscle fibres occurs with some replacement by fat cells and a loose network of connective tissue. Some contracture may result” (Whole Body Atrophy— *Britannica Online Encyclopedia*). From this statement it can be gathered that although there is not a lot of obvious physical symptoms, underneath the surface there is a lot happening. Firstly, two vital needs are decreased; the blood supply and nutrition to the muscle tissue. A lack of both of those would greatly decrease the strength in the already degenerating muscle. The rest of the muscle continues to degrade, as well as the muscle fibres disappear and are replaced by fat cells; so not only is the muscle gone but it is now doubly worse. Lastly it says that “contracture may result” (Whole Body Atrophy— *Britannica Online Encyclopedia*). Contracture is another form of degradation in the muscle. The dictionary defines it as “a permanent shortening (as of muscle, tendon, or scar tissue) producing deformity or distortion” (Contracture—Definition and More, *Free Merriam-Webster Dictionary*). So, although this disease appears to be only a problem of physical appearance it goes literally much deeper than that; it weakens the entire structure of the muscle, right down to the cells.

This particular disease can be compared to a great many spiritual references. One of them could be similar to the parable found in Matthew 25:14–30; atrophy is generally caused by a disuse of the muscles and in turn they waste away. If God has given us talents to use and instead we keep them hidden, then He will take them from us and instead our talents will go to waste. Another way in which atrophy is similar to a spiritual state is when it comes to prayer and communion with God. As sinful human beings we constantly need to be taking advantage of the privilege of prayer, otherwise we will fail. As it says in *Steps to Christ*, “It is impossible for the soul to flourish while prayer is neglected.” If we fail to use this privilege, then God will not only take it away from us, but our soul will fail to “flourish,” which means that that it will spiritually wither and die. And yet another analogy can be found when we compare atrophy to the parable in John 15:1–8; here it compares humans to the branches and Jesus to the vine. In verse five it says, “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in



Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing.” When our muscles aren’t being used they waste away and become useless to us and become dead weight. So it is with the vine and the branch; if we are not connected with Jesus and if we are exercising our Christian muscles by everyday trying our best, then we will spiritually

waste away, and we will simply be dead weight on that vine and we will have to be cut off.

Many diseases are caused by our own sin, or by our neglect of our body, and atrophy is no exception. The disuse of the muscle leads to the degeneration and possible contracture of it, and to an unhealthy muscle structure. In a similar way our Christian lives can be compared to this. If we do not exercise our spiritual muscles they will waste away, and we will simply become dead weight that will have to be cut off. It is therefore best that we exercise our talents, our strengths, our minds, and our hearts for Jesus, that He may never call us unfaithful servants.

Nidia Casandra Romero

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The Mysterious Interconnection

Between Hearing and Speech

In Mark 7:32–37 we have a scenario in which a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment was brought to Jesus for healing. As Jesus so often had done before in His infinite kindness and mercy, He healed this man. However, it is interesting to note that He did not heal this man as He had healed so many before. The Bible says that He put his fingers into the man's ears, and He spit and touched His tongue. It is also interesting to note that the man had a speech impediment which infers that he was not completely dumb but rather spoke quite unclearly and people had a very hard time understanding what he was saying. In verse 35 of Mark 7, it says that once the man's tongue was loosed he spoke plainly, which is evidence that he had the ability to speak beforehand, but his speech was limited. We must also take note of the fact that this man's speech impediment was quite possibly due to his deafness.

In verse 34 it says that Jesus looked up to heaven and sighed. This is the only instance recorded in the Gospels where Jesus looked up into heaven before He healed someone. One very possible reason that Jesus did this was because He was seeking to direct the deaf man's mind towards heaven and the heavenly Father. Through this action Jesus attempted to show the man that all true healing comes from above and is a gift of God's grace (Nichol 1980). Also in verse 34 immediately before healing the man, Jesus sighed. This sigh had significance as it came from Jesus' lips as a result of Him seeing an example of human suffering right before His eyes. Also it brought to His mind that He had such a beautiful message of hope to bring to this world; however the majority of the people were turning a deaf ear and closing their heart to His message. These people had the ability to hear Him speak, but they chose not to heed His words and rather to continue living unfulfilling lives; therefore they were spiritually deaf (Nichol

1980).

