

Revival Now!

“Will You not revive us again, That Your people may rejoice in You.”
Ps. 85:6

A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work. {1SM 121.1}

The descent of the Holy Spirit upon the church is looked forward to, as in the future; but it is the privilege of the church to have it now. Seek for it, pray for it, believe for it. We must have it, and Heaven is waiting to bestow it.—Letter 15, 1892, pp. 8-10. {5MR 335.1}

God rebukes His people for their sins, that He may humble them, and lead them to seek His face. As they reform, and His love revives in their hearts, His loving answers will come to their requests. He will strengthen them in reformatory action, lifting up for them a standard against the enemy. His rich blessing will rest upon them, and in bright rays they will reflect the light of heaven. Then a multitude not of their faith, seeing that God is with His people, will unite with them in serving the Redeemer. {RH, February 25, 1902 par. 16}

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Introduction

Many years ago, when I lived in Ohio, we experienced a prolonged drought. Initially, extra watering of the grass and plants maintained some of the greenery around my home. Wherever the hose reached, it was green. But beyond that, the plants increasingly died off. Later, additional water restrictions came that eventually prohibited all watering. I adjusted my lives accordingly. One of the extreme measures adopted to preserve a few plants was employing used bathwater to water them. By that time the lawn looked dead, the trees were losing their leaves and the unmerciful cloudless sky seemed to mock the many earnest pleas for rain. Then one day the life-giving, landscape-changing rains came. Where before everything around the house had been drab and dry, suddenly there was a spontaneous explosion of greenery all around. Needless to say, I was rejoicing and praising of God.

Our church is experiencing a similar lack of life-giving spiritual “rain.” Responding to the lack, denominational leaders, pastors and thousands of members have been crying to God for spiritual rain multiple times per day. Directives for prayer have been urged. Special meetings have been organized. Faithful members have come together to seek Heaven’s blessings. Pastors have adjusted their preaching schedules to focus more on revival and the Holy Spirit. Prayer phone lines have stayed busy. Sabbath School Quarterlies focusing on revival have been prepared and carefully studied. Our presses have churned out many helpful books on the subject. The church has developed special web sites that provide much helpful information.

In spite of these sincere efforts, in too many cases the prayers going up have apparently gone unanswered. Yes, there was a bit of an answer here and there, but it wasn’t the reviving rain that was anticipated—it wasn’t the spontaneous downpour of new life and power that seemed to be promised in the Scriptures and the Spirit of Prophecy. Like my hose back in Ohio that maintained greenery wherever it could reach, limited by my willingness to get out and water, so the church has only experienced limited blessings, and those blessings

Key to Abbreviations

| | |
|--|---|
| 1888: Ellen G. White 1888 Materials | OFC: Our Father Cares |
| AA: Acts of the Apostles, The | OHC: Our High Calling |
| AH: Adventist Home, The | PaM: Pastoral Ministry |
| AUCR: [Australasian] Union Conference Record | PC: Paulson Collection |
| AUGleaner: Atlantic Union Gleaner | PH: Pamphlet |
| 5BC: Bible Commentary Vol. 5 | PK: Prophets and Kings |
| 4bSG: Spiritual Gifts, Vol. 4b | PM: Publishing Ministry, The |
| BEcho: Bible Echo | PP: Patriarchs and Prophets |
| BTS: Bible Training School | Pr: Prayer |
| CCh: Counsels for the Church | PUR: Pacific Union Recorder |
| CD: Counsels on Diet and Foods | RH: Review and Herald |
| CG: Child Guidance | 1SAT: Sermons and Talks Vol. 1 (2SAT for Vol. 2) |
| CH: Counsels on Health | SC: Steps to Christ |
| ChS: Christian Service | SD: Sons and Daughters of God |
| COL: Christ Object Lessons | ISM: Selected Messages Vol. 1 (2SM for Book 2, etc.) |
| CT: Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students | SpM: Spalding and Magan Collection |
| CTr: Christ Triumphant | ISP: Spirit of Prophecy, The Vol. 1 (2SP for Vol. 2, etc.) |
| CTBH: Christian Temperance (EGW) and Bible Hygiene (James White) | SPTA01b: Special Testimonies, Series A (Nos. 1-12) |
| DA: Desire of Ages | SpTB05: Special Testimonies, Series B (Nos. 1-19) |
| DG: Daughters of God | SSW: Sabbath-School Worker |
| Ed: Education | ST: Signs of the Times |
| EV: Evangelism | SW: The Southern Watchman |
| EW: Early Writings | 1T: Testimonies for the Church Vol. 1 (2T for Vol. 2, etc.) |
| FLB: Faith I Live By, The | Te: Temperance |
| GCB: General Conference Bulletin | TM: Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers |
| GW: Gospel Workers | TMK: That I May Know Him |
| HP: In Heavenly Places | TSB: Testimonies on Sexual Behaviour, Adultery, and Divorce |
| KC: Kress Collection, The | TSDF: Testimony Studies on Diet and Foods |
| LHU: Lift Him Up | 1TT: Testimony Treasures, Vol. 1 (2TT for Vol. 2, etc.) |
| LLM: Loma Linda Messages | UL: Upward Look, The |
| MB: Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing | WB: Workers’ Bulletin, The |
| MH: Ministry of Healing, The | YI: Youth's Instructor, The |
| ML: My Life Today | |
| MR: Manuscript Releases (2MR for Vol. 2, etc.) | |
| 1NL: Notebook Leaflets, Vol. 1 (2NL for Vol. 2) | |

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have often been constrained by the willingness of the pastor and members to continue busily pursuing them. What is needed is a spontaneous explosion of blessing similar to what came when the rains arrived when I lived in Ohio.

Why has the rain been withheld? It is promised in Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy. It has been experienced in the history of the church. It has been experienced at various times in our own denomination. But we would be hard pressed to say we are experiencing it now. So the question comes, “Why not now?” Is God unaware of the need? Is God unable to send the desired blessings? Is God unwilling to help for some reason?

The cry of “why” has often been raised. In the Old Testament the people questioned why God had seemingly ignored their fasting and afflicting of soul (Isa. 58:3; Mal. 3:14). The same question is still asked in our day.

In studying the Scriptures about God’s chosen people in the Old Testament I have been awed by God’s tender love, displayed against the backdrop of a rebellious and idolatrous people. God delivered them from Egypt, established them in the promise land, drove out their enemies, prospered them, gave them peace, and cared for them in ways that would have been unimaginable in Egypt. But regardless of God’s blessings, His chosen people frequently turned their backs on Him, joined themselves to idols, adopted heathen customs and came to live in ways that even repulsed their heathen neighbors. In response God sent messenger after messenger with messages of mercy, begging them to return to their privileged status as His treasured people. But they closed their ears, hardened their hearts and stubbornly chose to pursue happiness and well being in ways that were often contrary to what God was saying. A summary statement on their condition is found in 2 Chron. 36:15,16: “They mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against His people till there was no remedy.”

