



*The Reformation*  
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**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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# Be Not as the Butterfly



“Come out from among them and be separate, says God, and I will receive you, and ye shall be sons and daughters of the Lord Almighty. What a promise is this? It is a pledge to you that you shall become members of the royal family, heirs of the heavenly kingdom. If a person is honored by, or becomes connected with, any of the monarchs of earth, how it goes the rounds of the periodicals of the day, and excites the envy of those who do not think themselves so fortunate. But here is One who is king over all, the monarch of the universe, the originator of every good thing; and He says to us, I will make you My sons and daughters; I will unite you to Myself; you shall become members of the royal family, and children of the heavenly King.

“And then says Paul, ‘having therefore these promises dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord.’ Why should we not do this, when we have such an inducement, the privilege of becoming children of the Most High God, the privilege of calling the God of Heaven our Father? Is not that enough? And do you call this depriving you of everything that is worth having? Is this the giving up of everything that is worth possessing? Let me be united to God and His holy angels, for this is my highest ambition. You may have all the possessions of this world, but I must have Jesus; I must have a right to the immortal inheritance, the eternal substance. Let me enjoy the beauties of the kingdom of God. Let me delight in the paintings which His own fingers have colored. I may enjoy them. You may enjoy them. But we may not worship them. But through them we may be directed to Him and behold His glory who has made all these things for our enjoyment.

“Again I would say, Be of good courage. Trust in the Lord. Do not let the enemy rob you of the promises. If you have separated yourselves from the world, God has said that He will be your Father, and you shall be His sons and daughters. Is not that enough? What greater inducement could be presented before you! *Is there any great object in being a butterfly, and having no substance nor aim in life?* Oh! let me stand on the platform of eternal truth. Give me immortal worth. Let me grasp the golden chain that is let down from Heaven to earth,

and let it draw me up to God and glory. This is my ambition. This is my aim.” – *The Review and Herald*, May 31, 1870

“If others have no higher object than to dress up with bows and ribbons, and fantastic things here, if they can delight in outward display and satisfy their souls with it, let them enjoy it.” – *The Review and Herald*, May 31, 1870. “*They lead a butterfly life with no special object in view.*” – *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 394. “But let me have the inward adorning. Let me be clothed with that meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.” – *The Review and Herald*, May 31, 1870

“We are living amid the closing scenes of this world's history, *and our lives should not be as the life of a butterfly.* As servants of God, we should quit us like men, and be strong. The contrast between a vain life and a life full of holy purpose can not fail to be seen. Let us remember that our citizenship is in heaven. Here we have no continuing city, but we seek one to come. Let us heed the call, ‘Come out from among them, and be ye separate.’ Do not mingle with the world from choice; but if you have a word of warning, of invitation, of entreaty, do not fear to speak it. Lose no opportunity of witnessing for Christ. He is the source of all grace, and He will send to His people the precious golden oil, enabling them to witness boldly for Him. As we consecrate ourselves to God, the Holy Spirit will impart to us the holy oil, that our lamps may be kept bright and shining.” – *The Review and Herald*, May 16, 1899

“I recommend to you, Jesus my blessed Saviour. I adore Him. I magnify Him. Oh! that I had an immortal tongue that I could praise Him as I desire; that I could stand before the assembled universe and speak in praise of His matchless charms. And while I adore and magnify Him, I want you to magnify Him with me.” – *The Review and Herald*, May 31, 1870

(Emphasis added throughout)

**Ellen G. White**



## Restoration Of God's Image In Us

God created man in His own image; not only in outward appearance, but also in character. Man's love, goodness, purity, and holiness were all in the image of God. What God liked, man liked also. In all things they were in harmony. But then man changed. Now he is in the image of Satan. His character, his taste, his ambition, his selfishness, his pride, his hatred, and his hypocrisy, are all in the image of Satan. Man hates one another, and commits crimes, he kills, he steals, and they make each other's lives miserable.

"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves." Romans 1:21-24

Men became vain; while professing to be wise, they became fools. The image of God was changed to the image of beasts and creeping things.

How did this happen? It happened through the lust of their hearts. The body of man was made to be the temple of the Holy Spirit, but it became defiled by lust and sin, and became the dwelling place of evil, unclean spirits.

Man is so far out from the divine image that humanly his restoration is impossible. It takes the miracle-working power of God to change man back to his original image.

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despis-

ers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." 2 Timothy 3:1-5

These are professing Christians, but their characters have been corrupted. Their form of godliness will not benefit them.

All these characteristics must be overcome, or we will be lost, and never make it to heaven. Yet millions of professing Christians think that they can enjoy the world and go to heaven also.

Why does a religious person want to enjoy the world, its amusements, and partake of its spirit? Why does a professing Christian put away the Bible and turn on the television?

Why? Because his heart is in the world, he loves the entertainment of the world. He may be a member in the church, but will never reach sanctification, the character of Christ, and will not make it to heaven.

Satan has taken the image of religion to himself. He controls the fallen churches, and the churches that were never churches of God.

"And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." Revelation 18:2

People who visit these churches think that they are listening to the word of God, and do not realize that they are hearing the word of Satan. Miracles that they do are done by Satan. Instead of receiving happiness and peace, they are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.

This is a terrible spiritual deception. Instead of spiritual health, they are sick, ready to die spiritually. They may have a sickness of envy, which is a terrible condition. "A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones." Proverbs 14:30

Greed is another sickness that many are suffering from. "So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; which taketh away the life of the owners thereof." Proverbs 1:19

Professing Christians are suffering from many other spiritual diseases. It normally starts from the least sin, which is hardly noticeable, but then it grows bigger and separates them further from the image of God.

To Eve, the first sin was to *look at* with desire at the forbidden fruit. "And when the woman *saw* that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the *eyes*, and a tree to be *desired* to make one wise, she took of

the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat." Genesis 3:6. (Emphasis mine). This desire or lust grew to the point that she ate of the fruit, and tempted her husband to eat of it also. "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust [desire], and enticed. Then when lust [desire] hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." James 1:14–15

The same thing happens today, often it is not realized that looking at vanity on the television, or on the Internet, is a great sin, but by looking at sin it leads us to do sin.

What we love, that we want to see. If we love God, the Bible is very precious to us, and we read it at every opportunity. If we love the world, then the television is dear to us, and also worldly books and magazines.

How much do careless Christians miss out on, without realizing it? They lose the joy in the Lord. "These things have I spoken unto you, that My joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." John 15:11

Also they lose the peace in the Lord. "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philipians 4:7

Careless Christians lose the countless blessings that God has promised to the faithful Christians. We may know God personally, and become His friend. "He who is at peace with God and his fellow men cannot be made miserable." *—Reflecting Christ*, p. 38

"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." Matthew 5:8. If our hearts are pure, then our minds and imaginations are pure. Then only pure thoughts can enter into our minds.

Satan is tempting us to do the smallest sin, which we think is easy to overcome later. But it leads us to greater sins, which finally leads us to commit the unpardonable sin. At the same time, others are reaching a higher standard, changing the earthly to the heavenly. "As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly." 1 Corinthians 15:48–49

This earthy image must be overcome and be changed to the heavenly, to the image of God. And God will help us to make this change.

Paul, the persecutor of God's people, was changed into a great missionary in the church of God. And Jesus came personally to him, to convert him from the army of Satan to His own army. So it is also with us, God is involved in our character change, bringing it back to the original.

This was also the desire of David. He said, "As for me, I will behold Thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with Thy likeness." Psalm 17:15

If this is also our desire, how can we do it? Paul writes to us, "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." 2 Corinthians 3:18

By beholding Him constantly we change to His image.

Keep Him in our thoughts, in our conversation, in reading the Bible, and in our prayers. Then, little by little, His lovely image will be seen in us. We become more humble, more subdued, and more patient. We will be more spiritual and missionary-minded. And the end result will be a perfect restoration of God's image in us.

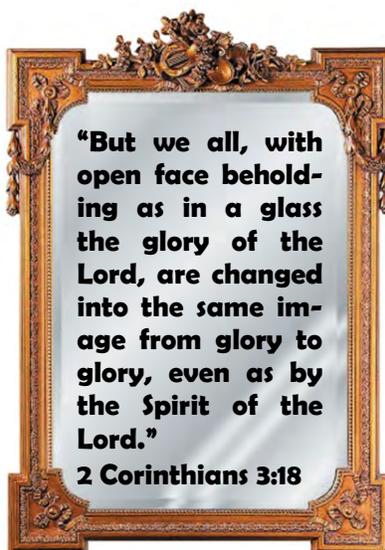
For this work of restoration God has promised us mediums, which will help us to reach our goal. Some of these mediums include the Sabbath, health reform, church meetings, Bible study, and missionary work. Salvation means to be rescued from the image of Satan and changed into the image of God. Also God has promised to give the Holy

