



The Reformation
Messenger

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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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True Happiness

"If there is anyone who should be continually grateful, it is the follower of Christ. If there is anyone who enjoys real happiness, even in this life, it is the faithful Christian.

"We should be the happiest people on the face of the earth, and not begging pardon of the world for being Christians." —*Mind Character and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 643

"The Bible presents to our view the unsearchable riches and immortal treasures of heaven. Man's strongest impulse urges him to seek his own happiness, and the Bible recognizes this desire and shows us that all heaven will unite with man in his efforts to gain true happiness. It reveals the condition upon which the peace of Christ is given to men. It describes a home of everlasting happiness and sunshine, where no tears nor want shall ever be known." —*My Life Today*, p. 160

"Jesus wants you to be happy, but you cannot be happy in having your own way and following the impulses of your own heart." —*Mind Character and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 643

"There is no true joy except Christ's joy. All the supposed happiness a man fancies he can gain without Christ will prove to be as ashes, a disappointment. Do not suppose for a moment that an irreligious man can be a happy man." —*My Life Today*, p. 158

"God is a lover of the beautiful. He has given us unmistakable evidence of this in the work of His hands. He planted for our first parents a beautiful garden in Eden. Stately trees were caused to grow out of the ground, of every description, for usefulness and ornament. The beautiful flowers were formed, of rare loveliness, of every tint and hue, perfuming the air. . . It was the design

of God that man should find happiness in the employment of tending the things He had created, and that his wants should be met with the fruits of the trees of the garden.

"To Adam was given the work of caring for the garden. The Creator knew that Adam could not be happy without employment. The beauty of the garden delighted him, but this was not enough. He must have labor to call into exercise the wonderful organs of the body. Had happiness consisted in doing nothing, man, in his state of holy innocence, would have been

left unemployed. But He who created man knew what would be for his happiness; and no sooner had He created him than He gave him his appointed work. The promise of future glory, and the decree that man must toil for his daily bread, came from the same throne." —*The Adventist Home*, p. 27

"God positively enjoins upon all His followers a duty to bless others with their influence and means. . . . In doing for others, a sweet satisfaction will be experienced, an inward peace which will be a sufficient reward. When actuated by a high and noble desire to do others good, they will find true happiness in a faithful discharge of life's manifold duties. This will bring more than an earthly reward; for every faithful, unselfish performance of duty is noticed by the angels and shines in the life record. In heaven none will think of self, nor seek their own pleasure; but all, from pure, genuine love, will seek the happiness of the heavenly beings around them. If we wish to enjoy heavenly society in the earth made new, we must be governed by heavenly principles here." —*In Heavenly Places*, p. 233

"No man can really enjoy life without religion. Love to God purifies and ennobles every taste and every desire, intensifies every affection, and brightens every worthy pleasure. It enables men to appreciate and enjoy all that is true, and good, and beautiful.

"You will ever find with the true Christian a marked cheerfulness, a holy, happy confidence in God, a submission to His providences, that is refreshing to the soul." —*My Life Today*, p. 158

Ellen G. White

Backsliding



Jesus said, "Remember Lot's wife." Luke 17:32. There are billions of sinners in the world. Why did Jesus mention Lot's wife and ask us to remember her? What was special about her? "But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt." Genesis 19:26. By this one look she lost her life in this world, and also her eternal life. She was given no time to repent of her sin, and to ask forgiveness. By special providence, God saved Lot and his family from destruction when the four cities were destroyed. The Lord came down from heaven in person to save the family of Lot; it was a great privilege and honour. They were already outside of the city on the way to the mountains when she turned back, because behind her were her home and all her belongings, her children and her friends.

Jesus gave the same warning, "And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Luke 9:62

What is behind? The world, a life in sin, the old life, selfishness, and self-gratification. But, what is before us? Christ leading us, heaven, the New Jerusalem, holiness, and perfection.

Now, why would anyone look back to the life which he left behind, to the sin he denounced, to change life into death, joy into sorrow, happiness into misery, and Christ to Satan? Why? It is a mystery how a lost sinner, who has found salvation, and has left the life of sin, and has made a covenant with God, that he would he turn to look back into his old life, and into old habits and customs. He came to Christ and spent time in His company, and rejoiced in the truth.

Then what can happen? "From that time many of His dis-

ciples went back, and walked no more with Him." John 6:66

After three-and-a-half years, Judas decided to leave the company of Christ and His disciples. It was not done under pressure, but from his free will. When someone starts looking back, what happens before that? Normally he is tired of looking at Jesus, his Leader, and turns his eyes away from Him. He does not think of Christ anymore, and does not speak of Him anymore, nor does he imitate Him any more — in other words, his love for Christ has died.

This change does not happen in a moment, there is a process called backsliding. "Why then is this people of Jerusalem slidden back by a perpetual backsliding? they hold fast deceit, they refuse to return." Jeremiah 8:5. It was continual, perpetual backsliding.

What is the result of backsliding? "Wherefore a lion out of the forest shall slay them, and a wolf of the evenings shall spoil them, a leopard shall watch over their cities: every one that goeth out thence shall be torn in pieces: because their transgressions are many, and their backslidings are increased." Jeremiah 5:6

Sister White wrote to the Adventist Church, "There is an astonishing backsliding with God's people to whom has been entrusted sacred, holy truth." —*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 450. The protection of God has been withdrawn because of their backsliding.

How does backsliding happen? What causes backsliding?

When we climb up a mountainside, suddenly our feet slip and we start sliding backwards. Backsliding is not walking back; it is an involuntary action. When we drive a car in the winter, ice and snow can cause sliding. We, as Christians, do not want to go backwards. No, we have left the world, and we are on the way to heaven. Our purpose is to go all the way to perfection, to sanctification, and to Christlikeness. But as soon as we stop going higher, we start sliding back. We cannot stay in one place, but without realizing it our feet start slipping and we start sliding backwards. The victories we have gained, and the advancements we have accomplished now are lost. Satan makes our life so busy that we have no time for church meetings, Bible reading, prayer, nor missionary work. These cause backsliding.

Here are some things that cause backsliding: "Some are indulging lustful appetite which wars against the soul and is a constant hindrance to their spiritual advancement. They constantly bear an accusing conscience, and if straight truths are talked they are prepared to be offended. They are self-condemned and feel that subjects have been

purposely selected to touch their case. They feel grieved and injured, and withdraw themselves from the assemblies of the saints. They forsake the assembling of themselves together, for then their consciences are not so disturbed. They soon lose their interest in the meetings and their love for the truth, and unless they entirely reform, will go back and take their position with the rebel host who stand under the black banner of Satan." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 548

Sister White writes further, "Some of these, through lack of watchfulness and prayer, had lost their faith and the evidence of their connection with God." –*Life Sketches*, p. 220

"Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Jesus said, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Matthew 26:41

"Many an honest, well-meaning person makes no advancement in the Christian life because he does not see the necessity of constantly learning more of Jesus." –*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 89

If we neglect constant prayer and Bible reading, we will be overcome by Satan, and we start backsliding.

To the sisters in the church, Sister White wrote: "Do not, my sisters, trifle longer with your own souls and with God. I have been shown that the main cause of your backsliding is your love of dress. This leads to a neglect of grave responsibilities, and you find yourselves with scarcely a spark of the love of God in your hearts. Without delay, renounce the cause of your backsliding, because it is sin against your own soul and against God. Be not hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. Fashion is deteriorating the intellect and eating out the spirituality of our people. Obedience to fashion is pervading our Seventh-day Adventist churches and is doing more than any other power to separate our people from God." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 647

Another cause of backsliding is associations with worldly friends. "One of the greatest dangers that besets the people of God today, is that of association with the ungodly. With many, the love for the human eclipses the love for the divine. They take the first step in backsliding by venturing to disregard the Lord's express command; and complete apostasy is too often the result. It has ever proved a dangerous thing for men to carry out their own will in opposition to the requirements of God. Yet it is a hard lesson for men to learn that God means what He says." –*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, p. 1000

One of the greatest dangers are worldly friends. "Those

who choose for their friends and companions, persons who reject Christ and trample upon God's law, eventually become of the same mind and spirit." –*Ibid.*, p. 1000

"Frivolous companions, who have no depth of principle, turn away the hearts of those who were once noble and true, to vanity, corrupting pleasure and downright vice." –*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 165

Many other causes for backsliding can be mentioned. Sister White writes about the results of backsliding:

Blindness of mind.

Hardness of heart.

Inactivity in God's cause.

Separation from God.

Restless heart, misery.

Here is, the remedy for backsliding: "By watchfulness and prayer, he may so guard his weakest points that they will become his strongest points. Through the grace of Christ, men may acquire moral stamina, strength of will, and stability of purpose. There is power in this grace to enable them to rise above the alluring, infatuating temptations of Satan, and to become loyal, devoted Christians." –*Gospel Workers*, p. 126

We do not need to slide back, we can go steadily onward and upward, higher and higher every day. Do not look back like Lot's wife. Look forward, to the goal. Look to Christ, He will lead us to our destination. We have an anchor which connects us with our Saviour in heaven.

"Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both pure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil." Hebrews 6:19

What would happen if we lose hold of the anchor at end? Then the connection to our Saviour would be broken.

"I saw that many were neglecting the preparation so needful and were looking to the time of 'refreshing' and the latter rain' to fit them to stand in the day of the Lord and to live in His sight. Oh, how many I saw in the time of trouble without a shelter! They had neglected the needful preparation; therefore they could not receive the refreshing that all must have to fit them to live in the sight of a holy God." –*Early Writings*, p. 71

At that time it will be too late to prepare ourselves for heaven. Now is the time to get ready and purify ourselves from every sin and every neglected duty.