In considering the history of our denomination, we were also raised up by God and established in miracle ways. God has prospered us as a people. God has given us much peace and favor. He has also blessed us with a messenger who came with messages of love, mercy, admonishment, and much detailed information on how to know and experience the full blessings of God. We have been blessed.

In studying I have been reminded that the enemy of souls has constantly tried to sidetrack and derail us from following the pathway set out by God. In mercy God sent specific messages to help us get back on track. Sometimes the messages were heeded and resulted in renewed blessings and prosperity. Sometimes the messages were resisted—even rejected, and sad consequences followed. It seems we have minimized the importance of the messenger. I see a cautionary tale in Naaman’s experience, whose healing was dependent upon his completely obeying the message of the designated messenger. Are we following the messages of the designated messenger in our day?

The one giving the messages now rests in the grave, but the messages given retain their full force. In carefully reading those messages one begins to find answers on why the spiritual rain is not falling.

Here are some findings.

Our condition is worse than most of us believe!

“What greater deception can come upon human minds than a confidence that they are right when they are all wrong! {3T 252.4}

“I have been shown that many are flattering themselves that they are good Christians, who have not a ray of light from Jesus.” {3T 253.1}

Our rejection of the messages is a primary reason for our failings!

“I have been shown that the greatest reason why the people of God are now found in this state of spiritual blindness is that they will not receive correction. Many have despised the reproofs and warnings given them.” {3T 255.1}

“I have been shown that unbelief in the testimonies of warning, encouragement, and reproof is shutting away the light from God’s people. Unbelief is closing their eyes so that they are ignorant of their true condition.” {3T255.3}

There is much hope! God is willing and waiting to bring revival!

“A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work. There must be earnest effort to obtain the blessing of the Lord, not because God is not willing to bestow His blessing upon us, but because we are unprepared to receive it. Our heavenly Father is more willing to give His Holy Spirit to them that ask Him, than are earthly parents to give good gifts to their children.” {1 SM 121.1}

God has also given clear instructions on how to obtain revival.

But it is our work, by confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer, to fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised to grant us His blessing.” {1 SM 121.1}

In this booklet I endeavor to share what it means to pursue revival through confession, humiliation, repentance and earnest prayer. I have chosen to somewhat follow the sequence that was followed during the course of the revivals experienced in Battle Creek and South Lancaster in 1888 and 1889, that began with lifting up Christ.

In the booklet, I have chosen to share the Scriptures and Spirit of Prophecy quotations with little commentary of my own. To facilitate discussion, I have chosen to use line numbers instead of page numbers.

Some of the things shared are strong medicine. They were hard for me to read; they may be hard for you to read. They provide accurate information on our condition. Other quotations give clear direction on how to experience life-changing, revival-bringing transformation. So, keep reading!

We also learn that apart from Christ we don’t have the strength to overcome the slightest temptation. Only Christ has that power. So, please do not be discouraged as you read. Instead of lamenting your weakness, look to Jesus and rejoice that in obeying, new, transforming moral power will be yours!

And remember, in seeking revival we are not trying to work our way into heaven, for salvation from first to last is His gift. *The Compiler*

plans, let them humbly submit to the divine will, and God will revive their strength and bring freedom and victory to His children. {4T 164.1}

for it, believe for it. **We must have it, and Heaven is waiting to bestow it.**— Letter 15, 1892, pp. 8-10. (To Elder S.N. Haskell, June 25, 1892.) {5MR 335.1}

Be Assured That Satan Cannot Hinder Revival

There is **nothing that Satan fears so much as that the people of God shall clear the way by removing every hindrance**, so that the Lord can pour out His Spirit upon a languishing church and an impenitent congregation. If Satan had his way, there would never be another awakening, great or small, to the end of time. But we are not ignorant of his devices. It is possible to resist his power. **When the way is prepared for the Spirit of God, the blessing will come.** Satan can no more hinder a shower of blessing from descending upon God's people than he can close the windows of heaven that rain cannot come upon the earth. **Wicked men and devils cannot hinder the work of God**, or shut out His presence from the assemblies of His people, if they will, with subdued, contrite hearts, confess and put away their sins, and in faith claim His promises. {1SM 124.2}

Take Ownership For The Lack of Revival

The **only reason for our lack of power with God is to be found in ourselves.** If the inner life of many who profess the truth were presented before them, they would not claim to be Christians. {Pr 263.3}

There is **no lack of power on His part, but there is a lack of faith and of humility on the part of His people. Many of us would not know how to use that power if we were to receive it.** Let us learn of the great Teacher, what it means to walk in humility, as Christ walked in humility. Ms. 49, 1908. (MR 900.19) {1SAT 396.3}

Earnestly Seek Revival

It is our work, **by confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer, to fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised to grant us His blessing.** {1SM 121.1}

There **should be a different kind of labor from what we too often see.... There should be more prayer and weeping, and more confession of sin to God and to one another. Let the indifference be broken up, let the complaining and faultfinding cease**, and the time heretofore worse than wasted in this manner be spent in prayers of living faith for the refreshing from the presence of the Lord. Let us arouse ... and unitedly call upon God to send down his grace upon the souls of his people, and to revive his work in the midst of the years. {GW92 224.4}

Experience Revival

God works mightily for a faithful people who obey His word without questioning or doubt. The Majesty of heaven, with His army of angels, leveled the walls of Jericho without human aid. The armed warriors of Israel had no cause to glory in their achievements. All was done through the power of God. **Let the people give up self and the desire to work after their own**

I. Accept God's Wonderful Gift Of Pardon And Righteousness Believe Victory Is Possible

Rom. 6:14 "For sin shall not have dominion over you...."

1 John 3:6 "Whoever abides in Him does not sin."

Rom. 6:1,2 "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?"

Eph. 1:4 "Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love."

Titus 2:13,14 "Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works."