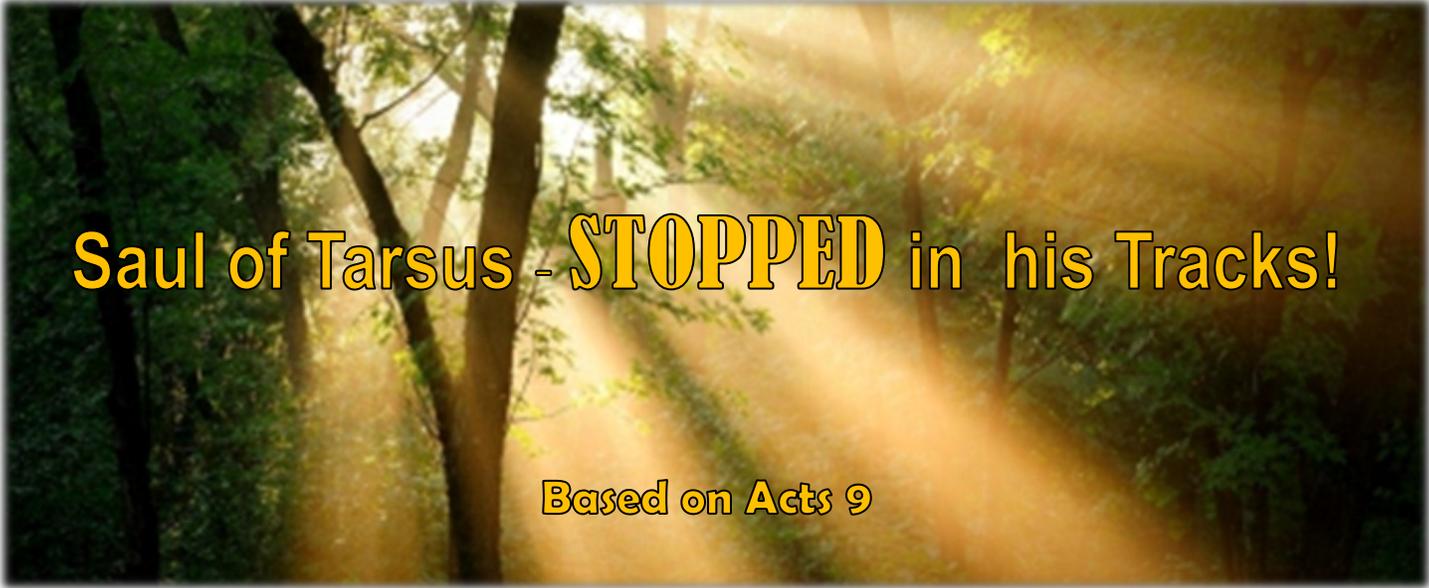
Spirit to dwell in us.

"Satan was exulting that he had succeeded in debasing the image of God in humanity. Then Jesus came to restore in man the image of his Maker. None but Christ can fashion anew the character that has been ruined by sin. He came to expel the demons that had controlled the will. He came to lift us up from the dust, to reshape the marred character after the pattern of His divine character, and to make it beautiful with His own glory." *—The Desire of Ages*, p. 37–38

If it is your desire to be perfect, and to reflect the image of God fully, then you need to change your life completely. We need to denounce the world, and its vanity, and its selfish ideas. We need to put our energy, our time, and our talents into the work of sanctification, and then one day we can sing the song of victory with the 144,000 on Mount Zion in heaven. Amen.

*Timo Martin*





# Saul of Tarsus - STOPPED in his Tracks!

## Based on Acts 9

Saul of Tarsus, the devoted, zealous Pharisee and ambitious defender of the Jewish faith, had the letters. Now he had official authority from the high priest to go ahead and hunt down this pernicious new sect, which had become pricks and thorns in the sight and minds of the leaders in Jerusalem.

Saul passionately hated these followers of an apparently risen Jesus of Nazareth, son of Joseph, a carpenter. Now at last he could, with full force, make havoc with them, to rid the land of them once and for all.

He could hardly wait to bring them bound to Jerusalem to await judgment. Soon he was ready. So were the hired horses and a company of soldiers. They mounted the horses and off they went. –

The goal was Damascus, a great city, days away. The party changed horses and slept in inns along the way.

When coming nearer to Damascus, the towers glistening in the sunlight, Saul's excitement grew with the hour. Soon he would order the soldiers to search out the synagogues and houses for the hated sect; to round them up.

Saul saw himself already triumphant in this quest, so that his chest expanded with pride and enthusiasm for an assignment well accomplished.

After the last change of horses, the company refreshed themselves, and, with new vigor, hastened along.

Saul's heart was beating faster the nearer they came to Damascus. He could barely contain himself, and filled with another surge of energy, he forced his horse to the utmost, galloping rapidly towards the city, leaving the others struggling along.

**Acts 9:3–8**

Suddenly, just as Saul saw the gates of Damascus, a light appeared in the sky, so bright that he could not see the road; the speed of the horse made him lose balance and threw him to the ground. At the same time he heard a voice: "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?"

A shudder went through his body. . . Why, what is this. . . who is speaking?

And then he said: "Who art thou, Lord?" And he heard the most shocking, all-disrupting words: "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks."

Then Saul saw before him Jesus Christ in all His glory and majesty, so beautiful, so sublime, yet full of grace and love. This view penetrated his entire being, stamped upon his heart and imprinted in his mind. It never was erased for the rest his life.

And he, trembling and astonished said, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do." Then the vision was gone.

The soldiers also fell to the ground and were afraid (Acts 22:9), but were not blinded by the light, for they did not see the glory of Christ. They then helped Saul get up,. He was, blinded and stunned, and not able to say anything.

Instead of hastening with might and excitement into the city, the whole company now walked, quite somber and unhurried through the gates.

**Finished, gone was the intended enterprise—literally stopped in the track!**

**DAYS OF SILENCE**

The soldiers searched for the street called Straight, and

took Saul to the house of Judas. There they left him, going to their appointed quarters.

Saul was crushed to the wheel. His face and whole appearance told that he had experienced something of an overwhelming and very dramatic nature.

Judas, seeing Saul's consternation, and as a polite host, led him to a quiet room to be all by himself. And this was good also. For the turmoil going on in his mind could now not bear anyone near him.

Saul, sitting there at the bedstead, utterly dazed, stupefied and motionless, lost all sense of time and surrounding; unable to grasp the enormous impact of the event that had just transpired.

Through the silent hours and days the blindness was a blessing in disguise. It gave opportunity to sort out his thoughts and circumstances.

The shock—that he, Saul, had been persecuting Jesus, the Messiah Himself—was too great to take in. It literally took his breath away, he gasped for air; it was as if he forgot to breathe! Instead of being a helper to God—he was a destroying force to His cause!

It cut right to the core of his heart that all his life and zeal were going in the wrong direction—for he, Saul of Tarsus, the most diligent, honest servant of the Hebrew faith, was fully convinced that he was doing God service by his course of action.

He had seriously waited for the Messiah, like the priests, the nation and the Sanhedrin, who valued him as a most promising member. He was jealous for God and would not tolerate a sect that claimed the Messiah had already come and went back to heaven.

Surely, all Israel would have recognized and honored Him! It was to Saul nonsense what these people were saying and doing. It was absolutely unacceptable, period! A very smart imposter had deluded this weird group and must be seriously dealt with!

But now this—that he, Saul, actually did that very thing—persecuting the One he longed to see one day!

This is horrifying, utterly inconceivable, disheartening and totally shattering!

Nothing could not be worse, more devastating and more dreadful than what he had done—but it was the

very truth!

Being blind from the brightness of Christ's glory, Saul saw it now, clear as crystal, that he had been on a downward spiral, willing to plunge into the chasm of total destruction, full speed!

But, oh, the wonderful, marvellous love and grace of God—Christ Himself would make the Stop! How can this be, that he, Saul had been spared?

This marvel astonished him beyond comprehension. It completely absorbed his mind, he could not think of anything else.

Two days went by but he did not notice.

Then the great shock that so entirely permeated his being with horror was calming down, and the extreme intensity of disrupted emotions begun to subside somewhat.



Then—a sorrow so very deep, so all consuming arose from the innermost part of his soul. Putting his hands in shame before his face like as to hide himself from his crime, he fell on his knees, while rivers of tears burst from his eyes in never-ending streams, wetting the floor as he bent forward, weeping broken-hearted.

His body shook from grief and burning woe that he, Saul of Tarsus, had hurt his Messiah—this was too much to conceive! The thought of it caused such anguish, not only to his horror stricken mind, but it was also felt up-

on his heart; a keen pain, as if it would be wrenched out of his body.

With all his soul he longed for forgiveness for his atrocities, having given consent to the death of Christ's faithful followers! The persecutor lay before his Lord and Saviour in deepest contrition, intensely pleading for pardon.

He had only one desire, to serve Christ with all his heart, mind and strength, to love, to obey Him, to be spent for Him till his last breath. This would be the only consolation for what he had done.

Then a wonderful peace rolled over him—Saul knew he was forgiven and accepted.

#### **A NEW MAN**

Then there was a knock at the door. Ananias, a certain

disciple of Damascus (Acts 9:17–19) entered, laid his hands on Saul, as Jesus directed him in a vision. And Saul could see again.

Ananias could see that Saul was not anymore the hateful tyrant of Christians. He saw before him a quiet, humble man seeking direction. Then Ananias took Saul to the water to be baptized.

There, a new life, a new spirit entered into him; the former Saul lay dead in the watery grave and a new man emerged, filled with the Holy Spirit and a love for his Saviour Jesus Christ. A love so ravishing to his soul as to never lose its force; flowing out of him to impart to others.

Saul had not eaten or drank for three days, neither did he miss it. But now, newly born by the Spirit of Christ and clear in his mind, he felt hunger.

“And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples in Damascus. And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God.” Acts 9:19–20

#### **DEVASTATING NEWS**

When the soldiers returned to Jerusalem without Saul and the bound company of the troublesome sect, and the leaders heard of his conversion, they at first thought they did not hear right. There must be some mistake, was this a bad joke played on them?

But upon hearing the whole story they realized their favored member deserted them—joining their enemies—their anger then knew no bounds. This blew their minds!

Full of rage, the visage disfigured with satanic fury, all hell broke loose within them.