Deafness is the partial or total inability to hear sound. The total inability to hear sound is not hard to pinpoint, and all individuals will notice such a drastic change in their ability to hear. However, partial hearing loss may be harder to pinpoint particularly if it is gradual. If it is gradual, then people may get used to having a diminished sense of hearing, and to them it may seem normal. Age-related hearing loss or deafness may begin to become apparent when the individual is unable to hear higher pitched sounds well or confuses words that sound similar. Signs of hearing loss in infants or young children are evident when they tend to respond slowly to noises in the environment around them or not respond at all. In addition, their speech is often quite delayed, and they may even be delayed in their levels of coordination and ability to walk (Body & Health 2011).

There are a variety of different causes for deafness, and each cause affects the physiology of the ear in a different way. For example, being exposed to very loud noises over a prolonged period of time tends to destroy the hair cells in the inner ear. On the other hand, an ear infection tends to cause temporary hearing loss due to the accumulation of fluid in the middle ear (effusion). Although in most cases the hearing loss is temporary, if the child experiences recurring ear infections, it may turn into a chronic problem. The end result of multiple ear infections could be conductive and sensorineural hearing loss (The Merck Manual 2010).

A speech impediment is a type of communication disorder that disrupts normal speech. An individual who is unable to speak at all due to their speech impediment or disorder is considered to be mute (Wikipedia 2008). There are a number of different types of speech impediments, and each one is caused by different factors. Certain speech impediments are caused by an underlying

ing disease or condition. This disease or condition will often not only impede the speech but will alter another system of the body. An example of this is dysprosody which is an extremely rare neurological speech disorder. A major sign or symptom of this disorder is as follows: when an individual who has it attempts to speak, they have an issue with controlling the pitch and timing of their words. It is predominately caused by some neurological damage that has been sustained as a result of brain trauma, severe head injury, or stroke (Speech Therapy 2010). This disorder directly affects the physiology of the brain due to the neurological damage which has been inflicted. A side effect of this neurological damage is the aforementioned inability of an individual to control their words.

The vast majority of the world in which we live is not experiencing partial hearing loss but rather complete spiritual deafness. God does all He can to impress people's hearts through the moving of His Holy Spirit and pleads with human beings to consider the sacrifice of His Son Jesus upon the cross. However, many people choose to completely ignore His calls of mercy, and His words go unheeded. These individuals are not literally deaf, and they are able to hear and comprehend many other matters; however, they choose to tune spiritual matters out. If they hear of the love of God and His desire to save them but choose not to acknowledge this fact or change their course of action in the slightest, then this is equal to spiritual deafness. However, God will hold them accountable for what they have heard. In 1 Corinthians 2:14, it talks about how the natural man cannot understand the things of God because they are spiritually discerned. Therefore, if the natural man does not hear or understand the words of God, then he certainly cannot speak on them. If he is completely spiritually deaf, then this will mean that he has the worst kind of speech impediment possible, which is being completely unable to speak or being mute.

Spiritual deafness is caused not only by not listening to God when He calls us to Himself but also by a regular indulgence in sinful habits and lusts. These sinful habits and lusts slowly eat away at our spirituality, and we go from mild hearing loss to eventual deafness. Similarly, when an individual listens to loud noises over a long period of time, they gradually go through the stages starting with mild hearing loss and ending with deafness. The loud noises are equal to the sinful habits and lusts that eat away at our spirituality and affect our ability to hear and dwell upon godly and uplifting themes. Very loud and worldly music which we hear all

around us in today's world can actually lead to both spiritual and physical deafness. Over time it will damage an individual's actual hearing as well as their ability to hear and discern spiritual matters.

When an individual experiences partial hearing loss in a spiritual sense, we can say that this person hears and accepts some of God's words. However, due to the fact that they don't hear and accept all His words and precepts, they are still unable to speak clearly about godly matters. They are not completely mute, but they are dealing with a speech impediment which limits them greatly.