1Pet. 1:14-16 "As obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

Christ **came to the world to counteract Satan's falsehood that God had made a law which men could not keep.** Taking humanity upon Himself, He came to this earth, and by a life of obedience showed that God has not made a law that man cannot keep. **He showed that it is possible for man perfectly to obey the law. Those who accept Christ as their Saviour, becoming partakers of His divine nature, are enabled to follow His example, living in obedience to every precept of the law.** Through the merits of Christ, man is to show by his obedience that he could be trusted in heaven, that he would not rebel. {FLB 114.2}

Before the believer is held out **the wonderful possibility of being like Christ, obedient to all the principles of the law. But of himself man is utterly unable to reach this condition.** The holiness that God's word declares he must have before he can be saved **is the result of the working of divine grace as he bows in submission to the discipline and restraining influences of the Spirit of truth.** The part of the Christian is **to persevere in overcoming every fault. Constantly he is to pray to the Saviour to heal the disorders of his sin-sick soul.** He has not the wisdom or the strength to overcome; these belong to the Lord, and He bestows them on those who in humiliation and contrition seek Him for help. {AA 532.1}

Christ and his obedient children love one another. **Their tastes are identical.** The true followers of Jesus are so abiding in him that **they love that which he loves, and hate that which he hates.** One spirit pervades the whole body. How then can the branches of the True Vine bear anything but good fruit? If Christ's words abide in the Christian, how can he do otherwise than work the works of Christ? He lives, he abides, in Christ, and **like Christ ever has an eye single to the glory of God.** "If ye keep my commandments [not profess to regard them, and then work contrary to them], ye shall abide in my love." **You shall be united with One superior in vital power and wisdom**, the weaker depending on the stronger, "looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of your faith." {ST August 10, 1891, par. 1}

Acknowledge Your Total Inability

Jer. 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?”

Jer. 13:23 “Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil.”

John 8:34 “Whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.”

Eph. 2:1 “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins....”

Our condition is **helpless and hopeless**.... {ST January 4, 1883, par. 12}

There are **but two powers that control the minds of men—the power of God and the power of Satan**. {Te 276.3}

Man is Satan's captive and is naturally inclined to follow his suggestions and do his bidding. He has in himself no power to oppose effectual resistance to evil. It is only as Christ abides in him by living faith, influencing his desires and strengthening him with strength from above, that man may venture to face so terrible a foe. Every other means of defense is utterly vain. **It is only through Christ that Satan's power is limited.** This is a momentous truth that all should understand. Satan is busy every moment, going to and fro, walking up and down in the earth, seeking whom he may devour. But the earnest prayer of faith will baffle his strongest efforts. Then take ‘the shield of faith,’ brethren, ‘wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.’ {5T 294.2}

Men need to learn that **the blessings of obedience, in their fullness, can be theirs only as they receive the grace of Christ.** It is His grace that gives man power to obey the laws of God. **It is this that enables him to break the bondage of evil habit. This is the only power that can make him and keep him steadfast in the right path.** {CCh 216.4}

Choose A Better Way

Php. 2:13 “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”

“Through yielding to sin, man placed his will under the control of Satan. He became a helpless captive in the tempter's power. God sent His Son into our world to break the power of Satan, and to emancipate the will of man. He sent Him to proclaim liberty to the captives, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free. By pouring the whole treasury of heaven into this world, by giving us in Christ all heaven, God has purchased the will, the affections, the mind, the soul, of every human being. **When man places himself under the control of God, the will becomes firm and strong to do right, the heart is cleansed from selfishness, and filled with Christlike love.** The mind yields to the authority of the law of love, and **every thought is brought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. When the will is placed on the Lord's side, the Holy Spirit takes that will and makes it one with the divine will.**” {AUCR June 1, 1900, Art. A, par. 10}

“It is impossible for us, of ourselves, to escape from the pit of sin in which we are sunken. Our hearts are evil, and we cannot change them. "Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one." "The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." Job 14:4; Romans 8:7. **Education, culture, the exercise of the will, human effort,**

in character and life. {OFC 273.2}

The religion of Christ **means more than the forgiveness of sin; it means taking away our sins, and filling the vacuum with the graces of the Holy Spirit. It means divine illumination, rejoicing in God. It means a heart emptied of self, and blessed with the abiding presence of Christ.** When Christ reigns in the soul, there is **purity, freedom from sin. The glory, the fullness, the completeness of the gospel plan is fulfilled in the life.** The acceptance of the Saviour brings a glow of perfect **peace, perfect love, perfect assurance.** The beauty and fragrance of the character of Christ revealed in the life testifies that God has indeed sent His Son into the world to be its Saviour. . . {LHU 292.6}

The Lord Jesus is making experiments on human hearts through the **exhibition of His mercy and abundant grace. He is effecting transformations so amazing that Satan, with all his triumphant boasting, with all his confederacy of evil united against God and the laws of His government, stands viewing them as a fortress impregnable to his sophistries and delusions.** They are to him an incomprehensible mystery. The angels of God, seraphim and cherubim, the powers commissioned to cooperate with human agencies, look on with astonishment and joy, that fallen men, once children of wrath, are through the training of Christ developing characters after the divine similitude, to be sons and daughters of God, to act an important part in the occupations and pleasures of heaven. {TM 18.1}

To His church, Christ has given ample facilities, that He may receive a large revenue of glory from His redeemed, purchased possession. The church, being endowed with the righteousness of Christ, is His depository, in which the wealth of His mercy, His love, His grace, is to appear in full and final display. ... The gift of His Holy Spirit, rich, full, and abundant, is to be to His church as an encompassing wall of fire, which the powers of hell shall not prevail against. In their untainted purity and spotless perfection, Christ looks upon His people as the reward of all His suffering, His humiliation, and His love, and the supplement of His glory--Christ, the great center from which radiates all glory. "Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb." {TM 18.2}

Final Thoughts

Believe God Will Bring Revival

We have the **assurance** that in this age of the world the Holy Spirit will work with **mighty power**, unless by our unbelief, we limit our blessings, and thus lose the advantages we might obtain. ... {SW December 5, 1899 Par. 1}

Dating from the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was to be poured forth on sons and daughters, on servants and handmaidens; in **every hill country, every lowland, every valley, humble workmen for the Lord are to be raised up.** The divine sacred influence of the Holy Spirit working in our world is to be **as signs and wonders**, because God's people are **a peculiar people, an holy nation, shining amid moral darkness as living stones** in the Lord's building. {SW December 5, 1899 Par. 2}

The descent of the Holy Spirit upon the church is looked forward to, as in the future; but it is **the privilege of the church to have it now.** Seek for it, pray

I have been **shown angels of God all ready to impart grace and power to those who feel their need of divine strength. But these heavenly messengers will not bestow blessings unless solicited.** They have waited for the cry from souls hungering and thirsting for the blessing of God; often have they waited in vain. **There were, indeed, casual prayers, but not the earnest supplication from humble, contrite hearts.** Meeting after meeting has closed with but little manifestation of the Spirit and power of God. **The people seemed to be satisfied to reach no higher; they seemed to expect no revival of the work of God;** but with grief and disappointment angels turned from the scene of confusion where tents were being removed, and the people preparing to return to their homes without the blessing which Heaven was more than willing to give them. {RH July 24, 1883 Par. 21}

The Lord needs men and women who carry with them into the daily life the light of a godly example, men and women whose words and actions show that Christ is abiding in the heart, teaching, leading, and guiding. **He needs men and women of prayer, who, by wrestling alone with God, obtain the victory over self, and then go forth to impart to others that which they have received from the Source of power.** God accepts those who crucify self, and makes them vessels unto honor. They are in His hands as clay in the hands of the potter, and He works His will through them. **Such men and women receive spiritual power. Christ lives in them, and the power of His Spirit attends their efforts.** They realize that they are to live in this world the life that Jesus lived—a life free from all selfishness; and He enables them to bear witness for Him that draws souls to the cross of Calvary.—The Signs of the Times, April 9, 1902. {DG 81.4}

X. Look Forward to the Outcome

Zech. 8:22 “In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, ‘Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.’”