“Has he gone mad? How could he do this to us?” they shouted, gnashing with their teeth.

This was the worst news they could possibly receive. The leaders felt betrayed, despised and terribly let down.

Then the only conclusion they could come up with was murder, death to this treacherous fellow, who disappointed them in so despicable a manner. Every cell in the body of these men breathed out hatred towards Saul, who so utterly destroyed their high expectations and hopes for him.

They hated him now more than this pestering sect, because he would labour to gain new members, causing even more trouble! Saul was to them the worst apos-

tate in the land.

Their sour faces and the taste in their mouths, bitter with gall of that indignant assembly, revealed a very grave and sad truth about them. They were at the wheel of God’s work—but were total strangers to Him, aliens to the love, mercy and righteousness of God’s character.

It never entered the minds of the priests and scribes to take a closer look as to what happened to Saul that noonday. Having such a drastic impact, perhaps it truly must have been a supernatural, experience; a vision of heavenly origin.

Since they had no connection with God, and blinded by bigotry originating from the angel cast out of heaven, it was far from them to desire the truth about this extraordinary event. They held on to their traditions, closing the mind to anything that could upset their old ways, and were dead set against allowing the light of the gospel enter their hearts. Satan had them fully in his grip.

#### **PAUL—THE CHOSEN VESSEL OF THE LORD (Acts 9:15)**

After his stay in Damascus, Paul needed time for personal reflection. His life was radically turned around; he felt he must have time for much prayer to gain a close relationship with Jesus, that he might glorify Him in his new mission.

He went to Arabia (Galatians 1:17) where he received visions and revelations concerning his new faith. Jesus Himself would teach him that the old sacrificial system, which had pointed to the sacrifice of the true Lamb of God was fulfilled in His life and death on the cross of Calvary.

Here Paul gained divine insight and a clear understanding of the gospel, the good news for all men, which he then could preach with power in the Spirit to convict.

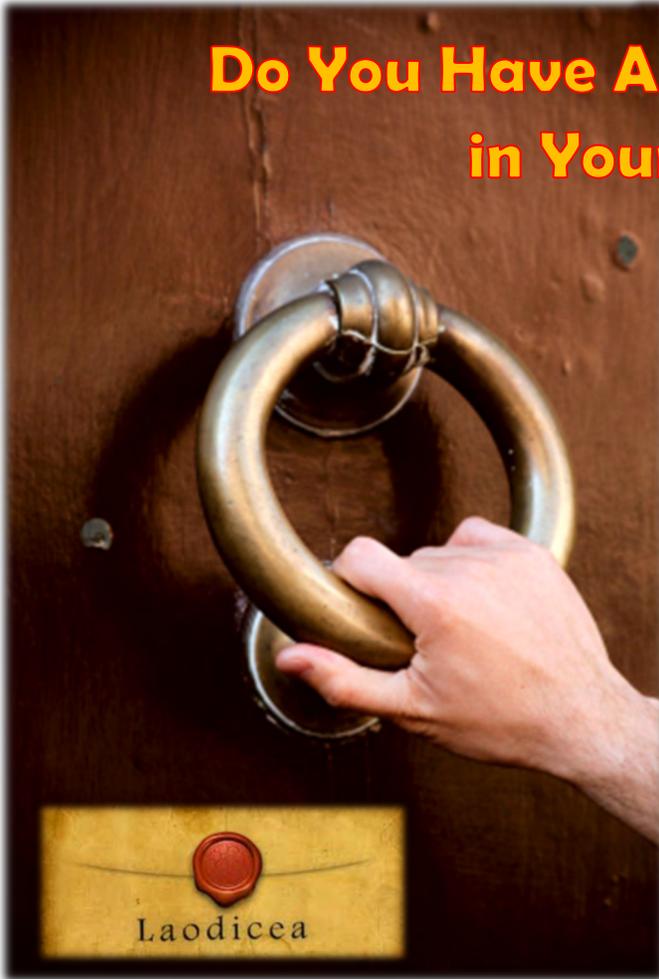
Then a life of service with holy passion and love for souls began. He would begin to proclaim Jesus Christ crucified, to testify before kings and rulers, Jews and Gentiles that Jesus is indeed the Messiah, the Saviour of the world.

Thus Saul of Tarsus became Paul the Apostle, the chosen vessel of the Lord. Amen.

***Edda Tedford, Canada***

(Author’s comments are based on her own thoughts as to what Paul may have experienced during his conversion.)

## Do You Have Anything Lacking in Your Faith?



"Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?" 1 Thessalonians 3:10. So many people say today, "I have the truth." Do we not often say it ourselves? But what happens when people say this—perhaps meaning it from the bottom of their hearts—being thankful for the truths of God's word that they see amongst God's people? Human nature tends to become quite complacent, and self-satisfied when this is said.

And then why do we have to keep searching, keep trying, keep obtaining new and precious victories over sin, self and Satan if we have all the truth? There are still many things that need to be discovered within the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, and still more reforms to be made in our lives.

This whole process, is caught up the concept of spiritual growth. What are the three steps of spiritual growth?

They are, searching our Bibles, praying and sharing with others those precious truths which we have learned, thus we grow, spiritually. The context of the Scripture above is about standing fast—being immovable—to

that which is principle. It is only if we realize that we are lacking something that we can learn, and thus, stand fast in the faith.

Or do we think that we know pretty well everything that there is to know? And have gone just as far as we have to go?

"And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of My mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." Revelation 3:14–21

What is the main point of the Laodicean message? It is all about them feeling that they do not lack anything. They have everything that they need—or at least, they (we), think that they (we) do. Perhaps the experiences through which we have just come are a blessing to us, in more ways than one. But there is hope in this Laodicean message for those who will just receive, what? Gold, white raiment and eyesalve, which are faith and love, the character of Jesus, and the spiritual sight of the Holy Spirit.

The real problem with the Laodicean condition is that it is all about self-deception. Laodiceans are deceiving themselves that they are all right, when they are all wrong. Who is on the throne of the heart? If it is still

self, then we are bound to lose. But if Christ is there, then and only then can we win.

On the other hand, some are always lamenting about their lack of faith and speculating whether they have committed the unpardonable sin, when the real problem is self being on the throne of the heart.

“In the vision given me, I was shown that a most solemn work is before us. Its importance and magnitude are not realized. As I marked the indifference which was everywhere apparent, I was alarmed for ministers and people. There seemed to be a paralysis upon the cause of present truth. The work of God seemed stayed. Ministers and people are unprepared for the time in which they live, and nearly all who profess to believe present truth are unprepared to understand the work of preparation for this time. In their present state of worldly ambition, with their lack of consecration to God, their devotion to self, they are wholly unfitted to receive the latter rain and, having done all, to stand against the wrath of Satan, who by his inventions would cause them to make shipwreck of faith, fastening upon them some pleasing self-deception. They think they are all right when they are all wrong.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 466

We must learn to be firm as a rock when it comes to principle—invisible when it comes to self, especially justifying self or excusing ourselves, but flexible when it comes to the needs of others. Many things we still need to unlearn. The thing most needed in this case is humility and motivation to change. The very essence of the gospel is change.

The Lord sends warnings to His people—not to destroy them, but to correct their errors. I have never been given the testimony to bear to anyone, “You have committed the unpardonable sin.” God never told anyone to say to a fellow being, “You have committed the unpardonable sin.”

“I know that God never gave mortal man such a message as that which Brother Nelson has borne concerning his brethren. It is not like our God. After the disappointment of 1844 there were those who would say to others, ‘You are lost; you have gone too far to be saved.’ Then I was

brought to my feet to bid them in the name of the Lord to cease their condemnation. God has never empowered one mortal to say to another mortal, ‘You are lost.’ We are all human beings. We are on this earth to form characters which will fit us to inherit eternal life. If we heed the word of the Lord, He will correct us and guide us.” —*The Review and Herald*, July 30, 1901

We must realize that we all have a lack, a need that only God can fill. There is a God-shaped vacuum within every one of us—but what do people commonly try to fill that void with? Drugs, sex, fame, money. . . the list goes on and on. The Laodicean message has not half fulfilled the purpose that God meant it to, amongst His own people.

“You want to buy of Christ gold, white raiment, and eyesalve. Study this message to the Laodicean church, for it applies to many in New York. You need to be zealous and repent. Please consider, zealous does not mean a few feeble prayers and half-hearted confessions, it means, a zealous, earnest, determined effort to conquer

your worldly, selfish love, and to be consecrated, devoted Christians, shedding a tender warmth and love wherever you are. You must have a waking up, and heart culture, or you will fail of heaven. Christ is coming. Are you ready? Are you waiting? Are you loving His appearing? What a wondrous love Christ has evidenced for us! He has said, ‘Love one another as I have loved you.’ We need purity, truth, helpfulness, and the love of Christ that sanctifies our influence. We must be full of Christ and then we shall

estimate worldly things in the light of God.” —*The New York Indicator*, February 28, 1900

We read in James 1 that a double minded man is unstable in all his ways. If we always have to be talking about what we did at such and such a time for the Lord, rather than making experiences with Him each and every day, then it is that we can know that we are lacking, as well.

There was an interesting experience that I made recently when I met a pastor, who, knowing the truth of James, still tried to manipulate me away from making the point in favour of the Ten Commandments, being the law that is to judge us.

How do people act when they are needy? Humble, def-



erential—just like Christians are supposed to be.