Our sense of hearing is one of the five senses that God has given us, and it helps us greatly in connecting with the world around us. When a person becomes deaf for whatever reason, this can limit their ability to communicate with those around them. If their hearing loss also affects their ability to speak effectively, this may make it even more difficult for them to interact with the world around them. With Jesus Christ in our heart and lives, the most important matter becomes our ability to hear and discern spiritual matters. Therefore, even if an individual is completely deaf physically, the Lord can speak to him. If the deaf and possibly even mute individual listens, he will feel the working of the Holy Spirit in his heart and will hear the voice of Jesus calling him to the foot of the cross loud and clear.

Richard Eaton

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Peace Is Found Only In Jesus

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” John 14:27

“When we receive Christ as an abiding guest in the soul, the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, will keep our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. The Saviour’s life on earth, though lived in the midst of conflict, was a life of peace. While angry enemies were constantly pursuing Him, He said, ‘He that sent Me is with

Me: the Father hath not left Me alone; for I do always those things that please Him.’ John 8:29. No storm of human or satanic wrath could disturb the calm of that perfect communion with God. And He says to us, ‘Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you.’ ‘Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest.’ John 14:27; Matthew 11:29. Bear with Me the yoke of service for the glory of God and the uplifting of humanity, and you will find the yoke easy and the burden light.” – *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 15–16

It is well to be able, without any “ifs” or “buts,” to say about the Lord Jesus, “Thou whom my soul loveth.” Many can only say about Jesus that they *hope* they love Him; that they *trust* they love Him; but only a poor and shallow experience will be content to stay here. No one ought to give any rest to his spirit till he feels quite sure about a matter of such vital importance. We ought not to be satisfied with a superficial *hope* that Jesus loves us, and with a bare trust that we love Him. The old saints did not generally speak with “buts,” and “ifs,” and “hopes,” and “trusts,” but they spoke positively and plainly. “I know Whom I have believed,” said Paul. “I know that my Redeemer liveth,” said Job. Get positive knowledge of your love of Jesus, and do not be satisfied till you can speak of your interest in Him as a reality, which you have made sure by having received the witness of the Holy Spirit, and His seal upon your soul by faith.

True love to Christ is in every case the Holy Spirit’s work, and must be wrought in the heart by Him. He is the *efficient cause* of it; but the logical reason why we love Jesus lies in *Himself*. Why do we love Jesus? *Because He first loved us.* Why do we love Jesus? *Because He “gave Himself for us.”* We have life through His death; we have peace through His blood. Though He

was rich, yet *for our sakes* He became poor. Why do we love Jesus? Because of the *excellency of His person*. We are filled with a sense of His beauty! An admiration of His charms! A consciousness of His infinite perfection! His greatness, goodness, and loveliness, in one resplendent ray, combine to enchant the soul till it

is so ravished that it exclaims, “Yea, He is altogether lovely.” Blessed love is this—a love which binds the heart with chains softer than silk, and yet firmer than adamant!

If God, the divine Artist, gives to the simple flowers that perish in a day their delicate and varied colors, how much greater care will He have for those who are created in His own image?

The Lord would have all His sons and daughters happy, peaceful, and obedient. “These things have I spoken unto you, that My joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.” John 15:11

“Happiness that is sought from selfish motives, outside of the path of duty, is ill-balanced, fitful, and transitory; it passes away, and the soul is filled with loneliness and sorrow; but there is joy and satisfaction in the service of God; the Christian is not left to walk in uncertain paths; he is not left to vain regrets and disappointments. If we do not have the pleasures of this life we may still be joyful in looking to the life beyond.

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

plied, the blessings bestowed,—thus strengthening ourselves for all that is before us through the remainder of our pilgrimage.

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

“And by and by the gates of heaven will be thrown open to admit God’s children, and from the lips of the King of glory the benediction will fall on their ears like richest music, ‘Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world’ (Matthew 25:34).” —*Steps to Christ*, p. 124–126

Beyond measure it is desirable that we, as believers, should have the person of Jesus constantly before us, to inflame our love towards Him, and to increase our knowledge of Him. I would to God that my readers were all entered as diligent scholars in Jesus’ college, students of the “*corpus Christi*,” or the body of Christ, resolved to attain unto a good degree in the learning of the cross. But to have Jesus ever near, the heart must be full of Him, welling up with His love, even overflowing; hence the apostle prays that “Christ may *dwell in your hearts*.” See how near he would have Jesus to be! You cannot get a subject closer to you than to have it in the heart itself. “*That He may dwell*,” not that He may call upon you sometimes, as a casual visitor enters a house and tarries for a night, but that He may *dwell*; that Jesus may become the Lord and Tenant of your inmost being, never more to go out.