God **rebukes His people for their sins, that He may humble them, and lead them to seek His face. As they reform, and His love revives in their hearts, His loving answers will come to their requests.** He will strengthen them in reformatory action, lifting up for them a standard against the enemy. His rich blessing will rest upon them, and in bright rays they will reflect the light of heaven. **Then a multitude not of their faith, seeing that God is with His people, will unite with them in serving the Redeemer.** {RH, February 25, 1902 par. 16}

1 Pet. 2:9 “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light....”

Christ’s love in the heart, revealing through the life its wondrous power—this is the greatest miracle that can be performed before a fallen, quarreling world. Let us try to work this miracle, not in our own power, but in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, whose we are and whom we serve. **Let us put on Christ, and the miracle-working power of His grace will be so plainly revealed in the transformation of character that the world will be convinced that God has sent His Son into the world to make men as angels**

all have their proper sphere, but here they are powerless. They may produce an outward correctness of behavior, but **they cannot change the heart; they cannot purify the springs of life. There must be a power working from within, a new life from above, before men can be changed from sin to holiness. That power is Christ.** His grace alone can quicken the lifeless faculties of the soul, and attract it to God, to holiness.” {SC 18.1}

Humbly Confess Sin

Prov. 28:13 “He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.”

James 5:16 “Confess your trespasses to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Ps. 34:18 “The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit.”

By prayer and confession of sin we must clear the King’s highway. As we do this, the power of the Spirit will come to us. We need the Pentecostal energy. This will come, for the Lord has promised to send His Spirit as the all-conquering power. {CCh 326.5}

Those who have not humbled their souls before God in acknowledging their guilt, have not yet fulfilled the first condition of acceptance. ... Confession of sin, whether public or private, should be heartfelt and freely expressed. It is not to be urged from the sinner. It is not to be made in a flippant and careless way, or forced from those who have no realizing sense of the abhorrent character of sin. **True confession is always of a specific character, and acknowledges particular sins.** They may be of such a nature as to be brought before God only; they may be wrongs that should be confessed to individuals who have suffered injury through them; or they may be of a public character, and should then be as publicly confessed. But all confession should be definite and to the point, acknowledging the very sins of which you are guilty. {SC 38.1}

Repent And Turn From Sin

Acts 3:19 “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”

Acts 17:30 “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent.”

“Repentance includes sorrow for sin and a turning away from it. We shall not renounce sin unless we see its sinfulness; **until we turn away from it in heart, there will be no real change in the life.**” {SC 23.2}

Make An Unreserved Surrender

Joshua 22:5 “But take careful heed to do the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God, to

walk in all His ways, to keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

Rom. 12:1 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”

True victory is gained only when the repentant sinner pledges himself to unconditional obedience to God,—only when he pledges himself to honor God in every word, every business transaction, every act of his life. {PH050}

It is through the truth, by the power of the Holy Spirit, that we are to be sanctified,—transformed into the likeness of Christ. And **in order for this change to be wrought in us, there must be an unconditional, whole-hearted acceptance of the truth, an unreserved surrender of the soul to its transforming power.** — {RH April 12, 1892 Par. 1}

God **will accept nothing less than unreserved surrender.** Half-hearted, sinful Christians can never enter heaven. There they would find no happiness; for they know nothing of the high, holy principles that govern the members of the royal family. {RH May 16, 1907, par. 1}

There are some who seem to be always seeking for the heavenly pearl. But they do not make an entire surrender of their wrong habits. They do not die to self that Christ may live in them. Therefore they do not find the precious pearl. They have not overcome unholy ambition and their love for worldly attractions. They do not take up the cross and follow Christ in the path of self-denial and sacrifice. **Almost Christians, yet not fully Christians, they seem near the kingdom of heaven, but they cannot enter there. Almost but not wholly saved, means to be not almost but wholly lost.** {COL 118.1}

Receive Pardon And Christ's Righteousness

Rom. 5:1 “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

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

2Cor. 5:21 “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

“What is justification by faith? It is the work of God in laying the glory of man in the dust, and doing for man that which it is not in his power to do for himself. When men see their own nothingness, they are prepared to be clothed with the righteousness of Christ.” {FLB 111.2}

The thought that the righteousness of Christ is imputed to us, not because of any merit on our part, but as a free gift from God, is a precious thought. The enemy of God and man is not willing that this truth should be clearly presented; for he knows that if the people receive it fully, his power will be broken. {RH, December 24, 1908 par 2}

It was possible for Adam, before the fall, to form a righteous character by obedience to God's law. But he failed to do this, and **because of his sin our natures are fallen and we cannot make ourselves righteous.** Since we are sinful, unholy, we cannot perfectly obey the holy law. **We have no righteousness of our own with which to meet the claims of the law of God.**

the buyers and sellers? Who is prepared to allow Jesus to enter the soul and **cleanse it from every thing that tarnishes or corrupts?** The standard is, “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” God calls upon men and women to empty their hearts of self. Then His Spirit can find unobstructed entrance. **Stop trying to do the work yourself. Ask God to work in and through you** until the words of the apostle become yours: “I live; ye not I, but Christ liveth in me.” — {RH February 7, 1957 Par. 12}

X. Turn And Pray

2Chron. 7:14 “If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

Joel 2:17 “Let the priests, who minister to the Lord, Weep between the porch and the altar; Let them say, “Spare Your people, O Lord, And do not give Your heritage to reproach, That the nations should rule over them. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”

The old standard bearers **knew what it was to wrestle with God in prayer, and to enjoy the outpouring of His Spirit.** But these are passing off from the stage of action; and who are coming up to fill their places? **How is it with the rising generation? Are they converted to God? Are we awake to the work that is going on in the heavenly sanctuary,** or are we waiting for some compelling power to come upon the church before we shall arouse? Are we hoping to see the whole church revived? That time will never come. {1SM 122.1}

God wants to be inquired of by his people, before he pours out his Holy Spirit upon the church. How earnestly should every member pray and labor, and labor and pray for the deep movings of Spirit of God! — {RH June 26, 1888 Par. 8}