How do people act when they are full, in need of nothing? Several years ago, one of the members of our local church in Vancouver said he was really having a hard time getting his little 6 year old son to eat. He asked me what could be done to give him more of an appetite? I mentioned several things, all of which he said he had tried, so I said that I would like to observe his son for a time, in order for me to see how I could help. What I observed was that the child's grandmother was constantly following him around with food, urging him to eat, but the boy was really contemptuous of all this. So I encouraged the brother to just let the boy get hungry and not urge anything on to him, so that his natural appetite would come back.

Why is it that people who have the least seem to be the most generous and kind to others, when others have any kind of need? But it is those who have so much, quite often, that cannot be bothered to help others in need.

Sometimes God hides His face from us to help us to see how life would be without Him. Has this ever happened to you? Perhaps in a dream or in some other way or time?

You saw all the darkness and despair of sin and you felt as if you were left without a way of hope. And when you woke up from that dream, how did you feel? Were you thankful that you still had time to make sure of heaven? Or did you just go back to your worldliness and lukewarmness? Feeling self-satisfied and like you had no lack in your life? It is only when we know that we have needs in our spiritual lives that God can do anything for us.

We must unlearn the ways of the flesh, the world and the devil. Pride, stubbornness, obstinacy, insisting on our own way, all of it does not glorify God.

On the other hand, one way we show our lack is always speculating if we have committed the unpardonable sin. If we do this, we are merely saying to others that our faith is lacking and that self is still on the throne of the heart, rather than Christ. Neither will we be always talking about what we did for the Lord at such and such a time, when the Lord is trying to give us experiences with Him each and every day, in overcoming pride, worldliness, and, in a word, self.

We must accept the gold, white raiment and eye salve of the Holy Spirit's leading, the character of Christ and the wonder of faith and love. We will not be found saying that others have committed the unpardonable sin,

and certainly will not have to speculate if we have ourselves, but rather trust in Christ for salvation, hope and correction for our errors.

"Many who are sincerely seeking for holiness of heart and purity of life seem perplexed and discouraged. They are constantly looking to themselves, and lamenting their lack of faith; and because they have no faith, they feel that they cannot claim the blessing of God. These persons mistake feeling for faith. They look above the simplicity of true faith, and thus bring great darkness upon their souls. They should turn the mind from self, to dwell upon the mercy and goodness of God and to recount His promises, and then simply believe that He will fulfill His word.

"We are not to trust in our faith, but in the promises of God. When we repent of our past transgressions of His law, and resolve to render obedience in the future, we should believe that God for Christ's sake accepts us, and forgives our sins.

"Darkness and discouragement will sometimes come upon the soul, and threaten to overwhelm us; but we should not cast away our confidence. We must keep the eye fixed on Jesus, feeling or no feeling. We should seek to faithfully perform every known duty, and then calmly rest in the promises of God.

"At times a deep sense of our unworthiness will send a thrill of terror through the soul; but this is no evidence that God has changed toward us, or we toward God. No effort should be made to rein the mind up to a certain intensity of emotion. We may not feel today the peace and joy which we felt yesterday; but we should by faith grasp the hand of Christ, and trust Him as fully in the darkness as in the light.

"Satan may whisper, 'You are too great a sinner for Christ to save.' While you acknowledge that you are indeed sinful and unworthy, you may meet the tempter with the cry, 'By virtue of the atonement, I claim Christ as my Saviour. I trust not to my own merits, but to the precious blood of Jesus, which cleanses me. This moment I hang my helpless soul on Christ.' The Christian life must be a life of constant, living faith. An unyielding trust, a firm reliance upon Christ, will bring peace and assurance to the soul." —*Messages to Young People*, p. 111–112

May the good Lord help us to always feel our need of Him, understand that we may lack many things spiritually—and always look for ways to help and bless others—knowing that in this same way, we will find the grace and means to overcome. Amen. **Jerry Eaton**

# The Miracle of Zacchaeus

The miracle of Zacchaeus is not only one of the most beautiful incidents, but most faith-revival and life-changing incidents.

The life-changing event in Zacchaeus' life changed many other lives, his strong dedication has dedicated many hearts, his accepting Jesus as his personal Saviour guided many sinners, that is why the name of Zacchaeus is like a great Christian hero.

Zacchaeus had heard of Jesus Christ, of His wonderful miracles, of His healing; naturally he wanted to see Jesus and see His miracles. He often thought about Jesus.

Suddenly, he was so happy to know that Jesus Christ was coming to the part of the city where Zacchaeus had his office of tax collecting. When he heard the great noise of Jesus coming, he got out of his office and started looking for Jesus, but he could not see Jesus as he was too short to see Him, because there were so many tall people before him around Jesus. Now his dedication got stronger and he ran ahead to the way where Jesus had to go. He climbed a tree and sat on the branch and started looking at Jesus; he saw the handsome face, full of love, a merciful face, a glorious face.

As Jesus was coming nearer and nearer, the heartbeat of Zacchaeus was increasing; he thought that this was the greatest moment of his life, that he has seen Jesus face to face; he thought that looking at Jesus was the greatest

blessing. He thought that Jesus would pass without noticing him and his desire, as there were so many people around Him. But he did not know that Jesus knew each and every thing, He knew every heart, He knew the thoughts of human minds, He could see the quality of the dedication of every heart.

When Zacchaeus decided to see Jesus, at the same time Jesus also decided to save him and change his life by His divine presence.

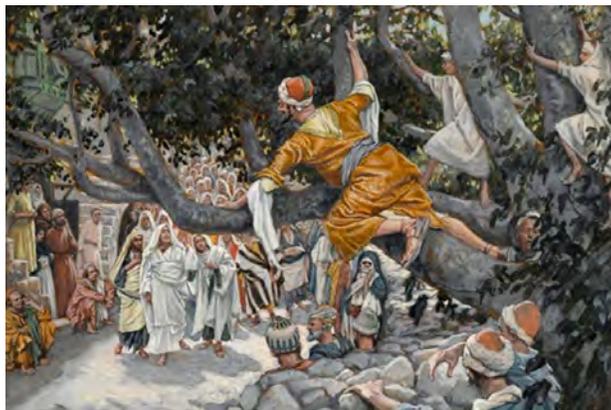
When Jesus came right under the tree on which Zacchaeus was waiting anxiously, to the surprise of Zacchaeus, Jesus stopped right on the spot and looked right into the eyes of Zacchaeus, and even more to his surprise, Jesus called his name, "Zacchaeus."

Zacchaeus was not only happy to listen to his name, but was astonished as well. "Who told Him my name?" he wondered. "Why did He stop right on the spot? It means He knew me, He knew my heart, He knew my thoughts, He knew my wrong doings and sins, He knew my dedication and He knew my commitment as well."

Zacchaeus immediately understood that Jesus was not a mere man, but He that He is God.

Jesus said, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately, I must stay at your house today."

When Jesus entered into the house of Zacchaeus, the divine power of Jesus started refining his life, the divine



righteousness started transforming and cleaning the heart of Zacchaeus; he felt the presence, not only in his house, but also in his heart. As he was in front of the divine mirror, the divine judge of the heavenly courts was before him; he judged himself, and he immediately announced. "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and, if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." Because the process of purification had been started in the life of Zacchaeus, Jesus said, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and save that which was lost."



In olden times, a king was hunting and got lost in the jungle. He arrived at a small village and came into the house of a widow and asked for water. The old woman served the king happily and proudly, she was honoured by the presence of the king. When the king was about to go back, he said, "I will come again." Now the old woman cleaned her house every day, she put all things in order, as she knew the king could come at any time.

When Jesus comes to our heart, our heart is filled with hope, faith, love, happiness, satisfaction, contentment, and a strong dedication. Day by day we clean our heart from unnecessary things and sins; then Satan loses his hold.

Hansie Cronje was a player in the world of cricket. When he was the captain, he was blamed for allegations by the Indian police, in 2000, for fixing international matches. He, at first, denied the charges, but his pastor was requested to come and talk to him; he said that now he could not speak a lie before his pastor. As a result he confessed, first to his pastor and then to the

South African cricket authorities, that he had not been entirely honest.

He finally admitted that he had received some £100,000 in dirty money and had offered bribes of £15,000 each to two

members of his team to underperform in a one-day match against India.

Through his pastor he felt the presence of Jesus Christ and he started speaking the truth. When Jesus comes into our heart we start avoiding sins and start keeping the commandments of the Lord.

Jesus is waiting for our dedication and commitment; He is waiting for our decision. Shall we decide like Zacchaeus? Jesus said, "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come and eat with him and he with Me" (Revelation 3:20).

*Inayat Daniel, Pakistan*

## LOOKING FOR YOU...

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# Seems Right

Most of the Christian world think they are serving God. It seems right to them to be a Christian. Many have been told that the 10 Commandments and the Sabbath do not need to be kept, and they can decide to do what seems right to them as long as they live good moral lives. They follow the majority of people in their churches, as well as their leaders. They seem so spiritual so they do not feel the necessity of keeping the 10 Commandments. There is a variety of standards of religion depending on which church you go to. Some churches are stricter in their rules. Some have a lower standard, leaving a persons' Christianity open to their own individual conscience—resulting in a variety of standards. They do whatever seems right to them. But the Lord says, "Were men free to depart from the Lord's requirements and to set up a standard of duty for themselves, there would be a variety of standards to suit different minds and the government would be taken out of the Lord's hands." *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 51–52

As Christians, it is easy to make decisions for ourselves and not consider what the Lord's will is. The Bible has many counsels and guidelines that are beneficial to our Christian walk; unfortunately, some choose to interpret it according to what seems right to them, ignoring the clear word of God. What about the fine details of life; the here and now; the decisions we make daily about our careers, our education, our family, our friends? Does the Bible give us direction for the finer details of life? Yes, it does. God speaks to us through His Word. We are fully dependent on the Lord for all our important decision making.