Observe the words—that He may *dwell in your heart*, that best room of the house of manhood; not in your thoughts alone, but in your affections; not merely in the mind’s meditations, but in the heart’s emotions. We should pant after love to Christ of a most abiding character, not a love that flames up and then dies out into the darkness of a few embers, but a constant flame, fed by sacred fuel, like the fire upon the altar which never went out. This cannot be accomplished except by faith. Faith must be strong, or love will not be fervent; the root of the flower must be healthy, or we cannot expect the bloom to be sweet. Faith is the lily’s root, and love is the lily’s bloom. Now, reader, Je-

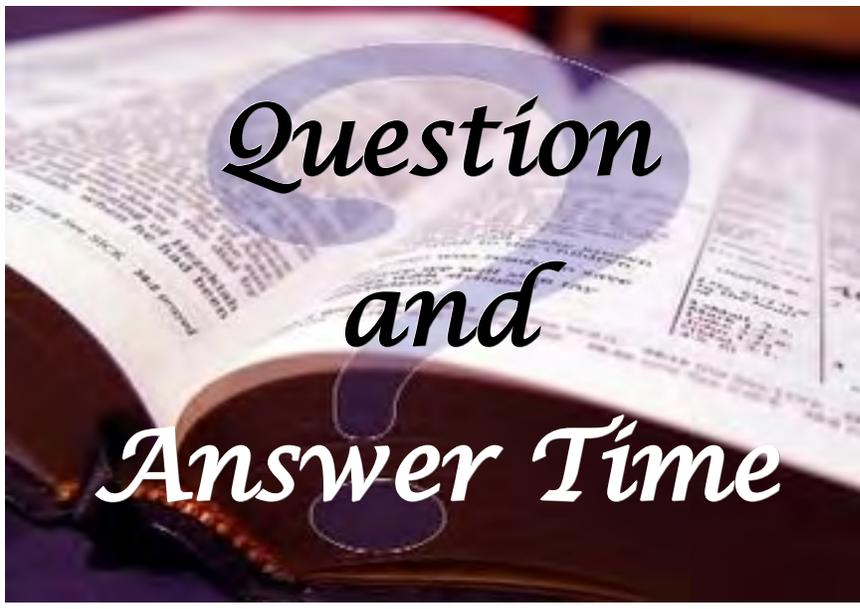
sus cannot be in your heart’s love unless you have a firm hold of Him by your heart’s faith; and, therefore, pray that you may always trust Christ in order that you may always love Him. If love be cold, be sure that faith is drooping.

“There always have been and always will be two classes on the earth to the end of time—the believers in Jesus, and those who reject Him. Sinners, however wicked, abominable, and corrupt, by faith in Him will be purified, made clean, through the doing of His word. . . . Those who reject Christ and refuse to believe the truth will be filled with bitterness against those who accept Jesus as a personal Saviour. But those who receive Christ are melted and subdued by the manifestation of His love and His humiliation, suffering, and death in their behalf. . . .

“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. It could endure amid the hunting of spies and the fiercest opposition of His enemies. . . . Christ did not for an instant seek to purchase peace by a betrayal of sacred trusts. Peace could not be made by a compromise of principles. . . . It is a grave mistake on the part of those who are children of God to seek to bridge the gulf that separates the children of light from the children of darkness by yielding principle, by compromising the truth. It would be surrendering the peace of Christ in order to make peace or fraternize with the world. The sacrifice is too costly to be made by the children of God to make peace with the world by giving up the principles of truth. . . . Then let the followers of Christ settle it in their minds that they will never compromise truth, never yield one iota of principle for the favor of the world. Let them hold to the peace of Christ.” —*My Life Today*, p. 77

“Christ is ‘the Prince of Peace’ (Isaiah 9:6), and it is His mission to restore to earth and heaven the peace that sin has broken. ‘Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.’ Romans 5:1. Whoever consents to renounce sin and open his heart to the love of Christ, becomes a partaker of this heavenly peace.” —*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 27. AMEN!