There should be **more prayer and weeping, and more confession of sin to God and to one another.** Let the indifference be broken up, let the complaining and faultfinding cease, and the time heretofore worse than wasted in this manner be spent in prayers of living faith for the refreshing from the presence of the Lord. Let us arouse as one man, and unitedly call upon God to send down his grace upon the souls of his people, and to revive his work in the midst of the years. {GW92 224.4}

Prayer is both a duty and a privilege. We must have help which God alone can give, and **that help will not come unasked.** If we are too self-righteous to feel our need of help from God, we shall not have his help when we need it most. **If we are too independent and self-sufficient to throw ourselves daily by earnest prayer upon the merits of a crucified and risen Saviour, we shall be left subject to Satan's temptations.** {RH July 24, 1883 Par. 19}

I asked the angel why there was not more power in Israel. Said he, “Ye let go of the promises of God too quick. Press your petitions to the throne, and hold on by faith. Believe ye receive the things ye ask for, and ye shall have them.” I was then pointed to Elijah. He was subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly. His faith endured the trial. Seven times he prayed before the Lord, and at last the cloud was seen. {19MR 130.1}

they do not repent. They do not realize how grievous their sins are in the sight of God. If they were really one with Christ, if his Spirit were dwelling in them, they would see the sinfulness of sin. Not only would they confess; but they would forsake that which God abhors. {YI March 5, 1903 Par. 8}

How much, I ask, do you love his appearing? How much do you value eternal above temporal things?—Just as much as your works show, and no more. Brethren and sisters, “the night is far spent, the day is at hand.” I call upon you to awake out of sleep. Let every church arouse and put away their pride and vanity and worldliness. Let them humble their hearts before God by repentance that they have lifted so few burdens for Christ. {RH December 7, 1886 Par. 9}

Remove What Hinders

2 Chron. 6:37-40 “Yet when they come to themselves in the land where they were carried captive, and repent, and make supplication to You in the land of their captivity, saying, ‘We have sinned, we have done wrong, and have committed wickedness’; and when they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their captivity, where they have been carried captive, and pray toward their land which You gave to their fathers, the city which You have chosen, and toward the temple which I have built for Your name: then hear from heaven Your dwelling place their prayer and their supplications, and maintain their cause, and forgive Your people who have sinned against You. Now, my God, I pray, let Your eyes be open and let Your ears be attentive to the prayer made in this place.”

See also Lev. 26:40

By prayer and confession of sin we must clear the King’s highway. As we do this, the power of the Spirit will come to us. We need the Pentecostal energy. This will come, for the Lord has promised to send His Spirit as the all-conquering power. {CCh 326.5}

There is need today of such a revival of true heart religion as was experienced by ancient Israel. **Repentance is the first step** that must be taken by all who would return to God. No one can do this work for another. We must **individually humble our souls** before God and **put away our idols**. When we have done all that we can do, the Lord will manifest to us His salvation. {PP 590.2}

Repentance Will Change Our Churches

Unless this converting power shall go through our churches, unless the revival of the Spirit of God shall come, all their profession will never make the members of the church Christians. There are sinners in Zion who need to **repent of sins that have been cherished as precious treasures.** Until these sins are seen, and thrust from the soul, until every faulty, unlovely trait of character is transformed by the Spirit’s influence, God cannot manifest Himself in power. There is more hope for the open sinner than for the professedly righteous who are not pure, holy, and undefiled. {RH February 7, 1957 Par. 9}

Who is willing to take himself in hand? Who is willing to lay his finger **upon his cherished idols of sin**, and allow Christ to purify the temple by casting out

But Christ has made a way of escape for us. He lived on earth amid trials and temptations such as we have to meet. He lived a sinless life. He died for us, and now He offers to take our sins and give us His righteousness. If you give yourself to Him, and accept Him as your Saviour, then, **sinful as your life may have been, for His sake you are accounted righteous. Christ’s character stands in place of your character, and you are accepted before God just as if you had not sinned.** {SC 62.2}

All who have a sense of their deep soul poverty, who feel that they have nothing good in themselves, may find righteousness and strength by looking unto Jesus. He says, “Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy-laden.” Matthew 11:28. He bids you exchange your poverty for the riches of His grace. **We are not worthy of God’s love, but Christ, our surety, is worthy, and is abundantly able to save all who shall come unto Him. Whatever may have been your past experience, however discouraging your present circumstances, if you will come to Jesus just as you are, weak, helpless, and despairing, our compassionate Saviour will meet you a great way off, and will throw about you His arms of love and His robe of righteousness.** He presents us to the Father clothed in the white raiment of His own character. He pleads before God in our behalf, saying: I have taken the sinner’s place. Look not upon this wayward child, but look on Me. Does Satan plead loudly against our souls, accusing of sin, and claiming us as his prey, the blood of Christ pleads with greater power. {MB 8.2}

Justification is the opposite of condemnation. God’s boundless mercy is exercised toward those who are wholly undeserving. He forgives transgressions and sins for the sake of Jesus, who has become the propitiation for our sins. Through faith in Christ the guilty transgressor is brought into favor with God and into the strong hope of life eternal. . . . {CTr 150.4}

Jesus sees the guilt of the past, and speaks pardon, and we must not dishonor Him by doubting His love. This feeling of guiltiness must be laid at the foot of the cross of Calvary. . . . Jesus says, “Lay it all on Me. I will take your sins; I will give you peace. **Banish no longer your self-respect, for I have bought you with the price of My own blood. You are Mine. Your weakened will I will strengthen; your remorse for sin I will remove.**” {TMK 241.4}

II. Be Transformed

Through Receiving God’s Word

Ps. 119:11 “Your word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against You.”

John 17:17 “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”

John 8:32 “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Rom. 10:17 “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Rom. 12:2 “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

2 Cor. 3:18 “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

The **Scriptures are the great agency in the transformation of character.** Christ prayed, “Sanctify them through Thy truth; Thy word is truth.” John 17:17. **If studied and obeyed, the word of God works in the heart, subduing every unholy attribute.** The Holy Spirit comes to convict of sin, and the faith that springs up in the heart works by love to Christ, conforming us in body, soul, and spirit to His own image. Then God can use us to do His will. The power given us works from within outwardly, leading us to communicate to others the truth that has been communicated to us. {COL 100.1}

Received into the heart, the leaven of truth will regulate the desires, purify the thoughts, and sweeten the disposition. It quickens the faculties of the mind and the energies of the soul. It enlarges the capacity for feeling, for loving. {COL 101.1}

The purity, the holiness, of the life of Jesus as presented from the Word of God, possess more power to reform and transform the character than do all the efforts put forth in picturing the sins and crimes of men and the sure results. **One steadfast look to the Saviour uplifted upon the cross will do more to purify the mind and heart from every defilement than will all the scientific explanations by the ablest tongue.** {TSB 108.2}