Remember Lot's wife. Do not make the same mistake she did. If you have put your hand to the plough do not look back, heaven is before us, and eternal life, look to Jesus, and you will never fail. Amen.

Timo Martin



When you think of the word “power”, what comes to your mind initially? For some it is the thought of strength—being strong and able to lift heavy things. For others it is authority—being able to lead or control a large group of people.

Accompanied with the word power, would come energy and exertion. One must put forth a great effort (whether physical or mental) in order to use the power they have so that they can accomplish their task.

By definition, as a noun, power is the ability to do or act; capability of doing or accomplishing something. The word power has all kinds of synonyms, such as: capability, skill, talent, competency, effectiveness, efficacy, and qualification.

The most powerful being in the universe is without question, both physically and authoritatively, God. Yes, God has Almighty power—as seen in the creation of the world. By one word each day, He created the earth, the sky, the sun moon and stars, and myriads of plants, flowers, birds, and animals. This work took mighty power, which no one on this earth has the capability of doing.

You may read many verses in the Bible about God’s power, such as: “For the indignation of the LORD is upon all nations, and His fury upon all their armies: He hath utterly destroyed them, He hath delivered them to the slaughter.” Isaiah 34:2. Also, “Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, Mine anger and My fury shall be poured out upon this place, upon man, and upon beast, and upon the trees of the field, and upon the fruit of the ground; and it shall burn, and shall not be quenched.” Jeremiah 7:20. Although these verses show the power of God, when it gets to this point, the Lord has tried everything possible to bring a change in the people; but, by their choice they refused His calls of mercy to repent and turn away from their evil ways, so the punishment was

meted out as a consequence of their disobedience.

The greatest power of God though, that can accomplish something positive in the sinner is not seen in His strength and might as we think of in terms of power. His greatest power is shown by the skill that He uses to win the heart of man from sinner to saint.

Let us study some of the aspects of His power that He uses in the work of salvation for man—power that is

also given us to use. This power comes in many forms that we do not initially think of; however, they have the capability of accomplishing much.

POWER OF SILENCE

Silence is quiet. No sound. How can silence be powerful? What can silence accomplish? Remember, power is the capability to accomplish something. Silence can actually do much.

There is a saying in English, “Silence is Golden.” Gold, we all know, is a very precious metal, worth a lot of money. Silence is equated to gold—very valuable. The original phrase was, “Speech is silver, silence is golden.”

Its exact origin is unknown; however, a poet named Thomas Carlyle is one of the first to use it in English in 1831. “Silence is the element in which great things fashion themselves together; that at length they may emerge, full-formed and majestic, into the daylight of Life, which they are thenceforth to rule. . . . in thy own mean perplexities, do thou thyself but hold thy tongue for one day: on the morrow, how much clearer are thy purposes and duties; what wreck and rubbish have those mute workmen within thee swept away, when intrusive noises were shut out. . . . Speech too is great, but not the greatest. As the Swiss Inscription says: Sprechen ist silbern, Schweigen ist golden (Speech is silvern, Silence is golden); or as I might rather express it: Speech is of Time, Silence is of Eternity.” <https://www.phrases.org.uk/meanings/silence-is-golden.html>

If you understand this old English, he actually makes some profound statements. Simply put, after a period of silence, one can emerge and be majestic and very useful. And, if you are perplexed, do not speak. Stop, be silent, and think. And, after some time all these perplexities will disappear.

Ellen G. White wrote much about the power of silence.

Here are a few quotes:

“Those who desire to control others must first control themselves. . . . When a parent or teacher becomes impatient and is in danger of speaking unwisely, let him remain silent. There is wonderful power in silence.” –*Child Guidance*, p. 247. This is also true, not just for parents and teachers, but for all people, when tempted to become impatient and speak unwisely. Let the golden silence take priority over any silver words.

“We must individually hear Him speaking to the heart. When every other voice is hushed, and in quietness we wait before Him, the silence of the soul makes more distinct the voice of God. He bids us, ‘Be still, and know that I am God.’ This is the effectual preparation for all labor for God. Amidst the hurrying throng, and the strain of life’s intense activities, he who is thus refreshed, will be surrounded with an atmosphere of light and peace. He will receive a new endowment of both physical and mental strength. His life will breathe out a fragrance, and will reveal a divine power that will reach men’s hearts.” –*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 58

When Jesus was cleansing the temple He did no violence; so, what caused the people pain? “The confusion is hushed. The sound of traffic and bargaining has ceased. The silence becomes painful. A sense of awe overpowers the assembly.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 158. And, again when He cleansed the temple the second time. “Except for a few of His disciples, the Saviour stood alone. Every sound was hushed. The deep silence seemed unbearable.” –*Ibid.*, p. 590. Silence here had a more profound effect on the people than any words they would have heard.

Jesus knew when to speak and when to be silent. At His trial, He said nothing when He stood before Herod, which disturbed Herod greatly. “Herod questioned Christ in many words, but throughout the Saviour maintained a profound silence.” –*Ibid.*, p. 729

There is, “a time to keep silence, and a time to speak.” Ecclesiastes 3:7. It is not easy at times to be silent in adversity, especially if wrongly accused. Human nature is tempted to immediately speak up and defend one’s self. But, silence is often the best response. Silence, and given time, you may either choose to continue remaining silent, or calm down and choose your words wisely, rather than rashly giving an answer and explanation immediately. Give it a day or two. Pray about it and then if it warrants, give a response. As Thomas Carlyle said, “hold thy tongue for one day: on the morrow, how much clearer are thy purposes and duties.”

“Whenever little annoyances and trials arise, ask God in silent prayer to give you strength and grace to bear them patiently. There is a power in silence; do not speak a word until you have sent up your petition to the God of heaven. If you will always do this, you will soon overcome your hasty temper, and you will have a little heaven here to go to heaven in.” –*In Heavenly Places* p. 30

Silence indeed is very powerful and has the capability of accomplishing much. In silence, you hear the voice of God more clearly. Your character is refined when you do not respond rashly. Your silence and calmness can speak volumes to those who are falsely accusing you. You yourself will earn patience and trust in God, who will vindicate you in His time.

POWER OF LOVE

When you think of love, you think of warmth and affection. Everyone wants to be loved. Love is a tender compassionate affection for another person. It is quiet and gentle. Can we say that love has power? Does it have the capability of accomplishing something? Very much so.

Although hate, being the opposite of love, is a very powerful, emotional tool of Satan that has caused nothing but division and has led to much violence and even wars, love has more power than hate. God chose to win the battle against evil, not by might, nor powerful force, but by the power of love. Love took Him to Calvary. It was love for you that led Him to the cross. Love is simple, warm and affectionate. “Satan trembles and flees before the weakest soul who finds refuge in that mighty Name.” –*In Heavenly Places*, p. 256

My daughter gave me a little sign that I have hung on my wall saying, “Today I choose love.” Love is one choice you make amongst many every day.

Love is said to not only be an emotional feeling, but also a principle. Love is doing something good for someone you care a lot about, whether the “feeling” is there or not. You may be feeling tired in the morning, but you cheerfully get up and make breakfast for the one you love, because you want to, regardless of how you feel. It is not easily explained, yet it is a word everyone knows.

“Pure love is simple in its operations, and separate from every other principle of action. . . . The natural heart cannot originate it. This heavenly plant only flourishes where Christ reigns supreme. Where love exists, there is power and truth in the life. Love does good, and nothing



but good. Those who have love bear fruit unto holiness, and in the end everlasting life." – *Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 49

What does love have power to do and accomplish? I believe this next statement says it well. "Love is power. Intellectual and moral strength are involved in this principle, and cannot be separated from it. The power of wealth has a tendency to corrupt and destroy; the power of force is strong to do hurt; but the excellence and value of pure love consist in its efficiency to do good, and to do nothing else than good . . . Love will gain the victory when argument and authority are powerless. . . . It is diffusive in its nature and quiet in its operation, yet strong and mighty in its purpose to overcome great evils. It is melting and transforming in its influence, and will take hold of the lives of the sinful and affect their hearts when every other means has proved unsuccessful. Wherever the power of intellect, of authority, or of force is employed, and love is not manifestly present, the affections and will of those whom we seek to reach assume a defensive, repelling position, and their strength of resistance is increased. Jesus was the Prince of Peace. He came into the world to bring resistance and authority into subjection to Himself. Wisdom and strength He could command, but the means He employed with which to overcome evil were the wisdom and strength of love." – *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 135–136

This love has brought us to Christ and accomplished a change in our lives for the better, and now we must share it. It is true Christlike love that has the capability of changing the natural sinful human heart from desiring the things of this world to want to serve the living God.



POWER OF SONG

A song is often just a poem put to music for the purpose of singing. Just what kind of power does song carry? What can it accomplish? Very much. "There are few means more effective for fixing His words in the memory than repeating them in song. And such song has wonderful power. It has power to subdue rude and uncultivated natures; power to quicken thought and to awaken sympathy, to promote harmony of action, and to banish the gloom and foreboding that destroy courage and weaken effort." – *Education*, p.167–168

It has much power for either good or for evil. "The history of the songs of the Bible is full of suggestion as to the uses and benefits of music and song. Music is often perverted to serve purposes of evil, and it thus becomes one

of the most alluring agencies of temptation. But, rightly employed, it is a precious gift of God, designed to uplift the thoughts to high and noble themes, to inspire and elevate the soul. . . .

"It is one of the most effective means of impressing the heart with spiritual truth. How often to the soul hard-pressed and ready to despair memory recalls some word of God's--the long-forgotten burden of a childhood song--and temptations lose their power, life takes on new meaning and new purpose, and courage and gladness are imparted to other souls!