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Question and answer (Q&A) time can be taken as a dialogue or interview. It grants us the opportunity to understand and present the present truth in a clear and distinct manner. It is also an ideal time for self-reflection. (But we will deal with the latter aspect towards the end of the arti-

cle.) Not infrequently, opportunities come along our way in the form of questions during which the Lord allows us to give answers that will enlighten souls who live in darkness or are uncertain on certain spiritual and doctrinal points. The truth of the present time must be given in the most impressive manner. But to do this, it is worth to quickly point out that it is essential to be equipped first with a number of essential tools if any successes are to be gained during such time.

ESSENTIALS:

The Holy word of God tells us that when “the Comforter [is come], which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance,” “Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth. . . and He will shew you things to come.” John 14:26; 16:13. This is the heart of the matter. The Spirit of God is the pillar to the success of Q&A time. The inquirer’s heart is prepared by the Spirit for the discernment and reception of the truth. The respondent



is reminded of the scriptures to be used in giving the answer. Philip, one of the seven deacons, full of the Spirit, “opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture [the one the eunuch was reading], and preached unto him Jesus.” Acts 8:35. More important also is the help given so that the words are spoken with power, touching and piercing the heart of the hearer.

Next, related to the above essential is: do not allow opinions to override the inspired word of God during

the grand opportunity of question and answer time granted to us. Opinions such as “in my view” or “I think,” and so forth, should be avoided. This means we always need to study His word with prayer and an earnest heart. How can we

quote when we do not know where to quote from? For the Holy Spirit “reminds,” and what will we be reminded of when there is nothing stored in our brains? This leaves us with many speculations when the direct word of God is plain on the matter. Jeremiah, writing by the Spirit, told his personal story impressively as follows: “Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart.” Jeremiah 15: 16

This verse reminds me of a story that occurred some years ago in the hills of the Rumphu district of Malawi. There in the hills lay a woman (once my primary school teacher) who endured up to thirty-nine days without any food in an attempt to imitate Christ’s fasting. Several attempts which were made to offer her food by her companion, a young man who fasted with her but was periodically eating, failed, as she insisted she wanted to reach forty days. By the time she was taken to hospital, she was quite emaciated with the result that she could live no more. How important is physical food then! Yet more important is not the “meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life.” John 6:27. The story, however, holds true even with the spiritual food Christ talked about. Many in the church of God have become spiritually “emaciated” for not eating for some time. From another inspired writer, we read:

“The Word of God is our sanctification and righteousness, because it is spiritual food. To study it is to eat the leaves of the tree of life.” –*Evangelism*, p 138

“We must eat the word of God—make it a part of ourselves.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, p. 195

When we ourselves are “emaciated,” how do we stand during Q&A time?

Let us come to another essential tool: we need to be doers of the word. Many questions are answered through actions, and it does not bring any good fruits when one teaches that which contradicts his own actions. The Bible says:

“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightaway forgetteth what manner of man he was.” James 1:22—24

HAS THERE EVER BEEN Q&A TIME IN THE BIBLE?

Yes, quite a lot, but let us look at a few examples.

Q. Ahab –“Art thou he that troubleth Israel”?

A. Elijah –“I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father’s house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord.” 1 Kings 18:17–18

Q. The wise men –“Where is He that is born king of the Jews? for we have seen His star in the east, and are come to worship Him.”

A. Herod –“Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found Him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship Him also.” But Herod wanted to destroy him. (Matthew 2:2, 8, 13)

Q’s. & A’s. The Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him [John the Baptist], “Who art thou? . . . I am not the Christ. And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. “Art thou that prophet?” And he answered, No. Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? He said, I *am* the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.” John 1: 19–23.

Q. The Rich Young Ruler –“What good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?”

A. Jesus –“Keep the commandments.” Matthew 19:16–17

Q. Phillip –“Understandest thou what thou readest?”

A. Eunuch –“How can I, except some man should guide me?” Acts 8: 30–31

Now, brothers and sisters, never underestimate the precious Q&A time. As you can see, they are sweet moments that, when used properly, may well have a profound effect on our lives. But before we completely conclude, let us look at Q&A time as an opportunity for self-reflection. For the sake of brevity here, we will just have to take an individual assignment. Before everyone takes the questions that follow, each is urged never to ignore meditation and prayer by asking questions to oneself each time during meditation. Now it is time for the assignment.