The **Bible is the storehouse that supplies their souls with nourishing food.** They meditate upon the incarnation of Christ, they contemplate the great sacrifice made to save them from perdition, to bring in pardon, peace, and everlasting righteousness. The soul is aglow with these grand and elevating themes. Holiness and truth, grace and righteousness, occupy the thoughts. Self dies, and Christ lives in His servants. **In contemplation of the word their hearts burn within them as did the hearts of the two disciples while they went to Emmaus** and Christ walked with them by the way and opened to them the scriptures concerning Himself. {CT 341.2}

The **work of transformation from unholiness to holiness is a continuous work.** Day by day God labors for man's sanctification, and **man is to cooperate with him by putting forth persevering efforts in the cultivation of right habits.** The way in which we are to work out our own salvation is plainly specified in the first chapter of Second Peter. Constantly we are to add grace to grace, and as we do this, God will work for us upon the plan of multiplication. **He is always ready to hear and answer the prayer of the contrite heart, and grace and peace are multiplied to his faithful ones. Gladly he grants them the blessings that they need in their struggle against the evils that beset them.** Those who listen to the counsels of his Word shall not want any good thing.” {RH March 15, 1906, par. 11}

Be Transformed

Through Secret Prayer

Ps. 46:10 “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

Hab. 2:10 “The Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him.”

Matt. 6:6 “But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who

which all the devising of men, be they high or low, cannot accomplish. {11MR 100.1}

At the very heart of the work there is necessity for sincere, true humiliation, which has not yet been seen. God will vindicate every message He has given to His people. He will justify all His dealings with them. They have departed out of the way, and **the only course that can bring relief and hope and success in bearing the solemn message for this time is for them to humble themselves under the mighty hand of God.** {11MR 100.3} There is a careless, venturesome spirit which needs to be guarded. **It is humiliating for us to acknowledge that we have done wrong, but this is often necessary.** The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Prayer **will draw down from heaven great blessings when those who claim to believe the truth shall come down from their stilts of self-exaltation and afflict their souls, even as Daniel afflicted his soul.** {11MR 100.4}

IX. Repent

Joel 2:13 “So rend your hearts and not your garments....”

Acts 17:30 “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands men everywhere to repent.”

See also Matt. 3:2; Matt. 4:17; Acts 2:38; Acts 26:19,20

Repentance Is Necessary

The **Old and New Testament Scriptures show us the only way in which this work should be done. Repent, repent, repent** was the message rung out by John the Baptist in the wilderness. Christ's message to the people was “Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:5). And the apostles were commanded to preach everywhere that men should repent. {2SM 19.1}

There is no evidence of genuine repentance unless it works reformation. If he restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, confess his sins, and love God and his fellow men, the sinner may be sure that he has passed from death unto life. {SC 59.1}

Repentance Is A Gift From God

Rom. 2:4 “Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?”

The Spirit of God will answer the cry of every penitent heart; **for repentance is the gift of God,** and an evidence that Christ is drawing the soul to Himself. **We can no more repent of sin without Christ, than we can be pardoned without Christ,** and yet it is a humiliation to man with his human passion and pride to go to Jesus straightway, believing and trusting Him for everything which he needs. . . . {1NL 65.4}

Repentance Is More Than Feeling Sorry

Some who cherish ... defects confess that they are doing wrong; but year after year passes, and finds them still in bondage to these sins. Each year the same acknowledgment is made, but no change appears in the life. **They confess, but**

have wounded us, we are not to cherish our grievances and sympathize with ourselves over our injuries, but as we hope to be pardoned for our offenses against God, so must we pardon those who have done evil to us. {YI June 1, 1893 Par. 3}

Make Things Right

Ezek. 33:15 “If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die.”

Let those who have committed wrong **give proof of their repentance by seeking to make full restitution**, let them in their after-life give evidence of a genuine reformation, and they will assuredly enjoy the peace of Heaven. {RH January 3, 1882 Par. 7}

God requires repentance and confession, and restitution will always follow genuine repentance. **If you have prevaricated, if you have borne false witness, if you have misjudged and misinterpreted your brother, if you have misstated his words, ridiculed him, if you have injured his influence in any way, go right to the persons with whom you have conversed about him, with whom you have united in this work, and take all your injurious misstatements back.** Confess the wrong that you have done your brother; for **your sin will stand charged against you in the books of record until you do all that lies in your power to correct the evil your words have wrought.** When you have done all that God requires of you, pardon will be written against your name. {RH, May 28, 1889 par. 13}

There are many who will not be blessed till they make restitution of the **tithe which they have withheld.** God is waiting for you to redeem the past. The hand of the holy law is laid upon every soul who enjoys God's benefits. **Let those who have kept back their tithe make an accurate reckoning, and bring to the Lord that of which they have robbed His work.** Make restitution, and bring the Lord peace offerings. “Let him take hold of my strength, that he may make peace with me; and he shall make peace with me.” If you acknowledge that you have done wrong in misappropriating His goods, and freely and fully repent, He will forgive your transgression. {RH, December 10, 1901 par. 9}

Confessing And Making Things Right Requires Humbling

James 4:10 “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”

2 Chron. 7:14 “...will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear”

1 Pet. 5:6 “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time....”

See also Deut. 8:16; 2 Chron. 33:12; Isa. 57:15; 2 Cor. 7:10

The Lord cannot save men while they refuse to humble themselves under the reproofs and warnings that He sends, strenuously asserting their own will, and following their own course of action. {UL 134.4}

Humiliation, confession and most earnest prayer will bring about that

sees in secret will reward you openly.”

Prayer is a necessity; for it is the life of the soul. Family prayer, public prayer, have their place; but **it is secret communion with God that sustains the soul life.** {RH, December 31, 1908 par. 10}

You will receive more strength by spending one hour each day in meditation, and mourning over your failings and heart-corruptions, and pleading for God's pardoning love, and the assurance of sins forgiven, than you would by spending many hours and days in studying the most able authors, and making yourself acquainted with every objection to our faith, and the most powerful evidences in favor of our faith {RH, January 19, 1864 par. 19}

“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.’ Ps. 46:10. Here alone can true rest be found. And this is the effectual preparation for all who labor for God. **Amid the hurrying throng, and the strain of life's intense activities, the soul that is thus refreshed will be surrounded with an atmosphere of light and peace.** The life will breathe out fragrance, and will reveal a divine power that will reach men's hearts.” {DA 363.3}

How shall this victory over the world be obtained? Go to your closet, dear reader, and there plead with God: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." Be in earnest; be sincere; Jacob-like, wrestle in prayer. **Do not leave your closet until you feel strong in God. Remain until unutterable longings for salvation are awakened in your heart, and the sweet evidence is obtained of pardoned sin. Then when you leave your closet, watch; and so long as you watch and pray, the grace of God will appear in your life.** {ST, November 18, 1886 par. 7}