"As a part of religious service singing is as much an act of worship as is prayer. Indeed, many a song is prayer." – *Child Guidance*, p. 523

Wrongly used, it is one of the most alluring agencies of temptation, but used correctly, temptation loses its power.

"Begin to educate your tongues to praise Him and train your hearts to make melody to God; and when the evil one begins to settle his gloom about you, sing praise to God. When things go crossways at your homes, strike up a song about the matchless charms of the Son of God, and I tell you, when you touch this strain, Satan will leave you. You can drive out the enemy with his gloom; . . . and you can see, oh, so much clearer, the love and compassion of your heavenly Father." – *In Heavenly Places*, p. 95

"As lessons of the wondrous works of God are repeated, and as the heart's gratitude is expressed in prayer and song, angels from heaven take up the strain and unite in praise and thanksgiving to God. These exercises drive back the power of Satan. They expel murmurings and complainings, and Satan loses ground." – *Ibid.*, p. 288

Satan does not like the sound of heavenly music. Although he is more powerful than each one of us, his power is driven back by melodious songs of praise. He loses ground. Why not use the power of song and sing regularly as you go about your daily duties?

POWER OF PRAYER

Prayer is scoffed at by the unbeliever and Atheist. However, for the Christian it is a great blessing. Every sincere earnest prayer reaches to the heavens, to the ear of the most powerful being in the universe, and He listens.



"'All things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive' (Matthew 21:22). These words are the pledge that all that an omnipotent Saviour can be-

stow will be given to those who trust in Him.” –*Mind, Character and Personality*, vol. 2, p. 467. “The prayer of faith is the key that unlocks the treasury of heaven.” –*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 8, p. 196

“If Satan sees that he is in danger of losing one soul, he will exert himself to the utmost to keep that one. And when the individual is aroused to his danger, and, with distress and fervor, looks to Jesus for strength, Satan fears that he will lose a captive, and he calls a reinforcement of his angels to hedge in the poor soul, and form a wall of darkness around him, that heaven’s light may not reach him. But if the one in danger perseveres, and in his helplessness casts himself upon the merits of the blood of Christ, our Saviour listens to the earnest prayer of faith, and sends a reinforcement of those angels that excel in strength to deliver him. Satan cannot endure to have his powerful rival appealed to, for he fears and trembles before His strength and majesty. At the sound of fervent prayer, Satan’s whole host trembles. He continues to call legions of evil angels to accomplish his object. And when angels, all-powerful, clothed with the armory of heaven, come to the help of the fainting, pursued soul, Satan and his host fall back, well knowing that their battle is lost.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 345–346

When we get a glimpse like this into the invisible world, why would anyone hesitate to pray, or be too busy to pray? Prayer is the life blood of the Christian. What a solemn thought, the whole host of Satan trembles at the sound of faithful prayer. “What a wonder it is that we pray so little! God is ready and willing to hear the sincere prayer of the humblest of His children, and yet there is much manifest reluctance on our part to make known our wants to God.” –*Steps to Christ*, p. 94. “Pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17) and thus you will have a wall of heavenly angels around you all day long.

NOT WITH OUTWARD SHOW

God’s greatest power for man’s salvation is not with outward show and His greatest joy in the use of His power is to save the sinner. “He delights to reveal His power to transform hearts.” –*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 12. This, no earthly power can accomplish. This is a quiet and gentle use of His power.

The still small voice that spoke to Elijah on the mountain (1 Kings 19:11–13) had a more powerful impact on Elijah than the fire, the earthquake and the strong wind. This quiet voice reached his heart. And, this is what the Lord wants to do for mankind. He does not want to force obe-

dience through His strength and mighty power. No, He wants to melt the heart of man and accomplish a genuine and permanent change through gentleness and love, that no forceful power can accomplish.

The Lord does not work through the most fancy, large, and expensive church either. His church has always been humble—with no outward show. “During ages of spiritual darkness the church of God has been as a city set on a hill. From age to age, through successive generations, the pure doctrines of heaven have been unfolding within its borders. Enfeebled and defective as it may appear, the church is the one object upon which God bestows in a special sense His supreme regard. It is the theater of His grace, in which He delights to reveal His power to transform hearts.” –*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 12

He delights to quietly forgive the sins of the repentant sinner. “But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith He to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house. And he arose, and departed to his house.” Matthew 9:6–7. This verse shows the dual nature of the power of God. He has the ability to heal a sick man, and also to forgive sins. Although Catholic priests claim to be able to forgive people their sins they do not have the power to say to a paralyzed man, “rise, take up your bed and walk.” Their power is not genuine. It cannot change hearts; only God’s gentle power can.

What power do we have without Christ? Nothing. However, God has given each of us a will to use and He will not go against our will. He has respect unto us for our choices. God will not force you. Although if we use our power of will to make the wrong choices, He will not protect us from any consequences that would result. “The Spirit does not work in a manner and power beyond the human agent’s power of resistance.” –*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 4, p. 1159

“Thou hast also given me the shield of Thy salvation: and Thy right hand hath holden me up, and Thy gentleness hath made me great.” Psalm 18:35. It was the gentleness of God that made David great. This is how God works with man—very gently. And, may we learn from His meekness and gentleness in all our dealings with our fellow man. Praise be to God for His great love and care that He has for us because we certainly do not deserve it. May it melt our hearts and accomplish the change that God desires to see in us to prepare us to dwell in the heavenly mansions above. Amen.

Wendy Eaton

“Christian Phenomenon”



Will All Be Saved?

IMPORTANCE OF A MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS OR EXAMINATION, BEFORE TREATMENT



WHY DO YOU NEED A DIAGNOSIS BEFORE TREATMENT?

A medical diagnosis is very important; it is a complex medical step involving the patient's history, personal exams, and testing. In various cases, there are multiple diagnoses completed by varying doctors. This process helps to develop a comprehensive understanding of the patient's ailments, and right treatment.

This also applies to Christianity; we need to test our faith, to examine ourselves as to whether we are in the faith. "Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified." 2 Corinthians 13:5 NKJV

SELF-EXAMINATION

"There is a necessity for close self-examination, and to closely investigate in the light of God's word, Am I sound, or am I rotten, at heart? Am I renewed in Christ, or am I still carnal at heart, with an outside, new dress put on? Rein yourself up to the tribunal of God, and see as in the light of God if there is any secret sin, any iniquity, any idol you have not sacrificed. Pray, yes, pray as you have never prayed before, that you may not be deluded by Satan's devices; that you may not be given up

to a heedless, careless, and vain spirit, and attend religious duties to quiet your own conscience....." *—Messages to Young People, p. 83*

"Would all professed Christians use their investigative powers to see what evils needed to be corrected in themselves, instead of talking of others' wrongs, there would be a more healthy condition in the church today. Some will be honest when it costs nothing; but when policy will pay best, honesty is forgotten. Honesty and policy will not work together in the same mind. In time, either policy will be expelled, and truth and honesty reign supreme, or, if policy is cherished, honesty will be forgotten. They are never in agreement; they have nothing in common. One is the prophet of Baal, the other is the true prophet of God. When the Lord makes up His jewels, the true, the frank, the honest, will be looked upon with pleasure. Angels are employed in making crowns for such ones, and upon these star-gemmed crowns will be reflected, with splendor, the light which radiates from the throne of God.

"The Lord is testing and proving His people. You may be just as severe and critical with your own defective character as you please; but be kind, pitiful, and courteous toward others. Inquire every day: Am I sound to the core, or am I false-hearted? Entreat the Lord to save you from all deception on this point. Eternal interests are involved. While so many are panting after honor and greedy of gain, do you, my beloved brethren, be eagerly seeking the assurance of the love of God and crying: Who will show me how to make my calling and election sure?

"Satan carefully studies the constitutional sins of men, and then he begins his work of alluring and ensnaring them. We are in the thickest of temptations, but there is

victory for us if we fight manfully the battles of the Lord. All are in danger. But if you walk humbly and prayerfully you will come forth from the proving process more precious than fine gold, even than the golden wedge of Ophir. If careless and prayerless, you will be as sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal." *-Counsels for the Church*, p. 179

"Bitter Disappointment in the Day of God—The great mass of professing Christians will meet with bitter disappointment in the day of God. They have not upon their foreheads the seal of the living God. Lukewarm and halfhearted, they dishonor God far more than the avowed unbeliever. They grope in darkness, when they might be walking in the noonday light of the Word, under the guidance of One who never errs (Letter 121, 1903)." *-The Seventh-day Adventist Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 970

GOD IS PLEASED WITH HONEST CONVERTED PEOPLE

"And said, Verily I say unto you, except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3

"Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in My name receives Me. But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in Me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offenses come; but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh!" Matthew 18:4-7

"By 'little ones' Christ does not mean babies. Those to whom He refers are 'little ones which believe in Me'—those who have not gained an experience in following Him, those who need to be led like children, as it were, in seeking the things of the kingdom of heaven." *-Evangelism*, p. 341

"Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able." Luke 13:24. When we recognize God's goodness, even in our daily struggles and disappointments, then we can truly know God.