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS HONESTLY:

As I come to the end of this year 2011 and enter into another year 2012:

- (a) What is my relationship with Jesus?
- (b) Do I live to be a blessing to others?
- (c) Do I do missionary work outside of attending church services?
- (d) If my name were called today in the heavenly sanctuary, would I be found worthy?
- (e) If probation closed today, on which side would I be?

Hint: Like David, say the prayer: “Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart.” “Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts.” Psalm 26:2; 139:23



Now have a nice Q&A time. Continue to ask; God will give you answers and you will never be the same again! AMEN.

Joel Jungubawa Msiska,

Malawi



"Arthur, will you lend me your knife to sharpen my pencil?" asked Mary Green of her brother, who was sitting at the opposite side of the table.

Arthur drew the knife from his pocket, and pushed it rudely toward her, saying, at the same time, "Now don't cut your fingers off."

The knife fell to the floor and Mary had trouble finding it, but her brother made no offer of assistance. He seemed engrossed in his geography lesson. At length he closed his books, exclaiming, "Well, I'm glad that lesson is learned."

"Now will you please show me how to do this example before you begin to study again?" asked Mary. She had been puzzling over a question in subtraction.

"You are big enough to do your homework, I should think," was the answer. "Let me see. What, this simple question? You must be stupid if you cannot do that. However, I suppose I must help you. Give me the pencil."

The problem was soon explained to Mary's satisfaction. Several hints given to her with respect to those problems which followed prevented further difficulty. Arthur did not mean to be unkind to his sister; he loved to help her, though his manner seemed harsh and cross. Presently father sat down at the table where the children were studying.

"You are impolite, my son," he said.

"I cannot always think about manners," replied Arthur, rather rudely.

"Yet they are of great consequence, Arthur. A person whose intentions are really good, and who desires to be of use to his fellow beings, will hurt his chances of usefulness by unkind manners."

"If we do what is right, father, I shouldn't think it matters how we do it."

"You are mistaken, Arthur. It makes a great deal of difference. This morning I visited a poor woman in the neighbourhood. I couldn't help her much, but for the little that I gave her she appeared deeply grateful. Finding that she had formerly been employed as a laundress by a man whose office is near mine, I asked why she did not apply to him for help. The tears came into her eyes as she replied, 'Indeed, sir, I know he is very kind, and he has helped me before when things went hard; but he has such a harsh way of speaking.' A penny with kindness is worth a dollar from those who hurt our hearts."

"Now, my son, I know this man to be a man of principle, but he has acquired a harsh, repulsive manner, which hides his good qualities. When you were helping your sister this evening you were unkind." "But I did not feel unkind, father. Are not our feelings of more consequence than our manners?"

"Both are important, Arthur. It seems to me that kind feelings should produce kind manners."

Arthur thought but little more of what his father had said. He did not improve his manners, and his playfellows said of him, "Arthur Green is a goodhearted boy, but so rude and cross in his manners. One would suppose he is angry even when he is doing a favour."

Mr. Green had recently moved his family to a country home. Both Arthur and Mary liked the fresh air and the green fields. They asked their father to give them each a piece of ground for a garden and to show them how to prepare it for planting. This he agreed to do. Arthur did the most difficult work, but Mary was always ready to help. The brother and sister were fond of flowers, and looked forward to the time when they would be able to gather armfuls from their own garden. Their father gave them seeds and plants, and he helped them in the planting. Before many days little green leaves began to peep above the ground, and as the season advanced all the plants seemed to flourish.

"The seeds father gave me must have been different from those he gave you," said Arthur to his sister, as they were weeding their gardens one day.

"I suppose he thought we would not want to have the same kinds of flowers," replied Mary.

"No, of course not," agreed Arthur, "but I don't like the looks of my plants as well as I do yours. The leaves are coarser, and the buds don't look as if they would make pretty flowers."