In no case neglect secret prayer; for it is the soul of religion. If you expect salvation, you must pray. Take time. Be not hurried and careless in your prayers. **Intercede with God to work in you a thorough reformation, that the fruits of the Spirit may dwell in you, and that, by your godly life, you may shine as a light in the world.** When you sincerely feel that without the help of God you perish, when you pant after him as the hart panteth after the water-brooks, then will the Lord strengthen you speedily, and you will have that peace that passeth understanding. {ST, November 18, 1886 par. 8}

Many, even in their seasons of devotion, fail of receiving the blessing of real communion with God. They are in too great haste. With hurried steps they press through the circle of Christ's loving presence, pausing perhaps a moment within the sacred precincts, but not waiting for counsel. They have no time to remain with the divine Teacher. With their burdens they return to their work. {Ed 260.3}

These workers can never attain the highest success until they learn the secret of strength. They must give themselves time to think, to pray, to wait upon God for a renewal of physical, mental, and spiritual power. They need the uplifting influence of His Spirit. Receiving this, they will be quickened by fresh life. The wearied frame and tired brain will be refreshed, the burdened heart will be lightened. {Ed 260.4}

Be Transformed

Through Accepting God's Special Messages For Our Day

2 Chron. 20:20 "Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper."

Jer. 26:13 "Now therefore, amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the Lord your God; then the Lord will relent concerning the doom that He has pronounced against you."

The **written testimonies are not to give new light, but to impress vividly upon the heart the truths of inspiration already revealed.** Man's duty to God and to his fellow man has been distinctly specified in God's word, yet but **few of you are obedient to the light given.** Additional truth is not brought out; but **God has through the Testimonies simplified the great truths already given and in His own chosen way brought them before the people to awaken and impress the mind with them, that all may be left without excuse.** The Testimonies are not to belittle the word of God, but to exalt it and attract minds to it, that the beautiful simplicity of truth may impress all. {CCh 92.1}

There are not many of you that really know what is contained in the Testimonies. ... It is **because you have neglected to acquaint yourselves with God's inspired Book that He has sought to reach you by simple, direct testimonies, calling your attention to the words of inspiration which you had neglected to obey,** and urging you to fashion your lives in accordance with its pure and elevated teachings. {CCh 92.5}

I have been shown that unbelief in the testimonies of warning, encouragement, and reproof is shutting away the light from God's people. Unbelief is closing their eyes so that they are ignorant of their true condition. **They think the testimony of the Spirit of God in reproof is uncalled for or that it does not mean them. Such are in the greatest need of the grace of God and spiritual discernment, that they may discover their deficiency in spiritual knowledge.** {2TT 289.1}

Many who have backslidden from the truth assign as a reason for their course that they do not have faith in the Testimonies. **The question now is: Will they yield their idol which God condemns, or will they continue in their wrong course of indulgence and reject the light God has given them reproving the very things in which they delight?** The question to be settled with them is: Shall I deny myself and receive as of God the Testimonies which reprove my sins, or shall I reject the Testimonies because they reprove my sins? {2TT 289.2}

Be Transformed Through Dying To Self

Accept Being Broken

Ps. 51:17 "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart—these, O God, You will not despise. "

Ps. 34:18 "The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart...."

We must fall upon the Rock and be broken before we can be uplifted in Christ. Self must be dethroned, pride must be humbled, if we would know the glory of the spiritual kingdom. The Jews would not accept the honor that

almost every respect to the known will of God, and are found in carelessness, in levity, in selfishness, in ambition and pride, corrupting their way before the Lord, how can he give them another outpouring of the Holy Spirit? {RH, February 6, 1894 par. 5}

VIII. Confessing On A Practical Basis And Making Things Right

Confess

Lev. 5:5 "... he shall confess that he has sinned in that thing;"

James 5:16 "Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another...."

When there are set before us things that are a cross for us to take up, we can never be one with Christ until we have lifted the cross. It may be the cross of confession, the cross of repentance, the cross of humiliation; but whatever it may be, let us remember that in lifting it, we are one with Christ, partakers of the divine nature. ... {RH May 18, 1905 Par. 7}

When those in our churches commit sins, they should repent of them before God, and they should also repent of them before their brethren, asking the pardon that they will be willing to give. Then the light that shines from the face of Christ will shine upon them. Let us clear the King's highway; let us plead with God until we know that we have received pardon. He will give it to us. But if you cover up your sin, you will have less and less sense of its sinfulness, and you will go on in the same line. {RH May 18, 1905 Par. 8}

If there are any differences between you and your brethren, for Christ's sake clear them away. Take up the stumbling-blocks. Clear the King's highway. If you have done your neighbor a wrong, go to him, and try to make the matter right. Talk with God, and when you have done this, you will be able to talk in a Christlike manner to your brother. {GCB, April 2, 1903 par. 13}

If you have made mistakes or errors in judgment or in speech, or if you have used the precious talent of speech to proclaim the wrong-doings of others, may God help you to make a change. Humble your hearts before the Lord. **Do not feel that your brethren will lose confidence in you if you make confession of sin.** We are all finite. We are God's little children. **Do not feel that it would lower your dignity to confess your sins.** Christ says, "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." We have separated ourselves from God. Let us draw near to Him. **Let us confess our sins, and let us be sure that we go to the bottom, and make thorough work for repentance. Will you do this? Will you prepare the way for God to bless you?** ... We may see it; we may have it. Let us not do anything that will hinder it from coming to us. {GCB, April 2, 1903 par. 14}

Let us not think that unless those who have injured us confess their wrongs, we are justified in withholding from them our forgiveness. ... We are to have a spirit of pity, of compassion toward those who have trespassed against us, whether or not they confess their faults. If they fail to repent and make confession, their sins will stand registered in the books above to confront them in the day of judgment; but if they say, "I repent," then our duty is plain; we are freely to forgive from the heart their trespasses against us as we hope to be forgiven by our heavenly Father. **However sorely they may**

October 30, 1894, par. 8}

When we give ourselves wholly to God and in our work follow His directions, He makes Himself responsible for its accomplishment. He would not have us conjecture as to the success of our honest endeavors. **Not once should we even think of failure. We are to co-operate with One who knows no failure.** {COL 363.1}

Failing To Share Our Distinctive Message

Ezek. 33:6 ““But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at the watchman’s hand.””

Rev. 2:5 “...repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its.”