"The love and grace of God! Oh precious grace! more valuable than fine gold. It elevates and ennobles the spirit beyond all other



principles. It sets the heart and affections upon Heaven. While those around us may be engaged in worldly vanity, pleasure-seeking, and folly, the conversation is in heaven, whence we look for the Savior; the soul is reaching out after God for pardon and peace, for righteousness and true holiness. Converse with God and contemplation of things above transform the soul into the likeness of Christ." *-The Review and Herald*, May 11, 1886

"There is no such thing as a truly converted person living a helpless, useless life. It is not possible for us to drift into heaven. No sluggard can enter there. If we do not strive to gain an entrance into the kingdom, if we do not seek earnestly to learn what constitutes its laws, we are not fitted for a part in it. Those who refuse to cooperate with God on earth would not cooperate with Him in heaven. It would not be safe to take them to heaven." *-Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 280

SEEK GOD DAILY

"Walk in all humility of mind, distrustful of self, seeking wisdom from the God of wisdom, that all your ways and methods may be in firm and close connection with the ways and the will of God, that there may be no confusion." *-Evangelism*, p. 341

"We are not safe if we neglect to search the Scriptures daily for light and knowledge. Earthly blessings cannot be obtained without toil, and can we expect that spiritual and heavenly blessings will come without earnest effort on our part? The mines of truth are to be worked. Says the psalmist, 'The entrance of Thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple' (Psalm 19:130).



"The Word of God must not be kept apart from our life. It must be entertained in the mind, welcomed in the heart, and be cherished, loved, and obeyed. We need also much more knowledge; we need to be enlightened in regard to the plan of salvation. There is not one in one hundred who understands for himself the Bible truth on this subject that is so necessary to our present and eternal welfare." *-Selected Messages*, bk. 1, p. 359

NOT ONE IN TWENTY PREPARED

"It is a solemn statement that I make to the church, that not one in twenty whose names are registered upon the church books are prepared to close their earthly history, and would be as verily without God and without hope in the world as the common sinner. They are professedly serving God, but they are more earnestly serving

mammon. This half-and-half work is a constant denying of Christ, rather than a confessing of Christ.

“So many have brought into the church their own unsubdued spirit, unrefined; their spiritual taste is perverted by their own immoral, debasing corruptions, symbolizing the world in spirit, in heart, in purpose, confirming themselves in lustful practices, and are full of deception through and through in their professed Christian life. Living as sinners, claiming to be Christians! Those who claim to be Christians and will confess Christ should come out from among them and touch not the unclean thing, and be separate.” –*Christian Service*, p. 41

“There is not one in one hundred who understands for himself the Bible truth on this subject [justification by faith] that is so necessary to our present and eternal welfare.” –*Selected Messages*, bk. 1, p. 359

GOD IS ALWAYS WITH THE FAITHFUL PEOPLE

“The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saves such as be of a contrite spirit.” Psalm 34:18

“Real sorrow for sin is the result of the working of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit reveals the ingratitude of the heart that has slighted and grieved the Saviour, and brings us in contrition to the foot of the cross. By every sin Jesus is wounded afresh; and as we look upon Him whom we have pierced, we mourn for the sins that have brought anguish upon Him. Such mourning will lead to the renunciation of sin.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 300

“True character is not shaped from without, and put on; it radiates from within. If we wish to direct others in the path of righteousness, the principles of righteousness must be enshrined in our own hearts. Our profession of faith may proclaim the theory of religion, but it is our practical piety that holds forth the word of truth. The consistent life, the holy conversation, the unswerving integrity, the active, benevolent spirit, the godly example, these are the mediums through which light is conveyed to the world.” –*Ibid.*, p. 307

“For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.” [Matthew 5:20]. The righteousness here taught was conformity of the heart and life to the revealed will of God. Jesus taught that the law of God should regulate the thoughts and purposes of the mind. True godliness elevates the thoughts and actions; then the external forms of religion accord with the Christian’s internal purity; then those ceremonies required in the service of

God are not meaningless rites, like those of the hypocritical Pharisees.

“Many religious teachers of today are themselves breaking the commandments of God, and teaching others to do so. In place of those holy commandments, they boldly teach the customs and traditions of men, regardless of the direct testimony of Christ that such ones should be ‘least in the kingdom of Heaven.’ Jesus declared to the multitude assembled to hear Him, to the Pharisees, who sought to accuse Him of lightly regarding the law, and to the people of all time, that the precepts of Jehovah were immutable and eternal.” –*The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 2, p. 218

“We must never forget how hard it is to remove long-cherished errors from the minds of men, which have been taught from childhood. We must bear in mind that earth is not heaven, and that there will be discouragements to meet and to overcome, but forbearance and tenderness and pity should be exercised toward all who are in darkness. If we bring them to see the light, it will not be solely by arguments, it must be by the work of the grace of Christ on your own hearts, revealed in your own characters with firmness, yet with the meekness and simplicity of Christ. Through much prayer you must labor for souls, for this is the only method by which you can reach hearts. It is not your work, but the work of Christ who is by your side, that impresses hearts.” –*Evangelism*, p. 341

LET US BE CAREFUL, THE DAY OF FINAL JUDGMENT IS COMING

“You are inclined to exalt yourself, to cherish a spirit of censoriousness. You show contempt for those who are chosen of God and precious, because they differ with you in some things. It is in the order of God that in some things they should differ with you. But because they do not agree with you in all your plans, you sometimes feel that you want nothing to do with them. Do you realize the danger of despising Christ in the person of His saints? God is light, and when He gives instruction to human beings that does not please them, shall they regard with scorn and contempt the messenger who, as a faithful steward, has had courage to speak to them the truth? Will you, my brother, become the enemy of the Lord’s messenger, and say many things that are untrue of the one who has told you the truth? . . .

“I tell you the truth; I lie not. You need a renewed heart. Pray that your eyes may be anointed with the heavenly



eyesalve, that you may discern the true character of your religions faith and experience. Have you that faith which works by love and purifies the soul? Are you striving to reach the standard that God has set before you? If you choose, you can make the Word of God of no effect to many souls, leading them away from the safe path. But I want you to stand on vantage ground before God. I want you to sit at the wedding feast, clad in the wedding garment,—the righteousness of Christ.”
—*Battle Creek Letters*, p. 69

“Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.” Philippians 2:12

“Many will not receive the seal of God because they do not keep His commandments or bear the fruits of righteousness.” —*Maranatha*, p. 241. “While the seal of the living God will be placed upon those only who bear a likeness to Christ in character.” —
The Review and Herald, May 21, 1895

“Let us strive with all the power that God has given us to be among the hundred and forty-four thousand. And let us do all that we can to help others to gain heaven.” —
The Review and Herald, March 9, 1905

“Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” Matthew 7:14. Amen.

Daniel Kimeu



The True Source of Happiness

“We are to strive earnestly to reach the standard set before us. Not as a penance are we to do this, but as the only means of gaining true happiness. The only way to gain peace and joy is to have a living connection with Him who gave His life for us, who died that we might live, and who lives to unite His power with the efforts of those who in this life are striving to overcome.

“Holiness is constant agreement with God. Shall we not be that which Christ so greatly desires us to be,—Christians in deed and in truth,—that the world may see in our lives a revelation of the saving power of truth? This world is our preparatory school, and while here we shall meet with trials and difficulties. But we are safe while we cleave to Christ. The whole world was gathered in His embrace. He died on the cross to give the death-stroke to Satan, and to take away the sin of every believing soul. He calls upon us to offer ourselves on the altar of service, a living, consuming sacrifice. We are to make an unreserved consecration to God of all that we have and are.

“In the lower school of earth we are to learn the lessons that will prepare us to enter the higher school, where our education will continue under the personal instruction of Christ. Then He will open to us the meaning of His word. We can not afford to miss the privilege of seeing His face and of hearing the gospel from His lips. Shall we not put our whole souls into the work of preparing for admission into the higher school, where we shall see Christ face to face? Shall we not be determined to obey the word of God? Or shall we choose our own wisdom, and trifle away the day of gracious opportunity, wasting the years and months so rapidly passing into eternity?” —*The Southern Watchman*, June 11, 1903





The Prayer of my Heart

Lord Jesus, take my heart into Thine hands;
Sweep away the woeful flood,
Of my sins with Thine shed blood,
Fill it with Thy tender love and sweetness,
Compassion, faith, humility, peace and meekness,
Hold it close to Thine own heart,
Thy precious righteousness unto me impart.
Make Thy will to be my own,
Willing to surrender, not to frown,
Immerse it in Thy sea of grace
To do Your will, not mine with pace,
To joyfully obey Thy word,
To honour Thee, my God and LORD.
Let mine eyes to see Thy truth,
And not behold vain things uncouth;
Draw them to Thy holy word,
Enrich me with its jewels of eternal worth.
Let my mind esteem Thy holy law,
Ever treasure it with solemn awe;
Imprint it deep within me,
And live by it to worship Thee.
Take my hands to toil with love
With that agape from above,
Whatever duty lies before me,
Big or small, or high or low,
Always willingly to do and see.
Make my lips speak goodly words,
Never anything that wounds or hurts;

To comfort, soothing grief and lifting up,
With words of truth like some sweet sap
Dropping down like dew
To refresh the one to whom it's due.
Take my life, do as You will,
Make me yield and holding still,

That Thou may mold it to Your likeness,
For I hunger after Thine own righteousness.
Come into my heart, abide with me,
Make me worthy with my trust in Thee,
Cast out earthliness, all vanity,
Let not Thy blood be shed in vain for me.
Draw me closer to Thy great heart,
More love and Spirit, faith impart,
And still the thirst of my poor soul,
For Thou - the living fountain makes us sinners whole.
Touch my soul with Thine own Spirit,
Sanctify it through Thy word,
Let brightly shine Thy light through me forth,
That others seeing Jesus living in my heart,
And through me Jesus touching other lives and hearts.
Grant me to stand not emptyhanded at Thy throne,
Bring with me some soul(s) to receive the crown
Of victory among Thy ransomed throng,
Having overcome all sins and evil strong.
May this prayer also be for all who desire,
to prepare to see Jesus at His second coming! Amen.