Arthur grew more and more dissatisfied as Mary's plants were covered with beautiful blossoms, while his own had either no flowers at all or were pale and small. Having had no experience in gardening, he could not imagine the reason and complained to his father.

"I am sorry that you are not satisfied with your garden, my son," was the reply. "The seeds that I gave you were the seeds of vegetables. When I last looked at them, they seemed to be growing fine." "Vegetables, father!" exclaimed Arthur. "I wanted flowers. I didn't want to have a vegetable garden."

"I didn't suppose you would care for flowers, Arthur. Of what use are they?"

"They may not be of much use, father; but they are beautiful. We like to look at them and to have them to give to our friends. Are not things useful which give pleasure?"

"I think so my son, but you seemed to have a different opinion. In preparing your garden, I avoided giving you those plants which possess beauty, even as you avoid cultivating what is beautiful and pleasing in your manners."

Arthur was silent. He was struck with the truth of his father's words. At length he said, "Well father, I will take good care of my vegetable garden this year. Every time I visit it I'll think of what you said. When you see better words and manners in me, will you give me a garden that is beautiful as well as useful?"

"I will, son."

When another summer came, there had been a change in Arthur. The real kindness of his heart shone forth in his agreeable manners toward all around him. Flowers were blooming in his garden, and his father said, "These represent kindness and love."

MONTREAL CHURCH REDEDICATION

After being closed for more than a year following a fire in the building, the church in Montreal, Canada has been repaired and is open once more. Sister Johanna and Brother Renzo have answered the call of God, to come to this city and begin to work for the Lord.

To commemorate this opening, a small conference was held over the weekend of November 18–20, 2011. Many believers from Ontario travelled to take part in this joyous occasion. Brother Giner, from the General Conference, came to lead out in the services.

Sabbath was the highlight of the conference with special music, testimonies and a powerful service, inspired by the Holy Spirit, conducted by Brother Giner.

"For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Philippians 1:21. Many do not know how to live. They think they know better on how to live than what Christ is teaching. They think that the good life is a life of worldly pleasure and ease with no restraints on their activities, but this brings only sadness. The ways of the world produce evil and crime of every kind. People end up destroying their own lives and the lives of others. The only way to peace and happiness is found in Christ. There is a restraint on

evil. Christ will give us stability, contentment and equilibrium. That does not mean that life will always be smooth. The Apostle Paul said he knew how to live. He went on to say about his life, "I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need." Philippians 4:12. Paul went through many difficult experiences. He was stoned, shipwrecked, beaten and so on. Yet he was happy and content because he had made Jesus the centre of his life. He knew how to live. The secret of Paul's life of contentment was, "I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me." Philippians 4:13. If you decide to follow Christ, tests will come, but Jesus has promised to be with you through every difficulty.

Let us pray for the work in Montreal, for Sister Johanna and Brother Renzo, that the Lord will bless their work and that they will be of good courage. "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth labourers into His harvest." Luke 10:2