One woman in the Watchtower Church told me it is ok to wear jewelry and make-up. It seems right. It makes her look nice and presentable. The Lord has not impressed her that it is wrong. She also said it is not neces-

sary to keep the Sabbath—it seems ok to go on Sunday as the Lord has not spoken to her directly about that either. Well, it seems right to her, but what does the Bible say? Just because it seems right does not mean that it is right.

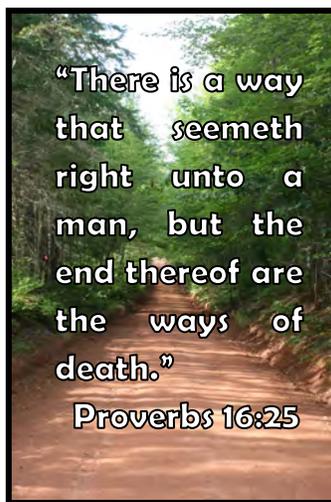
"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Proverbs 14:12.  
"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Proverbs 16:25

Solomon quoted this verse twice. It was very dear to his heart. It seemed right for him to take all these foreign wives, beginning with a princess from Egypt, in order to maintain political stability for his nation. It seemed right to respect his wives' religious beliefs and to keep them happy, by building heathen temples for them to worship as they have been raised to worship. It seemed like the right thing to do; however, in the end, death could have resulted. Thankfully Solomon came to himself before he met death. He repented and returned to the Lord.

For Pilate, it seemed right to let Jesus be taken by the Jews. He did what seemed right to him. He was probably not familiar with the written word; however, before him was the living Word Himself and he had been instructed by Him by voice and example. The governor thought that he could compromise with evil and still retain his wealth and position, but his compromise led to disgrace and death. As far as

his career was concerned it was the right thing to do; unfortunately, it was all wrong. The Lord even tried to warn him of his mistake by a dream to his wife.

The same in the time of Paul. It seemed right for Felix and Festus to placate the Jews and leave Paul in prison, though both knew he was innocent of any wrongdoing (Acts 24 and 25).



The sad part in all of this is that the person may be completely convinced that a certain course of action is right, and believe it with all their heart; however, even though they may sincerely have no doubt that they are correct, if it is a mistake, there will be terrible consequences. Sincerity will not prevent the consequences. David sincerely thought he was doing the right thing by lying to the High Priest in Nob to protect the priests when he was fleeing from King Saul. The sad consequence was the death of all the priests in Nob (1 Samuel 21). A man's opinion that the path is right does not make it right.

This is a frightening thought that Solomon shares in the above verses. We may think we are doing right, when in truth we are utterly wrong. It may seem that we are on the way to heaven, while we are really on the way to hell. We may choose a way to live what seems right to us, but may not be right at all. It only seems right, and we do not learn until the end of life that it was all a terrible mistake on our part, with devastating consequences. The truth is that we were not left alone to our own devices. The Lord was trying, all along during our pilgrimage, to get us to do the right thing because it is right. Too many people ignore the voice of the Lord and do what seems right to them. There are people who go to nominal churches (Christian or Adventist) stating that it seems right to them as there are more people there and they can have a greater influence. They ignore the fact that they are responsible for the sins committed by the organization in deviating from the 10 Commandments if they are joined to it.

It is possible, not only for people in the world and other Christian churches, but also those in God's church, to be on the wrong road when it seems right to them. It is the life choices we make, whether it is our career, our spouse, our education, our place of living, our friends, our associates, the food we eat, our hobbies, how we spend our time. It all may seem right, but is it God's will? Is it God's "right" for us? The way we may be going may not seem wrong, a violation of Biblical principles, and it may seem right; but the question to ask is, is it God's way for us?

Although it may seem right and the most logical way, the way God wants us to live, it may not be God's will. We must be ever so careful to walk in a way that not only seems, looks, or appears to be right, but is right in the eyes of God. Too often friends and associates may have given their approval on their ideas and so a person thinks it is correct. Or they may feel a particular move is the best move to make for financial success. However, we need to consider how God views matters, rather

than our own ideas or those of our friends, family or associates. Also, some have allowed their feelings to lead them to what they feel is right. Many mistakes have been made in marriage when a person goes with their feelings; what feels and seems right, but may not be right in God's eyes.

People often choose a way of life simply because it promises them earthly happiness. Throughout history we have seen that in order to secure material advantages, men have justified war, persecution, deceit, and business irregularities. It seemed right to them because they believe that the end justifies the means, even though the means may not always be correct. Others choose a way of life simply because it flatters them and brings them fame and fortune. Men believe in their own way just because it is the way they have chosen. Unfortunately, many of these people are on the way to death. They can be so self-deceived that when shown the error of their ways, they do not believe it. They still feel they are right. Then some do see their error but are too proud to turn back around and do what the Lord is asking. Judas Iscariot felt the pangs of conscience when Jesus washed his feet; however, he refused to yield, and went out into darkness. Lucifer also knew that he was all wrong in the end, but he was too proud to yield.

"When a man takes the position that when he has once made a decision he must stand by it, and never to alter his decision, he is on the same ground as was Lucifer when he rebelled against God. He held his plans regarding the government of heaven as an exalted, unchangeable theory.

"No man should think that human opinions are to be immortalized. Any man taking the stand that he will never change his views places himself on dangerous ground. Those who hold the position that their views are unchangeable can not be helped; for they place themselves where they are not willing to receive counsel and admonition from their brethren." —*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 3, p. 1161

There are only two ways to go in this world and we have to make sure we are on the right way. "For wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Matthew 7:13–14. The two ways are: our own way and God's way. We must make absolute sure that we are on the Lord's way.

Being a member of God's church does not guarantee that we are on the right way. Here is a serious thought. While it is important to be a part of God's church, "Let

church members bear in mind that the fact that their names are registered on the church books will not save them.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 48. There is more to it. Many have been in God’s church and have been going their own way because it seemed right to them. They have caused divisions, they have stolen money and properties. They have gone their own way and eventually left the church.

Some have remained in the church until their death and only then it is seen just how much they have been going their own way. And sometimes we may never know in this life who has been going their own way; not until we are in heaven and see some people missing who we thought would be there.

We have many examples in the Bible of people who did what seemed right to them, but were all wrong. Take for instance, the king of Judah, Asa. He started his career on a positive note. “And Asa did that which was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God.” 2 Chronicles 14:2. However, at the end of his life, he made a mistake. It seemed right for him to request the aid of a strong foreign power to help him with his battle. However, it was not right in the eyes of God, and Asa did not accept the rebuke that came from the Lord. “And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said unto him, Because thou hast relied on the king of Syria, and not relied on the LORD thy God, therefore is the host of the king of Syria escaped out of thine hand. . . Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars. Then Asa was wroth with the seer, and put him in a prison house; for he was in a rage with him because of this thing.” 2 Chronicles 16:7, 9–10

Then there are times God asks us to go and do something that may not always seem right to us at all. Take Jonah for example. It just did not seem right to him to go to the city of Nineveh—that wicked city—to preach the gospel. But that is where God wanted him to be. And also, Abraham. It just did not seem right for him to sacrifice Isaac. But he obeyed. We must obey God implicitly and not question Him, even though it may not seem right to us.

“Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.” Matthew 7:22–23. And then we have the parable of the five foolish virgins in Matthew 25—who is really represented here? Are they worldly people, nominal Christians or Adventists? Although in reality some may be, yes. But will you find people like this in God’s church? People who get to the end of their lives and say these words, “The harvest is past,

the summer is ended, and we are not saved” (Jeremiah 8:20), being told by the Lord, “I do not know you”?

“Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts.” Proverbs 21:2. Even conscience cannot always be trusted. Conscience needs to be educated according to the word of God.

The man who has made a law to himself is certain that his ways are pure. How can his conclusions be otherwise when the only standard of judgment he possesses is his own? It is the work of the Holy Spirit to break through this false sense of security and to bring the conviction that there is an absolute standard, most clearly stated in the Word of God and most effectively illustrated and exemplified in the life of Christ. Only God knows the underlying motives in the self-deceiving hearts of men, and He uses every agency of heaven to bring to man the conviction that they need a Saviour. Divinity, combined with humanity, is the only way to make sure we are on the right road.

The ways of death are not entered into blindly or thoughtlessly. They are chosen because they seem to be right under the current circumstances. The warning is against trusting the guidance of the conscience without checking the conscience constantly against the teachings of the Word of God. Many men have persuaded themselves that God will accept a substitute for His precise requirements, only to find themselves that they have lost all. Like Cain.

God, and the watching universe have this view of mankind, doing what seems right to them. “The way of man is froward and strange.” Proverbs 21:8. It is strange to them. “All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits.” Proverbs 16:2. These people are self-deceived as described in the Laodicean message. “Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.” Revelation 3:17. They are always making excuses for their sins and faults when they are pointed out, as did Adam and Eve from the very beginning. They choose to do what seems right to them.

The sparkling, cool, clear water in a mountain stream may be toxic and fatal. It may look all right, but be poison. It may appear, to the naked eye, to be clear, clean, transparent and pure water, but actually be full of deadly poison. Some things are not what they seem! We must remember this in regards to morals and religion. For example, some form of entertainment may seem to be right; it may appear to be right but, upon further investigation, it turns out to be detrimental—some TV shows, sporting events, or foods we eat, for example.