Edda Tedford, Canada





There is a wonderful prayer presented by Moses in Psalm 90. "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." Psalm 90:12. Do we receive a heart of wisdom, only after numbering aright our days? What about applying this verse to our money? Then the prayer becomes "teach us to handle money aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom in its management."

I encourage you to take a moment to think about what your thoughts are regarding your money. What is your reaction to how others (family and friends) manage their money? How powerful or overwhelmed do you feel in regards to money? What are some wise principles in money handling and money management?

POWER OF MONEY

If money is not an issue, what is the first thing that you would buy, and why? What is the most expensive thing you have ever bought? How long did you save up for it?

How much money does one need to have in order to be happy? The millionaire may answer you, "just something a little more than what I possess now." Like the French proverb saying "plus on a, plus on veut avoir" which means, as much as someone has, he wishes more. The human heart is never satisfied.

Every person, whether man or woman, old or young, believer or unbeliever, rich or poor, has to deal with money. We cannot live in this world without money. Even the Bible talks about money and possessions in more than 2,000 verses. Money can dominate much of our daily conversation as it affects a very large part of our lives. We spend a great deal of time worrying about, and thinking about, money. Most of one's daily life is spent in employment to earn money.

Money has the power to lead us away from God,

whether we have it or not. Riches tempt us toward self-sufficiency and practical atheism. Poverty tempts us toward anxiety and sinful forms of self-preservation. Neither extreme is desirable. "Give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: Lest I be full, and deny Thee and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor and steal and take the name of my God in vain." Proverbs 30:8-9. Therefore, wisdom is needed.

Money is good and helpful, but it can also harm us. "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil." 1 Timothy 6:9-10. This is why we need wisdom in the management of our money. "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Matthew 16-26. It is a terrible mistake to think that we can sustain ourselves on our own by our money or the consumption of it.

WISDOM FROM ABOVE

In the Bible you will find 500 passages on faith, 500 on prayer, but 2350 passages on money. There are twice as many references on wealth and prosperity than there are of faith and prayer combined. About 15% of what Jesus spoke about was related to money. Money is an important subject in the Bible because it is a window into the heart. How we handle money exposes the values and priorities of our hearts and a right approach to it indicates we have a strong relationship with Jesus. With God at the centre of our lives, the temptation into which money can draw us, with its worries and conflicts, are diminished. Read: Matthew 5:14-16. We will now look at the warnings the Word of God gives us concerning money.

The only source of wisdom is from heaven. "If any of

you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." James 1:5

Wisdom is promised to all those who seek for it from the Heavenly Father, through His word. Firstly, we need wisdom to know what money is and then, how to use it.

Money provides influence and power to make things happen, and gives us a sense of value and importance. In many ways, money allows us to experience good things in life. On the other hand, when people lose their businesses or jobs, they can be devastated and feel as if they have been abandoned by God and the community. Because of the advantages money provides, we are tempted to look to money for our security, sense of value, and happiness. Unless we remain vigilant, the love of money may distract us from worshiping God as the source and provider of all of life. Our habit of trusting money to provide for us can keep us from putting our hope and trust in God. For many, by experience, it seems that if they have money, they do not need God.

Money is good, but we need to be vigilant and wise with it, otherwise, there will be ongoing tension between our need for money and the temptation to worship it. We need money to provide the goods and services in our lives. Although money can appear to be the source of good things, we do not want to worship it. We want to worship God, the Creator and Source of all life.

We must acknowledge that our money and possessions actually belong to God; and without Him, we would have nothing. "Whatsoever is under the whole heaven is Mine." Job 4:11. "Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour, this is the gift of God." Ecclesiastes 5:19

God is the sole proprietor of everything we have (clothes, house, car, our children, computer, our investments and everything imaginable). See 1 Chronicles 29:11–12; Psalm 24:1. Since He owns everything, we can never really acquire anything new, because it is already His. Not only the ownership is His, but God also controls everything. Daniel 2:20–21; Isaiah 46:9–10. Jehovah jireh—the Lord who provides (Genesis 22:14).

You and I are just stewards and managers. A steward is one who manages the resources of another. Each one of us is a manager, not an owner. God is the owner and we are to manage according to His plan. Our challenge is to manage the resources He put in our care in a society where all the pressures are to conform to the world. "A person who is put in charge as a manager must be faithful." (1 Corinthians 4:1–2 NLT). When he looks at all the riches around him, the steward must remember that this wealth belongs, not to him personally, but to his Master, and must be used in a way that will please and profit Him.

Dear reader, I encourage you to be a wise steward of the money and resources God has allowed you to possess. Teach your children also to acknowledge and be thankful to God for all that they possess.

We are warned in this quotation: "Believing parents have frequently transferred their property to their unbelieving children, thus putting it out of their power to render to God the things that are His. By so doing they lay off that responsibility which God has laid upon them, and place in the enemy's ranks means which God

has entrusted to them to be returned to Him by being invested in His cause when He shall require it of them. It is not in God's order that parents who are capable of managing their own business should give up the control of their property, even to children who are of the same faith." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 529

We need to be vigilant and wise about it... Money can also harm us. "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil." 1 Timothy 6:9–10

WISE USE OF MONEY

Some people talk about good luck while the Bible speaks about God's blessings. Material prosperity does, in fact, require effort on the part of man. A businessman, to make a profit, has to invest his money well. A farmer, to have a good harvest, has to sow and properly manage his crops. If we are administrators, we have to manage to the best of our ability, especially if we work for someone else. Many people would feel honored, and would consider it a privilege if they were asked to invest in a prosperous commercial enterprise. That is exactly what God invites us to do. He asks us to be His partners in the greatest enterprise of all: helping the world to escape condemnation and prepare for His coming Kingdom of glory. But we may ask, how can I make an investment when I am not a merchant? How can I sow if I am not a farmer, make finan-

cial deals when I am not an accountant or find a partner who can help me make a profit when I have no capital? God, in the Bible, reveals to us the plan through which we can prosper:

“Lay up not for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where you treasure is there will your heart be also.” Matthew 6:19-21

“He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity. When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good is there to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of them with their eyes? The sleep of a labouring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep.” Ecclesiastes 5:10-12

Having money is not itself a sin. It is the love of money that is the root of all evil. Money can be a good servant, but is always a bad master. How we handle money affects our relationship with Jesus, and hence it affects the quality of our spiritual life. Think, for example, of the lazy servant in the parable of the talents. He mishandled money by burying it and therefore the relation with his master was broken, and he was cast outside, into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 25:30).

For many, money and possessions are major competitors with Jesus for the ruler of their lives. However, the truth is that, “No man can serve two masters: For either he will hate the one, and love the other; or he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon [money].” Mathew 6:24. Jesus clearly states that it is impossible for anyone to serve two masters. Interestingly, He does not even bring the devil into this statement, but rather declares the two masters to be God and money.

All the promises that God made regarding our finances are predicated on the principle that we relinquish ownership to Him. If we refuse to do this, as a consequence, our lives will be characterized by constant turmoil and anxiety as we struggle to understand and manage the complexities of our finances. “He who seeks to quench his thirst at the fountains of this world will drink only to

thirst again. Everywhere men are unsatisfied.” *–The Desire of Ages*, p. 187

A SOLEMN WARNING

“Satan told his angels that the churches were asleep. He would increase his power and lying wonders, and he could hold them. ‘But,’ he said, ‘the sect of Sabbathkeepers we hate; they are continually working against us, and taking from us our subjects, to keep the hated law of God. Go, make the possessors of lands and money drunk with cares. If you can make them place their affections upon these things, we shall have them yet. They may profess what they please, only make them care more for money than for the success of Christ’s kingdom or the spread of the truths we hate. Present the world before them in the most attractive light, that they may love and idolize it.

“We must keep in our ranks all the means of which we can gain control. The more means the followers of

Christ devote to His service, the more will they injure our kingdom by getting our subjects. . . . Control the money matters if you can, and drive their ministers to want and distress. This will weaken their courage and zeal. Battle every inch of ground. Make covetousness and love of earthly treasures the ruling traits

of their character. As long as these traits rule, salvation and grace stand back. Crowd every attraction around them, and they will be surely ours. And not only are we sure of them, but their hateful influence will not be exercised to lead others to heaven. When any shall attempt to give, put within them a grudging disposition, that it may be sparingly.” *–Early Writings*, p. 266-267

Money is the greatest tool that the devil uses to draw people away from God, and Jesus knew this. We choose which master we will serve. The choice we make determines our value system which, in turn, determines our behaviour. When we choose to serve God our value system is driven by His commandments. When we see money as more important than God and people, we effectively have chosen money as our master. What we do in regards to money should be determined by God’s word. The devil will always try and take our love away from God and others by focusing on mammon (the spirit of money) which is why the Apostle Paul said it is the root of all evil. (1 Timothy 6:10).

The important question that we all need to honestly answer is, “Which master am I truly serving?” Our love

Money may lead us away from God. The Devil understood this well when he tempted Christ with earthly wealth and power.

should only flow towards God and people. Serving the master of money results in behaviour that is driven by the values of materialism, greed, self-ambition, cheating, stealing, lying, corruption, extortion, bribery, etc. These people would do anything to acquire money and material possessions at the expense of other people and obedience to God. Serving God brings out financial behaviour that is consistent with what the Bible teaches us: generosity, self-control, honest and just business practices, wisdom in how we use our money, etc.