SEE PHOTOS NEXT PAGE



SISTER JOHANNA AND BROTHER RENZO

**MONTREAL CHURCH, CONFERENCE (REDEDICATION SERVICE)
NOVEMBER 18–20, 2011**

BROTHER GINER



TESTIMONIES

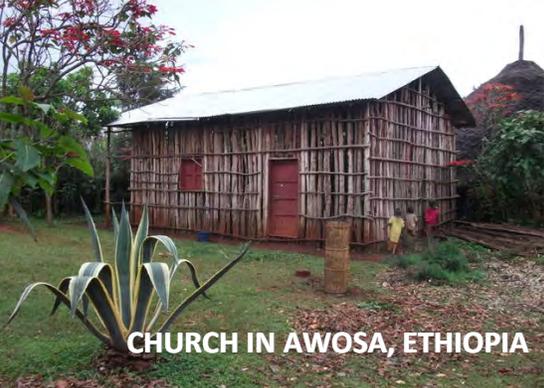


SPECIAL MUSIC





MENGUE BIBEY, CAMEROON



CHURCH IN AWOSA, ETHIOPIA



PALAWAN, PHILIPPINES

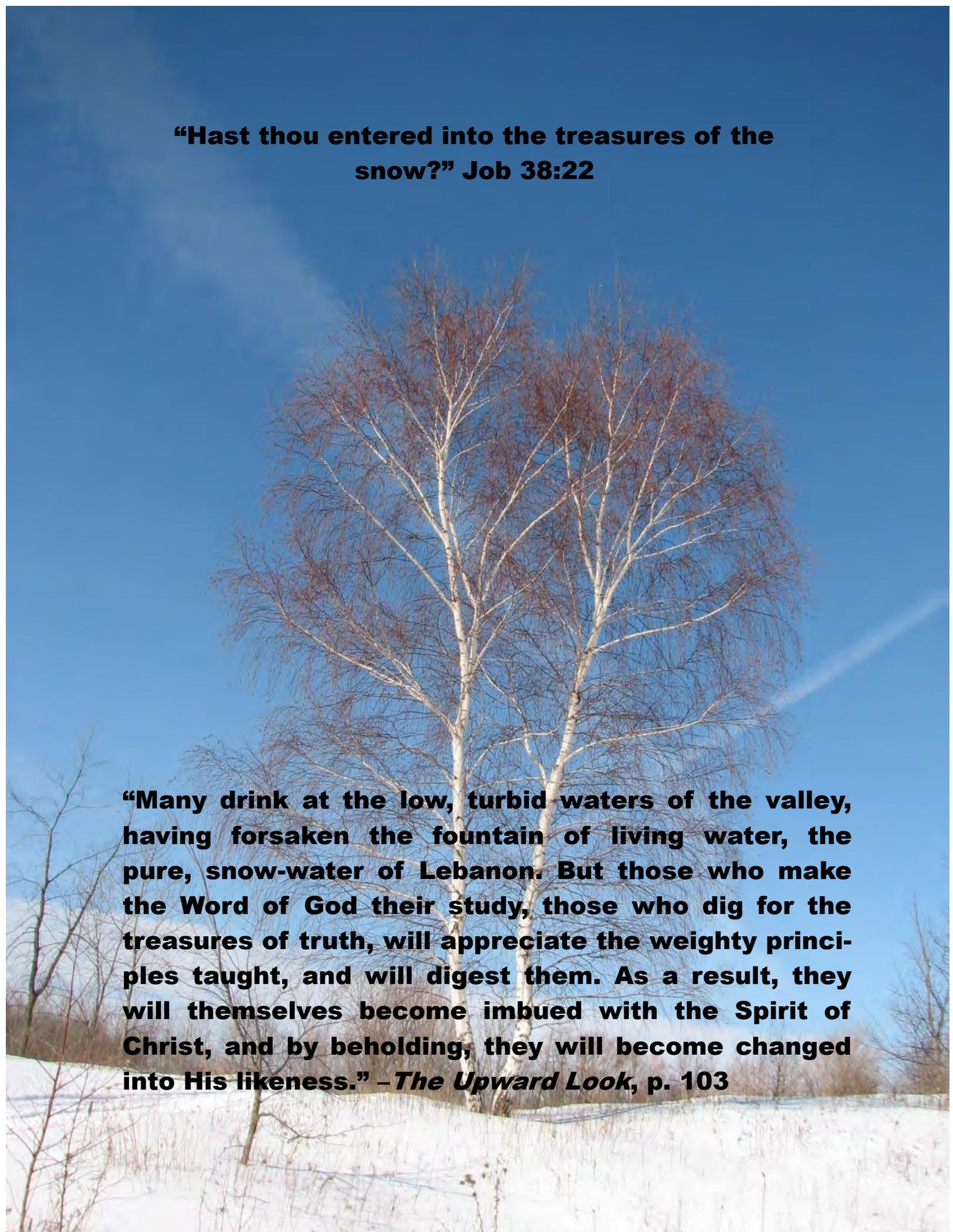


NEW INTEREST IN BURKINA FASO



LEGAZPI CITY, PHILIPPINES

“Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow?” Job 38:22



“Many drink at the low, turbid waters of the valley, having forsaken the fountain of living water, the pure, snow-water of Lebanon. But those who make the Word of God their study, those who dig for the treasures of truth, will appreciate the weighty principles taught, and will digest them. As a result, they will themselves become imbued with the Spirit of Christ, and by beholding, they will become changed into His likeness.” – *The Upward Look*, p. 103