And sometimes, a religious practice may have the approval of the majority; all the appearances may lend themselves to acceptance; but, when you really study the matter and check the Scriptures, it turns out to be wrong. Some things are not what they seem. And this applies to doctrines, moral issues, religious institutions, religious personalities and religious ideas or interpretations of Scripture. Some things are not what they seem. Truth must be searched for as for hidden treasure and the goodly pearl.

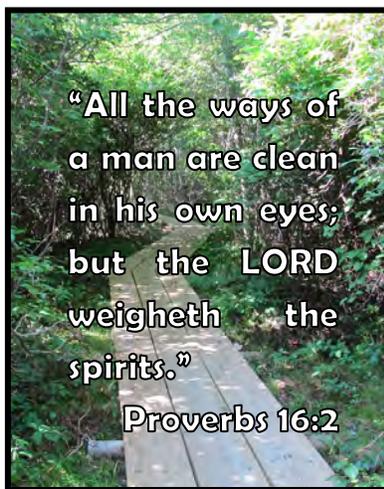
The pathway of life may look like a smooth garden-path, winding among flower-beds; it may be attractive, appealing and agreeable. But, in the end, it is the way of death! The way leading to destruction is usually not accompanied by a large sign that reads, "The Way of Death." Some things are not what they seem. So we need to take time to study the Word of God to gain insight and make right decisions! Let us look beyond appearances, as far as we can and find out, for sure, that which is good. "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." 1 Thessalonians 5:21. "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." 1 John 4:1

Many people are aware of the defects in their lives; unfortunately, they seldom deliberately sin without trying to justify themselves. They may compare themselves with others and decide that, in view of their background and difficulties, they are at least as good as others are. Or they may reason that they have certain weaknesses which the Lord will continually forgive. They accept the standards that God has set up, but feel they cannot keep them to the fullest. It seems all right (Romans 7:18–20); God is love, merciful and forgiving—forever, and ever, and ever. They forget that there will be a judgment day one day.

"It is for the eternal interest of every one to search his own heart, and to improve every God-given faculty. Let all remember that there is not a motive in the heart of any man that the Lord does not clearly see. The motives of each one are weighed as carefully as if the destiny of the human agent depended upon this one result. We need a connection with divine power, that we may have an increase of clear light and an understanding of how to reason from cause to effect. We need to have the powers of the understanding cultivated, by our being partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. Let each one consider carefully the solemn truth, God in heaven is true, and there is not

a design, however intricate, nor a motive, however carefully hidden, that He does not clearly understand. He reads the secret devisings of every heart. Men may plan out crooked actions for the future, thinking that God does not understand; but in that great day when the books are opened, and every man is judged by the things written in the books, those actions will appear as they are." — *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 3, p. 1160

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings." Jeremiah 17:9–10. With this condition of the heart, how can we trust our own hearts to let us know what seems right? We have the information in the Word of God to know what God's will is and we have the intellectual capability to learn it.



We need to know what is right for us according to God's will regarding important decisions such as the place we live, the person we marry, and our career path. Not what seems right to us. And for the most important decisions we must be faithfully knowing God's will and not doing what seems right to us; for example, proper Sabbath-keeping or laws of health. If you value the purity and salvation of your soul, you must study, revere, love and obey the word of God, as it is revealed in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, carefully to the letter. Only by the grace of God can this be done; however,

it must be done. Man's judgment has been seriously impaired by sin. He feels absolutely sure that the way to heaven is by doing the best he can. He is certain that he will be saved as long as he does what seems right to him. This can be a false sense of security.

"No man can be happy and depart from God's specified requirements, and set up a standard of his own which he decides he can safely follow. Then there would be a variety of standards to suit the different minds, and the government taken out of the Lord's hands and human beings grasp the reins of government. The law of self is erected, the will of man is made supreme; and when the high and holy will of God is presented to be obeyed, respected, and honored the human will wants its own way. . . to do its own promptings, and there is a controversy between the human agent and the divine." —*Reflecting Christ*, p. 56

May God help us to know what His will is through a careful study of His word so that in the end we will not be lost by doing simply what seemed right to us. Amen.

**Wendy Eaton**

## CHILDREN'S CORNER



## Fire

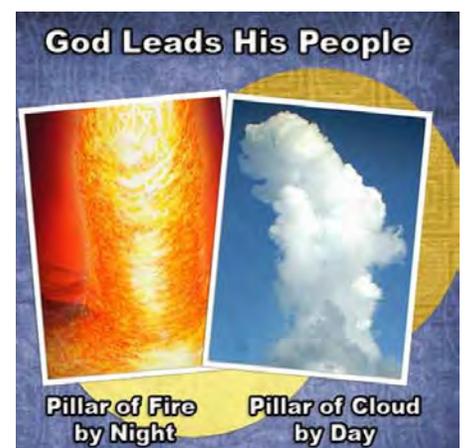
“And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night.” Exodus 14:20.

The Israelites were encamped by the Red Sea when Pharaoh came to reclaim his slaves once and for all. Suddenly a cloud covered the Egyptians so they could not see where the Israelites were going. God used the cloud to block the Egyptians so they could not get to His people.

Throughout their entire journey, God protected His people through the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night. Nowadays, does God protect His people? Does God protect us? God allows light from His throne to shine all along the path of life. A pillar of cloud by day, a pillar of fire by night, is moving before us, guiding us to the Promised Land.

“And the LORD will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory shall be a defence. And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain.” Isaiah 4:5–6

This is a beautiful and comforting promise given to us by God. He will protect us and care for us in the final struggle with evil. We are not alone now, and we will not be alone then. We may not see the cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night, but God is there, looking after us and guiding us in His path. So it is my wish and prayer that we may not forget that Jesus is with us no matter where we go.



### The Cloud of Fire

A cloud led the Israelites through their journey to Canaan. During the day, the cloud would keep them cool and shelter them from the blazing sun. During the night, the cloud turned into a pillar of fire which would give them light and keep them warm during the cold desert nights. The Lord made sure that His people were protected during the day and at night.

“And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.” Exodus 13:21–22

“He spread a cloud for a covering; and fire to give light in the night.” Psalm 105:39

God used this cloud to guide the Israelites through the desert. If the cloud stopped, then the people would stop and set up camp and settle in. But when the cloud started moving, then the people would raise up their tents and bring their things and follow the cloud wherever it would take them.

The cloud would also protect them from their enemies.

*Stephen Newby*

## Fire of the Holy Spirit

The most important fire that we need in our lives is the fire of the Holy Spirit.

“John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire.” Luke 3:16

John the Baptist spoke these words when the people he was preaching to, began to question whether or not he was Christ. John, who was called to make way for Jesus, told them that, while he was a human, and could only baptize them symbolically with water, One was coming who would be able to cleanse them fully, and give them the Holy Ghost.

Sister White writes that “The prophet Isaiah had declared that the Lord would cleanse His people from their iniquities ‘by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning.’ The word of the Lord to Israel was, ‘I will turn My hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin.’ Isaiah 4:4; 1:25. To sin, wherever found, ‘our God is a consuming fire.’ Hebrews 12:29. In all who submit to His power the Spirit of God will consume sin.

But if men cling to sin, they become identified with it. Then the glory of God, which destroys sin, must destroy them. Jacob, after his night of wrestling with the Angel, exclaimed, ‘I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.’ Genesis 32:30. Jacob had been guilty of a great sin in his conduct toward Esau; but he had repented. His transgression had been forgiven, and his sin purged; therefore he could endure the revelation of God’s presence.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 107

As sinful human beings, we need the Holy Spirit to

cleanse us. We need this “fire” to purge our characters, and give us new life. If we submit to God, and let Him take control, the power from the Holy Spirit will destroy all the sin within us, and make us whole. It will free us from our bondage. It will allow us to look upon God’s face when He comes in the clouds of heaven.

One example that I find interesting is when the disciples were gathered in the Upper Room after Jesus left, they were praying. Suddenly, tongues of fire appeared over all their heads. It was the Holy Spirit. In Acts 2:1–4 it says, “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”



This fire was a manifestation of the Holy Spirit’s power. It showed that He was with them, and His power rested upon them. It gave them the ability to do many things, such as speak different languages and perform miracles. They were all fully cleansed and ready to become closer servants of the Lord.

In the time of the end, the latter rain will come down upon all the righteous people of the church. It will give them power to speak, to bring souls searching for Christ and to stand forward in the courts before the judges and declare their faith.

It is my wish and prayer that we can accept God’s help, let Him cleanse us with fire, and the Holy Spirit, and finally be free from the grasp of sin. Amen.

*Cyrus Newby*

### American Union Conference

Georgia, USA. ([www.imsconference.org](http://www.imsconference.org))

July 31: Centennial Commemoration of E. White’s Death

August 2-5: AU Family Camp

August 5-9: AU Conference

### Canadian Field Conference

Toronto, Canada. July 31–August 2

Email: [imsmessage@yahoo.com](mailto:imsmessage@yahoo.com) and you will be directed to the accommodations committee.

## BACTERIA PART 4: Foods That Boost Our Immune System

As we read at the end of last month's article, Hippocrates, the father of medicine, said, "Let food be thy medicine, let medicine be thy food." Long before the modern discovery of penicillin, certain foods and herbs helped guard against infection and disease on a daily basis. They naturally cleanse your blood without harmful side effects or prevent upsetting the delicate balance of good bacteria in your body.

Different foods, herbs, and supplements perform different functions in the fight against bacterial infections. Some products boost the immune system, decreasing one's risk of developing an infection. Other products have natural antibiotic properties which can be used to treat infections. Some minor infections can be successfully treated with natural substances, without the need for antibiotics. However, a serious infection can spread and overwhelm the body's ability to fight it; then the use of antibiotics may be necessary to save a life.