OVERLOOKED ACCOUNTABILITY

“We should regard ourselves as stewards of the Lord’s property and God as the supreme proprietor, to whom we are to render His Own when He shall require it.” – *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 480–481

“God calls us servants, which implies that we are employed by Him to do a certain work and bear certain responsibilities. He has lent us capital for investment. It is not *our* property, and we displease God if we hoard up our Lord’s goods or spend them as we please. . .

“Every talent which returns to the Master will be scrutinized. The doings and trusts of God’s servants will not be considered an unimportant matter. Every individual will be dealt with personally and will be required to give an account of the talents entrusted to him, whether he has improved or abused them. The reward bestowed will be proportionate to the improvement of the talents. The punishment awarded will be according as the talents have been abused. . . . The talents are in our hands. Shall we use them to God’s glory, or shall we abuse them? We may trade with them today, but tomorrow our probation may end and our account be forever.” – *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 668

“The end is fast approaching and many in our churches are asleep. Let all now make it their chief business to serve the Lord. The Lord has entrusted to His people the talent of means, some more and some less than others. With many the possession of wealth has proved a snare. In their desire to follow the fashions of the world, they have lost their zeal for the truth, and they are in peril of losing eternal life. In proportion as God has prospered them, men should return to Him of the goods He has entrusted to their stewardship.” – *This Day With God*, p. 349

“God also entrusts men with means. He gives them

power to get wealth. He waters the earth with the dews of heaven and with the showers of refreshing rain. . . . Our money has not been given us that we might honor and glorify ourselves. As faithful stewards we are to use it for the honor and glory of God. Some think that only a portion of their means is the Lord’s. . . . All we possess is the Lord’s, and we are accountable to Him for the use we make of it. In the use of every penny, it will be seen whether we love God supremely and our neighbor as ourselves. Money has great value, because it can do great good. . . . He who realizes that his money is a talent from God will use it economically, and will feel it a duty to save that he may give. The more means we expend in display and self-indulgence, the less we can have to feed the hungry and clothe the naked. Every penny used unnecessarily deprives the spender of a precious opportunity of doing good. It is robbing God of the honor and glory which should flow back to Him through the improvement of His entrusted talents.” – *Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 351–352

Earthly money and treasures are truly perishable. They don’t satisfy and don’t last. When a millionaire dies, he is no longer a millionaire!

Let us decide to put God at the centre of our lives and not money, adopting the right attitude to our possessions. We should donate in a cheerful attitude. Our approach to money should inspire others to know Jesus.

“Some close their ears to the calls made for money to be used in sending

missionaries to foreign countries and in publishing the truth and scattering it like autumn leaves all over the world. Such excuse their covetousness by informing you that they have made arrangements to be charitable at death. They have considered the cause of God in their wills. Therefore they live a life of avarice, robbing God in tithes and in offerings, and in their wills return to God but a small portion of that which He has lent them, while a very large proportion is appropriated to relatives who have no interest in the truth.” – *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 479–480

Was there a time in your life that you chose material possessions over the commandments of God? Do you find it hard to extend generosity to other people? What do you



think are the things that hinder you from being generous to others? In your own way, how can you be a channel of God's blessings to other people?

Every decision we make on the issues of earning, spending, borrowing, saving, and giving will show which master we are serving. Our personal salvation is involved in the question of money.

"Money is a trust from God. It is not ours to expend for the gratification of pride or ambition." –*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 287

"When labor is to be done, when our money is wanted to aid the work of the Redeemer in the salvation of souls, we shrink from duty and pray to be excused." –*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 21

"We are to make investments in heavenly interests, and always work with heaven in view, laying our treasure up in the bank of heaven." –*The Signs of the Times*, April 4, 1895

Earthly money and treasures are truly perishable. They do not satisfy and do not last. When a millionaire dies, he is no longer a millionaire.

"And He said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. And He spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." Luke 12:15–21

Jesus equated our attitude towards money with the genuineness of our relationship to God. If we fully understand this, we will likely avoid the idolatry of materialism. Whatever we elevate to the status of treasure will also be the centre of our lives, excluding God. They lead us away from God. The Devil understood this well when he tempted Christ with earthly wealth and power.

Materialism leads to a blinding of our spiritual eyesight. "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." Revelation 3:17–18

Take heed that you do not "spend money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which satisfieth not." Isaiah 55:2. We are living in the end-times when money is a major competitor with God. "2For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3unloving, 4unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God." 2 Timothy 3:2–4 NKJV

Our failure to view our present lives in light of eternity is one of the biggest hindrances in our Christian life. Yet, Scripture states that the reality of our eternal future should determine the character of our present lives and the use of our money and possessions.

People who do not know the Lord look at life as a brief interval that begins at birth and ends at death. With no eternal perspective, they think, "If this life is all there is, why deny myself any pleasure or possession?" But, those who know Christ have an entirely different perspective. We know that life is short, but it is the testing period that will determine much of our experience in heaven. "The days of our years are threescore and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years . . . for it is soon cut off, and we fly away. . . . So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." Psalm 90:10, 12

The topic of money management helps us to acknowledge God as the source of everything, and that we are managing our possessions for God.

May the Lord help us to obtain wisdom: spend as much time seeking wisdom as you do dealing with your wealth. Wisdom is worth more than rubies, worth more than gold (Proverbs 8:10–11; 3:13–16). Amen.

Victor Shumbusho – D R Congo

The reality of our eternal future should determine the character of our present lives and the use of our money and possessions. People who do not know the Lord look at life as a brief interval that begins at birth and ends at death.

Grains: Part 3

Oats and Wild Rice

We are continuing to look at grains in this series of articles. By now, you have a lot of knowledge about the different grains available to you, and perhaps you have even decided to try a grain in your diet that you have never tried before. In this month's article about grains, we will look at oats, a very well-known grain and wild rice, a grain that is not as well known. Both grains are only available in their whole grain form, thus there is no guess-work as to whether you are purchasing a whole grain. Like all grains, they are high in many healthy nutrients such as fibre and protein, vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants.

OATS

Oats are a whole grain cereal with its origins in Asia; it began to be grown as a crop around the time of Christ. Prior to that, it was mainly used medicinally. There is no reference to oats in the Bible. When the early settlers arrived in North America in the 1600s, oats were introduced to the continent from Europe. They became a major crop in the 1920s. Oats are now grown in many countries, but is most popular in North America and Europe.



There are 13 species of oats, with multiple varieties within each species. Common oats are the most important of the cultivated oats. In 1955, there were 146 varieties of the common oat, with many new varieties produced since that time. Oats are cultivated in the cool, temperate regions of the world, and are only second to rye in their ability to grow in poor soil at these climates as long as they have sufficient moisture. Red oats, an-

other species of oat, can tolerate warmer temperatures. Oat plants are relatively free from disease and pests. Oats are used as a cover crop, which means it helps prevent nutrients from leaving the soil. If it is planted in the fall, the oat crop will provide nutrients for the soil for the spring crops. When oats are harvested, straw remains in the field. This straw can be used for bedding for animals. Oats were most frequently grown for livestock feed, and are suitable for feeding both sheep and horses because of their high fat content. Now soybeans have replaced much of the livestock oat crops. However, oats are becoming popular as a food for human consumption since the 1980s, when it was determined to be a healthy food choice. Oats are promoted mostly as a breakfast food and for oat flour. More recently, oat milk is becoming very popular.

Once the outer husk is removed from an oat grain kernel, it is known as a groat. When purchasing oats for use in cooking or baking, the products available are groats, steel-cut oats, rolled oats or instant oats. What are the differences between the four types of oats—is any one more nutritious than the others? All oat products are whole grain oats; the difference is in the level of processing. Groats are the unprocessed whole grain oat. Steel-cut oats are produced by chopping the groat into smaller pieces. Rolled oats are created by first steaming the oat grain to make it softer, and then flattening the grain. Instant oats, which are used to create instant oatmeal, is further processed. The oat grain is pre-cooked, dried, and then rolled and pressed; this creates a thinner flake than rolled oats.

Each of the types of oats contain the same nutrition be-



cause they are all made from whole oat groats. The only differences between the various types of oats are in the texture and the cooking times. Groats will take the

longest time to prepare, and must be soaked or simmered for at least an hour to soften them before eating. Steel-cut oats have a chewy texture and maintain the shape of the grain even after being cooked. Rolled oats cook faster, absorb more liquid, yet still hold their shape during cooking, but contains less texture. Instant oats cook the fastest, however they do not retain their texture and become mushy after cooking. Rolled oats can also be part of muesli, bread, granola and other baked goods. Thus, eating oats always guarantees that you are obtaining the full nutrition of a whole grain. Because oat flour is gluten-free, it cannot be used as a substitute for breads that require slow rising; however, oats are often added to multigrain breads, or oat flour is mixed with wheat flour in making bread. Oat flour alone can be used in flatbreads and other baked goods. However, the lack of gluten makes oats attractive to those who have celiac disease or gluten intolerances, because of its high fibre and mineral content. Because oats are very thin skinned, they are prone to becoming rancid easily; ensure that they are stored properly in airtight containers to prevent rancidity, especially the less-processed types.

Oats are high in carbohydrates, contain more protein than other grains at 17%, and has 7.5% fat. The main protein in oats (80%) is known as avenalin, which other grains do not contain. It is more similar to the protein found in legumes. Oats are rich in vitamins and minerals. They enhance many of the functions of the body such as growth, development, and metabolism; bone and tissue health; and, transport of oxygen. Oats are a good source of fibre, especially beta glucan, a soluble type of fibre which helps to reduce heart disease risk and to lower the levels of bad cholesterol by slowing down the absorption of fats and cholesterol from other foods that you eat. These fibres also provide a feeling of fullness, which helps to suppress appetite, thus helping to prevent obesity and diabetes type 2. In a research study, people with type 2 diabetes and severe insulin resistance were given daily oatmeal for 4 weeks. The participants were able to reduce their insulin dose by 40% after the 4-week period was up. Other studies indicate that oats can boost your immune system, improving your ability to fight bacteria, viruses, fungi, and par-

asites.