### IMMUNE BOOSTERS

The following foods and herbs are natural immune boosters, which help to prevent and treat infections. These foods and herbs have been shown to boost the immune system because using them not only reduces the amount of infections, but also improves the healing of infections. Very little is known on how these foods and herbs actually impact the individual components of the immune system.

#### GARLIC

Raw garlic when crushed or chewed contains a compound called allicin, which has similar properties to

penicillin. This member of the onion family is antibiotic, anti-inflammatory, anti-viral, anti-parasitic, anti-fungal, and antioxidant. For thousands of years, it has been used internally and externally to treat mild illness to serious diseases. Everything from inflammation, to colds, to serious infections, is minimized and/or obliterated with the addition of garlic. For those who do not enjoy the taste, there are supplements as well. Garlic is not only potent, it contains a host of vitamins, nutrients, and minerals that are beneficial to total body wellness.

#### HONEY

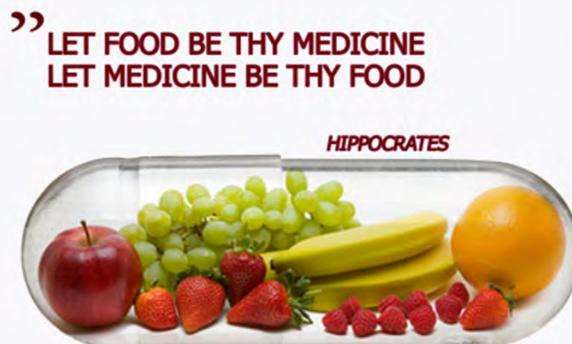
Ancient Romans used honey on the battlefield to treat wounds and prevent infection. Civilizations all over the world continue to consider honey one of the best natural

antibiotics, antimicrobials, anti-inflammatories, and anti-septics known to man after thousands of years. An enzyme found in honey releases hydrogen peroxide. This process helps your body fight infection and prevents the growth of bacteria. Soothing to the digestive system, honey removes toxins from the blood and helps your liver

operate more efficiently. Raw, organic honey is the best option since most pasteurization methods kill the antioxidant effects.

#### CABBAGE

There are sulfur compounds found in cabbage—a member of the cruciferous family that includes broccoli and kale—that have been shown effective as cancer fighters. What many people don't realize is how much vita-



min C is found in cabbage. One cup provides 75% of what you need every day. Naturally antibacterial, eating shredded raw cabbage in your salad or drinking fresh cabbage juice (with honey added to sweeten) is an excellent way to improve digestion and prevent disease.

#### GRAPEFRUIT SEED EXTRACT (GSE)

Grapefruit seed extract (GSE) is effective against more than 800 forms of viruses and bacteria, more than a hundred strains of fungus, and many parasites. It is especially beneficial in treating candida (yeast) infections. High in many antioxidants, GSE boosts immunity, alkalinizes the body naturally, and aids in digestion by improving your beneficial gut flora. Supplements containing GSE can be found in many natural health stores.

#### COCONUT OIL/WATER

Coconut oil has naturally occurring anti-fungal and antimicrobial properties and is packed with antioxidants you cannot find anywhere else in nature. Use it to boost your immune system, balance thyroid, cholesterol, and blood sugar levels, and even improve brain function. It is safe to use internally and externally. Coconut oil is one of the most versatile and unique foods. In fact, in countries where expensive intravenous fluids are not available, doctors will infuse coconut water directly into a patient's vein to combat dehydration as it contains the same salt concentration as blood.



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#### ECHINACEA

With similar effects to garlic, Echinacea is well tolerated and able to stimulate the immune system by naturally boosting infection fighters in your blood stream. Native



to North America, Echinacea has been used for centuries in tribal medicine to treat pain and sickness. Unlike garlic, this antibacterial, anti-fungal, antiviral solution is generally used at the

first signs of illness and should not be taken for more than ten days. It is available in liquid and capsule form.

#### LEMONS

Warm lemon water serves as the perfect “good morning drink” as it aids the digestive system and makes the process of eliminating waste products from the body easier. It prevents the problem of constipation and diarrhea, by ensuring smooth bowel functions. Lemons contain pectin fiber which is very beneficial for colon health and also serves as a powerful antibacterial. They help maintain your immune system and thus, protecting you from most types of infections. It also plays the role of a blood purifier and it helps cure the common cold.



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#### CRANBERRY JUICE

Cranberry juice can prevent E.coli infections, the most common bacteria in urinary tract infections (UTI's), including kidney and bladder infections.



How does cranberry juice work? E.coli bacteria have little appendages that attach to the urinary tract wall. Cranberry juice makes the urinary tract “slippery”, preventing these appendages from attaching.

Cranberry juice cannot detach bacteria that are already stuck onto the wall, so it will not help to treat infections that are already present. However, if you are prone to UTI's, cranberry juice can help to prevent bacteria from taking a hold. Drinking a cup of cranberry juice daily can be enough to prevent future UTI's.

#### CHARCOAL

As we learned in the August 2014 *Messenger* article, charcoal is beneficial in its activated form in treating many types of infections. The process of activating charcoal has the effect of increasing its surface area by a large degree, making it more porous and able to absorb poisons and toxins. Charcoal can be used both internally and externally. Any inflammation—any area that is red, painful, swollen, and hot—responds to charcoal. It can be used as a poultice if the inflammation is on the outside of the body, or given by mouth if the inflammation is in the digestive tract. By the application of moist activated charcoal compresses and poultices, bacteria and poisons are drawn through the skin and

into the charcoal. These can include infections such as pink eye, diabetic ulcers, abscesses, gangrene, cold sores, tooth abscesses. Poultices must be kept moist and warm to allow this healing process to take place. Use charcoal as a drink for diseases such as gout, tetanus, diphtheria, arthritis, and cholera. As a bath, charcoal aids in healing skin disorders and infections.

#### OIL OF OREGANO

Continued medical research has shown that many tried and true herbal remedies work as well today as they did hundreds of years ago. Essential oils created from herbs long determined to be beneficial to human health are rapidly becoming holistic medicine's go-to item. Mediterranean countries are the home of many of the most



powerful herbs, including oregano. Oil of oregano is considered anti-microbial, antibacterial, anti-parasitic, anti-viral, and anti-fungal. It can be used internally and externally in the treatment of wounds, respiratory problems, digestive upset, and even the common cold. Packed with antioxidants known as phenols and flavonoids, it heals but also strengthens your immune system.

#### VITAMIN D

Ellen White, God's prophet, spoke of the need for pure water, pure air, sunlight and a proper diet. She advised against keeping the sick confined in dark, closed-up rooms, breathing in a poisoned atmosphere. Especially for those affected by consumption (tuberculosis) she recommended they go out in the fresh air and sunlight. For many years doctors have known that people afflicted with tuberculosis responded well to sunlight. Researchers have found that vitamin D, which is produced by the skin when exposed to sunlight, triggers an antibiotic response to the bacterium responsible for tuberculosis.

Vitamin D is can also assist in preventing colds and flu. However, in the most northern and southern areas of the world, most people become Vitamin D deficient in the winter months. The sun is at such an angle that Vitamin D absorption into the skin does not occur. Taking a supplement in the winter months will boost the immune system and prevent infections such as cold and flu which are more prevalent in the winter. Foods do

not contain Vitamin D unless the vitamin has been added to the food. However, the amount of Vitamin D in food is not enough to provide adequate levels of Vitamin D at those times of the year when the sunlight does not provide Vitamin D in levels that we require. Therefore supplementation is necessary to maintain proper Vitamin D levels in the body.

#### ALOE VERA

Aloe vera produces at least six natural antiseptics, which are able to kill mold, bacteria, funguses, and viruses. Aloe vera gel is found in hundreds of skin products such as lotions and sunscreens. Topical aloe vera is helpful for minor burns including sunburn, skin infections, wounds, frostbite, and also for skin inflammations.



Aloe vera taken internally as a drink has been shown to have negative health effects. Studies show that high doses of oral aloe vera are dangerous. Do not take oral aloe if you have intestinal problems, heart disease, hemorrhoids, kidney problems, diabetes, or electrolyte imbalances. In the past, aloe vera taken orally has been used in laxative preparations. The part of the aloe vera plant that is effective as a laxative is called aloin, known as the latex of the plant—a bitter, yellow substance, found between the skin of the aloe vera plant and the gel inside. Aloin has been shown to cause intestinal cancers in animal studies. Therefore, in 2002, The FDA in the United States banned the use of aloe vera in all laxative products.

Aloe vera is still commonly used in juices and supplements. However, the majority of aloe vera products for oral consumption are decolorized, or purified. Decolorization, or purification, is the process of removing the aloin latex laxative components from aloe vera raw materials during processing. This process uses an activated charcoal filtration step to ensure that aloe vera juice products are virtually free of the toxic components found in aloe vera latex. As a topical (skin) treatment, it is considered safe and effective.

#### OTHER HERBAL REMEDIES

Thyme, basil, rosemary, cayenne, ginger, anise and fennel, and elderberry are just a few natural herbs you should consider adding to your daily diet. Some are

available in essential oils that increase their healing power.

## OUR NUTRITIONAL STATUS AND THE IMMUNE SYSTEM

In order for our immune system to fight bacteria that can cause infections, it needs good, regular nourishment. Studies show that people who live in poverty and are malnourished are more susceptible to infectious diseases, heal slower from injury and infections, and have increased risk of symptoms and complications from a poorly functioning immune system.