Unique to whole oats is a group of antioxidants known as avenanthramides, which protect against heart disease by reducing inflammation in the arteries, and reduce the risk of colon cancer. The nutrition in 100 g (half cup) of raw oats is: 389 calories; 17 g protein; 66 g carbohydrates (85% starch); 10 g fibre; 7 g fat; Vitamin B1 51% DV (Daily Value); folate 14% DV; Vitamin B3 5% DV; calcium 5% DV; iron 25% DV; magnesium 44% DV; phosphorus 52% DV; potassium 12% DV; zinc 26% DV; copper 31% DV; selenium 12% DV; manganese 246% DV. Oats are very low in sugar and sodium. Most of the starches in oats are different from other grains; they are the slowly digested starch and the resistant starch, which protect from elevated blood sugars and improve gut health. They are also higher in fat, and are more viscous, allowing oats to bind with water readily. Oats are a good source of copper, which is often lacking in the North American diet.

Oats are one of the healthiest grains and are a good source of many vitamins, minerals, and unique antioxidants.

WILD RICE

Wild rice consists of four different varieties, and is part of the grass family; it grows naturally in marshes, small lakes and flowing streams in North America and China. The grain of the plant is brown or black in colour, with a shape similar to rice. However, it has a nutty, earthy flavour, with a thicker, more rigid husk. Although its name may indicate that this grain is a "rice", it is not actually related to rice at all. Its name comes from the fact that it looks similar to rice and can be cooked similarly. Wild rice is an annual plant, up to 3 m tall; the next year's plants grow from the seeds that fall from the plant into the river or lake bottom.

The Indigenous people of North America have harvested wild rice for more than 1,000 years, from its natural environment. The early European explorers in North America relied on wild rice as a staple food to sustain them in the winter months. Wild rice is harvested in the months of August and September. Because it is an aquatic plant, it needs to be harvested from the water. Most of the plant grows under the water, with just the top of the plant containing the grain growing above the water. Harvesters go out in canoes into the water, bending the stem of the plant so that the grain is positioned over the canoe; then the grain is loosened from the plant by gently knocking the stem of the plant to allow the grain to fall into the bottom of the canoe.

In the 20th century, wild rice began to increase in popularity among North Americans, both because of its taste and its nutritional content. Commercial cultivation of wild rice began to supply the increasing demand. However, it was not grown as a crop until the 1950s. Wild rice crops were planted similarly to rice, in flooded paddies. Since that time, wild rice has been grown as a domestic crop in the United States. Although not native in other parts of the world, wild rice is grown domestically in Hungary and Australia. In China, typically the stem is eaten as a vegetable instead of harvesting the grain of the plant. In Canada, wild rice is most commonly harvested from its natural state, from bodies of water.

Wild rice is high in protein compared to other grains per 100 calories, second only to oats, and is considered a complete protein, as it contains all nine of the essential amino acids. It is low in fat and does not contain any gluten, which makes it a great option for those who are gluten-intolerant. A half-cup (100-gram) serving of cooked wild rice provides: 101 calories; 21 g carbohydrates; 4 g protein; 2 g fibre; Vitamin B3 9%; Vitamin B6 10% DV; folate 6% DV; magnesium 8% DV; phosphorus 12% DV; zinc 14% DV; copper 6% DV; manganese 14% DV. Wild rice also contains small amounts of iron, potassium, and selenium. Because of its low calorie and high nutrient content, it is considered a nutrition-dense food.

Wild rice products are always whole grain. Because of this, wild rice has beneficial effects on heart health by reducing plaque build-up on the arteries, reducing blood pressure and lowering LDL (bad) cholesterol. The glycemic index of wild rice is similar to oats and brown rice in preventing spikes in blood sugar. Because of its dark colour, wild rice is high in antioxidants, 30 times as high than in white rice. It contains the powerful flavonoid antioxidant, apigenin, which has been shown to reduce overall inflammation in the body, providing



strong anti-cancer properties. It also functions as an antiviral, antibacterial and helps prevent free radical damage.

Wild rice can be used in the place of other carbohydrates, such as pasta, potatoes, or rice. It is a good source of whole grain to add to your diet. When using wild rice, it can be soaked overnight to soften it. Wild rice can be prepared like white or brown rice, but requires 30–45 minutes to cook. Add three cups of water to every cup of dried rice. One cup of dried wild rice will produce three cups cooked. It has a nice chewy texture. Recipes using wild rice include casseroles, stews, soups, veggie burgers, salads, and meatballs. Wild rice can also be popped on the stove like popcorn, and be eaten as a snack.

If dry wild rice is kept in an airtight container in a dark, cool spot like a pantry or cupboard, it can stay fresh for years. Cooked wild rice can stay in the refrigerator for up to a week, or in the freezer in an airtight container for up to six months.

Wild rice products are available either as cultivated or wild-grown. Because it grows naturally, wild-grown wild rice is free of pesticides, artificial flavours and additives. Wild-grown wild rice is either light to dark brown. It has a milder, more subtle flavour than cultivated wild-rice, and is softer when cooked. It can also be expensive since it does not grow on large-scale commercial farms. Cultivated wild rice is a deeper darker brown. It is tougher and takes longer to cook. Often packaged wild rice may be multi-coloured, which indicates that it contains a blend of the four species of wild rice.

Wild rice is a good carbohydrate option because it is a whole grain. Because of its rice-like qualities, it can be used in cooking as a healthier alternative to rice.

Grain crops are grown as food for humankind worldwide. Depending on where in the world you live, certain grains may be more readily available than others. As long as you choose whole grains, you will be adding a nutritious, wholesome food to your plant-based diet.

“If we plan wisely, that which is most conducive to health can be secured in almost every land. The various preparations of rice, wheat, corn, and oats are sent abroad everywhere, also beans, peas, and lentils. These, with native or imported fruits, and the variety of vegetables that grow in each locality, give an opportunity to select a dietary that is complete without the use of flesh meats.” —*Counsels for the Church*, p. 222

NEXT MONTH: GRAINS: FOCUS ON WHEAT



Do Unto Others As You Would Have Them Do Unto You.

Brenda attended a prestigious girls Christian boarding school. Many young girls who came from influential backgrounds also attended, hoping to get an education that would provide them a good profession or an entrance into college when they graduated. At this school, Christianity was taught in every subject, with the intention of helping the girls to develop a true relationship with Christ and serve Him in whatever career they chose.

Brenda was intelligent and always very well dressed. She was very talented and outgoing and had great leadership skills. The other girls looked up to her and respected her. Although it was a Christian school, and all the girls had been raised in Christian families, nobody is perfect and the girls still had a fallen human nature to deal with. Brenda was not exempt. Her influence over the others led her to pride. Unfortunately, as often happens with children and teenagers, they are influenced by their peers into doing things they normally would not do if left on their own.

One day as the girls were having lunch, Brenda burst into the lunch room laughing. "Why are you laughing so hard? Please tell us so we can laugh also." Nancy asked.

"Well," began Brenda. "We have a new student. And she is the strangest looking person you ever saw. I happened to walk by the principal's office when she walked in. She had an old worn out suitcase and she came into the office and paid in cash for the year's study."

"What is so strange about that?" asked Mary.

Brenda continued, "Oh she has bright red hair tucked into a black net that looked frightful in every way. She was wearing a plain brown dress with no ruffles or trimmings and she had on the shabbiest looking hat and shawl on. You would laugh also if you saw her."

Some of the other girls smiled, but secretly Mary was not comfortable with what Brenda had just said, but she remained silent as she did not want to be singled out and laughed at either.

Brenda was an only child and very spoiled. She had the best clothing and her father gave her plenty of spending money and she liked to be generous with her fellow students so she was the acknowledged leader among them.

After lunch, when the afternoon classes began, their teacher, Miss Clark, introduced Faith, their new student. "Faith did look odd," thought Nancy, "just as Brenda had said." She had a thin freckled face and her hair was brushed straight back and hidden as much as possible under the large black net. She was shy and awkward and seemed uncomfortable among so many strangers.

When the class was over, Faith quickly went back to her room and spent the evening by herself, settling herself in and studying her lessons.

As the days and weeks went by, Faith was seen to be an excellent student. To everyone's surprise, she excelled in nearly every class. This did not bring the respect of her fellow students, as it should have. Instead they began to feel jealous. How could this homely, poor, girl be so smart? Brenda had been the top student and was not happy to see someone exceeding her, so she began to do little things to annoy Faith, when no adult was looking. Her fellow-students noticed and also joined in with Brenda, not wanting to be singled out. Mary went along, although her conscience again was troubling her. Although she did not participate in the annoyances, she did not speak out against it. She remained silent. Her silence did not ease her conscience, though, and by her silence, she was considered equally guilty.

Faith was made miserable by these annoyances, but she said nothing. She seemed to just ignore it and not let it

bother her.

As time went on, with her lessons always perfectly done, Faith made no complaint about the slights and sneers from the other girls. She just kept out of their way as much as possible. Her face, however, grew paler and there were dark rings around her eyes. All this rejection from her fellow students was wearing away her young life. She quietly prayed every night for strength to endure the torment. She prayed for each of the girls also.

One day as Faith was returning to her room in the evening, Brenda and her friends came and surrounded her. They clasped their hands and would not let her go. For a moment Faith begged them piteously to let her go, but they only laughed the more and began dancing around her singing some cruel and insulting words. Only Mary's heart was not merry as the rest. Mary could take it no longer, she then had the courage to stop, she released her hand from the girl beside her and motioned for Faith to exit. Mary took Faith by the hand and led her safely to her room. She gave Faith a hug before bidding her good night. Brenda and the girls were aghast. Mary had clearly betrayed them. How could she? But Mary's heart could not bear to see Faith suffer so.

From Faith's room, they suddenly heard a moan and then a heavy fall.

"I think she fainted," wailed Brenda.

"What shall we do?" screamed Nancy. "Her room door is locked."

Mary ran for Miss Clark, telling her that Faith had fainted in her room. Quickly they got the security guard who had a key to every room and they went to open her door. The girls were huddled together in a frightened group, while Miss Clark lifted poor Faith and placed her in the bed. She was in violent spasms.

The doctor was called, and after examining her, he stated she had a serious case of brain fever. It is impossible to describe the shame and remorse the girls felt. Mary wished she had spoken up sooner and helped Faith, instead of remaining silent. None of the girls were brave enough to confess.

Through all her suffering, Faith said nothing of the treatment of the other girls.

No one knew if she had any friends or relatives who they should contact. Miss Clark alone tended to her every day. For many weeks her life was just held by a thread. Day and night, the girls all prayed for Faith,

privately confessing their sins to God. But God had a purpose for her life, and slowly she began to improve.

One day, Miss Clark asked her about her family. Faith answered her by saying she had no family. Only one cousin who had a big family and could not financially care for her. Her own mother had died at her birth. Her father died when she was five, and she had been on her own since. For ten years, she had been managing on her own.

"How did you earn your money to attend this school then, and how did you have time to attend primary school?" asked Miss Clark.

"Oh, as soon as I was big enough, I went to work in a factory, and I studied in the evenings on my own. I want to be a teacher. I prayed much, and God took care of me and helped me to work and study. When the school year is over, I will go back and work in the factory over the summer to earn money for the next semester."

That evening, during evening worship, Miss Clark told everyone Faith's story. There was not a dry eye in the room. The girls felt terribly remorseful.

"Oh, Miss Clark," blurted out Brenda, "We have been awfully cruel to Faith. We made fun of her from the beginning and she would not be sick if we had not tormented her nearly to death. I was most to blame. It was I that led on the rest, and we have suffered terribly all these weeks fearing she may die. Mary tried to tell us to be kind. She said we should treat Faith as one of Jesus' children, but I ignored Mary. You may expel me, or punish me in any way, for surely I deserve it. I have prayed to Jesus for forgiveness, but I want to go and ask forgiveness from Faith, as soon as you let me go see her."

"My child, I am shocked to hear this. I can scarcely believe that any of my students would treat another young student like this just because they are so unfortunate to be plain and poor. But you made a noble confession and I forgive you as I am sure Faith also will when she knows you are truly repentant.

Soon Faith was strong enough to leave her bedroom and the girls had planned a surprise for her. Supported by Miss Clark, Faith slowly made her way to the hall and into the sitting room. When she opened the door, all the girls were there with smiling faces and sweet songs of welcome. Faith sat down on the big lounge chair surrounded by the girls.

“You have taught us an important lesson we shall never forget,” Brenda said. “Although we treated you badly, you never complained. And you are so willing to accept our sincere repentance which we do not deserve. You showed us the love of Jesus, and we too want to learn that love.”

One by one the girls then came and gave to Faith from their own clothing, their very best. Tears were streaming down Faith’s face. She did not know what to reply. She just thanked God in her heart.

That evening, as Faith was going to bed, she saw an envelope on her bed. She opened the letter and it read, “Dear Child: This is a receipt in full for all your tuition and all expenses that you will incur while you study here at this school. The girls and myself have all made donations in support of your study. We love you and respect you. Miss Clark.”

This was so overwhelming for Faith. Through tears of joy, she prayed and dedicated her life to God.

Over the summer vacation, Brenda took Faith to her home in the country where she could recover fully in the fresh country air.

Faith remained in the school until graduation and graduated with honours, after which she was offered a teaching position in the school. She gladly accepted and proved a great blessing in the school. She took genuine interest in each student and helped them to learn to love and serve Jesus and to develop their individual talents so that they could be faithful servants of Jesus. Many young girls graduated with a firm purpose to dedicate their lives to the service of the Lord.

Jesus said, “And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.” Luke 6:31

Central African Republic

Brother **Daniel Masumbuko** is an ordained church elder. He was a worker in Kisangani, DR Congo before being sent to the **Central African Republic (CAR)** as a foreign missionary worker. CAR is a neighboring country to Congo. There were no members at the time when he was transferred at the end of 2018. The first baptism was held during the visit of pastor Normand Sindayihebura from Cameroon.

The other recent baptism was carried out by Elder Daniel Masumbuko on April 21st 2021. Now there are 12 baptized members, 29 interested souls, and 37 children who are attending regularly .



We thank God that the work has been rapidly advancing since 2018.

Let us pray for the work in this French speaking country in central Africa.

Victor Shumbusho



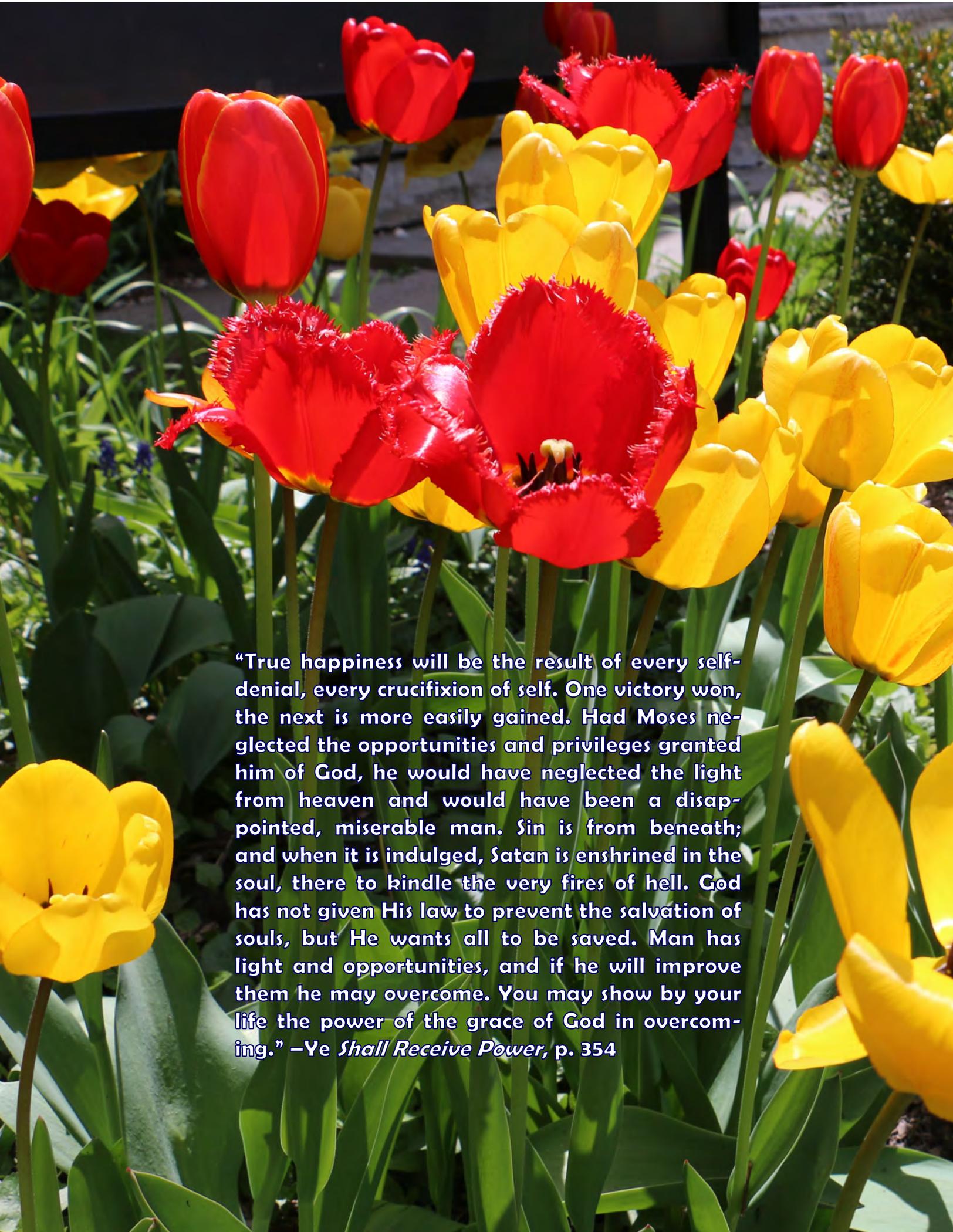
DR Congo



Youth congress in Kisangani. Pastor Kisigay Samuel, Congo Union president (front row, second from right) visited the North East Congo Field. The Field is composed of only a few members but they are strong and united in God's work.

Six souls baptized on April 21st Central African Republic





“True happiness will be the result of every self-denial, every crucifixion of self. One victory won, the next is more easily gained. Had Moses neglected the opportunities and privileges granted him of God, he would have neglected the light from heaven and would have been a disappointed, miserable man. Sin is from beneath; and when it is indulged, Satan is enshrined in the soul, there to kindle the very fires of hell. God has not given His law to prevent the salvation of souls, but He wants all to be saved. Man has light and opportunities, and if he will improve them he may overcome. You may show by your life the power of the grace of God in overcoming.” –*Ye Shall Receive Power*, p. 354