Of all the physical barriers between your internal organs and the outside world, your gastrointestinal tract is the most important. It contains the largest amount of immune cells of your whole body, almost 60% of your entire immune system. The gastrointestinal mucosal layer has the unique role of keeping out damaging molecules and organisms, like harmful bacteria and viruses, while allowing in only the health-promoting nutrients, molecules and substances. The foods you eat can provide support for this barrier or cause damage to it. Maintaining healthy cells within the tissues contained in the barrier of the gastrointestinal tract is vital for optimal health. Nutrients which maintain the health of these cells include Vitamin A, essentially fatty acids, monounsaturated fatty acids, and fibre.

A deficiency of high-quality protein can result in a reduction of immune cells, inability of the body to make antibodies, and other immune-related problems. The immune system can be significantly compromised with even a 25% reduction in adequate protein intake. Certain amino acids in protein especially, strengthen the immune system, these are glutamine and arginine.

Many fruits and vegetables provide antioxidants and phytonutrients that help maintain healthy tissue around the sites of infection and support healing.

Another area of research is nutrition in the elderly population. Older people tend to eat less and often have less variety in their diets. They are also more prone to developing diseases caused by a weaker immune system. Recent research suggests that this decline in im-



une function is related, in part, to nutrition, and that this decline may be slowed or stopped by maintaining healthy nutrition. Supplements may have a role in helping the elderly maintain a healthier immune system; however, dietary supplementation should be discussed with a physician or nutritional expert, as even small changes can have a serious impact in this age group.

There is some evidence that various micronutrient deficiencies—for example, deficiencies of zinc, selenium, iron, copper, folic acid, and vitamins A, B6, C, and E—alter immune responses in animals. Each of these micronutrients has been shown to increase certain immune cells, improving the body's response to a potential infection.

Processed foods and foods produced with pesticides, or not grown organically, can cause problems for your immune function. Toxic metals such as cadmium, lead and mercury all suppress the immune system. Some pesticides and preservatives can negatively affect the gastrointestinal lining. Food additives can also have negative effects on the nutrient content of the food. For example, sulfites destroy Vitamin B1 in foods to which they have been added.

Ensure a well-balanced diet, with a variety of foods from each food group. Whole grains, vegetables, fruits, beans, nuts, essential fats from foods such as olives, will provide the immune system with the nutrients it requires to work at its peak. If your diet is not providing you with all your nutritional needs, taking a daily multivitamin and mineral supplement will not only

benefit your immune system, but will provide a whole host of other health benefits. Taking megadoses of vitamins is not necessary, and often can cause more harm than good. For example, while it is important to have sufficient zinc in your diet, too much zinc can actually inhibit the function of the immune system.

Along with other factors, our overall nutrition plays a vital part in the functioning of the immune system. Proper nutrition plus food and herbs that are considered immune boosters, will keep the immune system functioning well, and will protect and heal us from bacteria or other pathogens that can cause disease. As Hippocrates said, "Let food be thy medicine, let medicine be thy food." Amen.

# Good News from



**Church Site in Fond Michel #1**

*"I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour." 1 Corinthians 3:6-8*

On March 4, 2015, I left the land of wood, water and sunshine to visit Haiti for the second time.

At the airport in Miami, I was met by sisters Lucy and Morris and in the evening had a prayer meeting with the church; then on March 5, 2015, I was on my way to Haiti for two months.

In Haiti I was met by Brother Simon Beaubrun and together we traveled to Saint Marc.

We took an eight hour drive in the dust on the following day to Bombardopolis, where we had our first set of meetings. Over 50 people attended these meetings. The people in this village are requesting that the missionaries return and set up a place of worship.

For the next two weeks in Saint Marc, March 9-19, we laboured hard and long in studying, training and preparing people for baptism and church offices.

In preparing for baptism we went to the seaside to find a site for baptism. We found a lovely place at a private beach, but were told that we had to pay 100 HTG or US\$2.13 for each person. The brethren decided that they would not pay to be baptized, so the next day we went looking and found another place, only to be told that we could not baptize there either. But this did not discourage us because we knew what was happening: Satan was working but God was preparing another way. We found a place near to the church and held the baptism there.



Sabbath, March 21, 2015 was indeed a day of rest and gladness, joy and light, a day most beautiful and bright, when heaven celebrates with earth; because 16 precious souls made a covenant with God in baptism in the murky waters of Saint Marc. After this historic, heart-warming event we walked to the church to welcome these loved ones to the church of God. This group of believers started studying and worshiping together two years ago under a mango tree. The Lord has blessed them with a place of worship. Praise the Lord!

Sunday, March 22, 2015, we were at the church again, only this time we were there for the organization of the local church. The spirit of love and unity permeated the meeting and everything was done in peace and order. The following day we were on the road to Port Au Prince. In the capital city we have a band of young people. It is gratifying to see young people accept this message. The studies and the training were supposed to be for one week, but we had to continue for another week.

Sabbath, April 4, 2015 was a day to be remembered in the annals of the Church of God in Haiti.

Fifteen dear souls were baptized. Eight were from Port au Prince, six were from Fond Michel #1 and #2 and one was from Saint Marc. After this memorable event

by the riverside we returned to the church to welcome these wonderful souls into God's Church. We had the dedication of children and the Lord's Supper. The little church in Fond Michel #1 was full to capacity and overflowing. The mothers and fathers brought their children, up to the age of nine, to be dedicated to the Lord.

One might wonder, after baptizing 31 people, organizing one church, giving the Lord's Supper, that our work

in Haiti was done and it was time for me to return to Jamaica, but my work had just began. Three more churches were organized; officers were trained on how to do their duties, we started to build the church in Fond Michel #1, attended a wedding in Gonaives, and held communion service in Saint Marc.

Haiti is ready for the Third Angel's Message. We have over 60 members, four organized churches and two Sabbath Schools. Many other places are calling. They need workers, books, and tracts in French and Creole, and other things. Please pray for the brethren there, that they will continue in the Faith and that the message of the Second Coming of Our Lord will extend to the entire world. God bless you.

*George Gowie, Jamaica*



**Leaders of the church in Fond Michel #1**



**Dedication of children in the church at Fond Michel #1**



**Members of the church in Fond Michel #1**



**Children at Fond Michel #2**



**Baptism of persons from Port au Prince and Fond Michel**



**Newly Baptized members at St. Marc**



**Leaders of the church in Haiti**

# News from Myanmar



“They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him. Psalm 126:5–6

Since the time that the International Missionary Society has existed in Myanmar, missionary work is progressing gradually. There are hopes for the future. In presenting the present truth, it has not penetrated into the hearts of the people right now, but it is not rejected. People are preparing to accept the present truth. It arouses their curiosity. The church is stepping forward with prayer to empower the work.

The Lord’s work has been growing around the world and the present truth is penetrating into sincere hearts every day. I hope and pray that this article will be a blessing to the church life. I would like to thank all the churches because I can share the work in Myanmar through this news. Myanmar is a country with few members of the International Missionary Society, Seventh-day Adventist Church Reform Movement.

Recently, Brother Arnolfo Cortez (Asian Division Secretary) visited Myanmar. From May 3–12, 2015, together with brother Suan, they made a missionary trip to Matupi, the northern part of Myanmar. The journey is tough. They had to cross mountains and rivers. But the Lord blessed the trip. They were able to conduct Bible studies with 25–30 people each day. And the Lord also opened the way to have fellowship with other groups. They were able to baptize seven souls and have one acceptance. Even though the road was tough, they forgot their weariness because of this harvest.

They returned to Yangon on May 12, 2015. God produced a harvest of another five more souls here and on May 13, 2015, Brother Cortez baptized this group of believers. We praise God for this marvelous work and we would like to extend our words of thanks to our brethren who pray for us.

***Suan Kam Thang***



## Montreal Street Evangelism

During the second week of May some of the youth had the opportunity to work alongside church leaders in a street evangelism project held in Montreal, Canada. Through a simple survey of seven questions the team was able to spread the message of salvation to about 40 people. Praise the Lord!



Although they had the opportunity to work alongside those who are experienced in this field, should you yourself keep from working in God's vineyard because you lack experience or knowledge? Consider the following quote: "Remember that it is not necessary to be an ordained minister in order to serve the Lord. There are many ways of working for Christ. Human hands may never have been laid on you in ordination, but God can give you fitness for His service. He can work through you to the saving of souls. If, having learned in the school of Christ, you are meek and lowly in heart, He will give you words to speak for Him." –*Messages to Young People*, p. 226. It is not our fitness for service that matters to Christ, but our willingness to work in His service.



## South India Field Youth Conference

Tirupattur Church Head office, April 30–May 3, 2015



## The Narrow Way

There's a way that seems right unto a man,  
But the end is the way of destruction.  
Help me not to travel this way, I pray,  
But to travel the road of Salvation.

The way is narrow; the road is so steep,  
Many start to walk but turn back and weep.  
Though the way's fraught with trouble and danger,  
With Christ we are free from Satan's anger.

Though the way to life is full of peril,  
We do not need be so full of sorrow.  
With the Lord walking by our side today,  
And His love in our hearts, we'll find our way.

A butterfly with orange and black wings is perched on a green leaf. The background is a blurred forest floor with green grass and brown leaves.

Lord, we are waiting for Your help today,  
Come and lead us on the narrow way.  
For the world we now leave so far behind,  
It has no joy for us that we have found.

Lord, I dare not travel alone in this world.  
The devil is angry and wants to devour,  
My only safety is walking with You every hour.  
Come and walk with me lest I fall,  
Hold my hand, be my all in all.  
I will not fear as long as You are near.