In a clear, determined voice the messenger said, "I ask you what you are doing? **O that you could comprehend! O that you could understand the importance of the warning and what it means to you and to the world!** If you did understand, if you were filled with the spirit of the One who gave His life for the life of the world, you would cooperate with Him, making earnest, self-sacrificing efforts to save sinners." {1SM 92.2}

"He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (1 John 2:4). **A great awakening must come to the church. If we only knew, if we only understood, how quickly the spirit of the message would go from church to church. How willingly would the possessions of believers be given to support the work of God.** God calls upon us to pray and watch unto prayer. Cleanse your homes of [those things] which have consumed the money that ought to have flowed into the Lord's treasury. The light must go forth as a lamp that burneth. **Those who bear the message to the world should seek the Lord earnestly, that His Holy Spirit may be abundantly showered upon them. You have no time to lose. Pray for the power of God, that you may work with success for those nigh and afar off.** {1SM 92.3}

These Hinder Another Outpouring!

Another year has now passed into eternity with its burden of record; and the light which shone from heaven upon you was to prepare you to arise and shine, to show forth the praises of God to the world as his commandment-keeping people. **Your were to be living witnesses; but if no special endeavor of a high and holy character bears testimony before the world, if no higher effort has been made than that which is seen in the popular churches of the day, then the name of God has not been honored, and his truth has not been magnified before the world,** by presenting divine credentials in the people who have received great light. **If they have had no greater appreciation of the manifest power of God than to eat and drink, and rise up to play, as did ancient Israel, then how can the Lord trust his people with rich and gracious manifestations? If they act directly contrary in**

is reached through **humiliation.** Therefore they would not receive their Redeemer. He was a sign that was spoken against. {DA 56.5}

You say, “The surrender of all my idols will break my heart.” This is what is needed. In giving up all for God, you fall upon the rock and are broken. Give up all for him without delay, for unless you are broken, you are worthless. {ST, August 8, 1892 par. 2}

Agree To Dying To Self

Luke 9:23 “Then He said to them all, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.’”

1 Cor. 15:31 “I die daily.”

Rom. 6:1-4 “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

Jesus bade His followers take up the cross and bear it after Him. **To the disciples His words, though dimly comprehended, pointed to their submission to the most bitter humiliation,—submission even unto death for the sake of Christ. No more complete self-surrender could the Saviour's words have pictured.** {DA 416.3}

It is because men are not more than half converted that the church is so dead and lifeless. **There are many who are and have been all their lives half Christians.** Their names are in the Book of Life, and if they turn to the Lord with full purpose of heart, they then respect the voice that says unto them, “Seek ye My face,” and reply, “Thy face, Lord, will I seek,” and they shall see God with a clear, elevated, spiritual sense. The religious sentiment awakened in the heart is recognized as God's call, and is obeyed. **Everyone will be tested and tried in the very way that is the most trying.** Men cannot trust to their own wisdom. **Self-sufficiency, if indulged, will be their stumbling block. Self must die and not have a resurrection every other day.** The words must be truly spoken, “I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me.” **The “I” is a very hard personality to kill. “I” rises into life in full proportions if given the least opportunity or encouragement.** Then, confident in their own supposed wisdom, men forsake the right way. {21MR 368.2,3}

Why is it so hard to lead a self-denying, humble life? Because professed Christians are not dead to the world. It is easy living after we are dead. {RH, January 6, 1863 par. 10}

The new birth is a rare experience in this age of the world. This is the reason why there are so many perplexities in the churches. Many, so many, who assume the name of Christ are unsanctified and unholy. They **have been baptized, but they were buried alive. Self did not die, and therefore they did not rise to newness of life in Christ.** {6BC 1075.7}

We cannot retain self and yet be filled with the fullness of God. We must be

emptied of self. If heaven is gained by us at last, it will be only through the renunciation of self, and the receiving of the mind of Christ. {ST November 21, 1892, par. 4}

Agree To Being Emptied Of Self

Rom. 8:12-13 “Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”

Rom. 13:14 “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.”

2 Cor. 7:1 “Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

Gal. 5:24-25 “And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”

1 John 2:16-17 “For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”

Man must be emptied of self before he can be, in the fullest sense, a believer in Jesus. When self is renounced, then the Lord can make man a new creature. New bottles can contain the new wine. The love of Christ will animate the believer with new life. In him who looks unto the Author and finisher of our faith the character of Christ will be manifest. {DA 280 .4} 1898

Those who work for God are daily to empty the heart of self, that they may be cleansed of their hereditary and cultivated tendencies to wrong. They are to depend wholly upon Him who taught as never man taught. **Unless the soul temple is daily emptied of self, and prepared for the reception of the Holy Spirit, self will rule the entire being.** The words and acts will be tarnished with selfishness. Christ will not appear in the life. There will be seen a self-confidence that is wholly inappropriate. {18MR 168.3}

Let every one empty himself of the spirit of self-importance and receive the meekness of Christ. {SpTB05 51.2}

The Lord bids us empty our hearts of the selfishness which is the root of alienation. He longs to pour upon us His Holy Spirit in rich measure, and **He bids us clear the way by self-renunciation. When self is surrendered to God, our eyes will be opened to see the stumbling stones which our un-Christlikeness has placed in the way of others.** All these God bids us remove. {6T 43.2}

We cannot retain self and yet be filled with the fullness of God. We must be emptied of self. If heaven is gained by us at last, it will be only through the renunciation of self, and the receiving of the mind of Christ. Pride and self-sufficiency must be crucified, and the vacuum supplied with the Spirit and power of God. **Are we willing to pay the price required of us for eternal life? Are we ready to sit down and count the cost, and conclude that heaven is worth the sacrifice of dying to self, of having our will brought into perfect conformity with the will of God? Until we are willing, the**

Unless the cruel neglect and indifference manifested in the past shall cease, the church, instead of going from strength to strength, will continue to degenerate into weakness and formality. Shall we let this be? Is the dull torpor, the mournful deterioration in love and spiritual zeal, to be perpetuated? Is this the condition in which Christ is to find His church? {5T 611.2}

It is **not yet too late to redeem the neglects of the past. Let there be a revival of the first love, the first ardor. Search out the ones you have driven away, bind up by confession the wounds you have made.** Come close to the great Heart of pitying love, and let the current of that divine compassion flow into your heart and from you to the hearts of others.... {5T 612.3}

What **can we expect but deterioration in religious life, when the people listen to sermon after sermon, and do not put into practice the instruction given?** The ability God has given, if not exercised, will degenerate, and men and women unemployed, will become as tools that rust from inaction. {RH February 28, 1893, par. 3}

When men use their powers as God directs them to, their talents will increase, their ability will enlarge, and they will have heavenly wisdom in seeking to save those who are lost. But while the church-members are listless, and neglectful of their God-given responsibility, how can they expect to receive the treasure of heaven to impart to others? When professed Christians feel no burden to enlighten the minds of those who are in darkness; **when they fail to make use of the rich grace of Christ, and cease to impart the knowledge they have received, they become selfish, narrow, bigoted, and their capacity to receive more and more heavenly illumination decreases rather than increases.** They become less discerning, lose their appreciation of the richness of the heavenly endowment, and failing to value it themselves, they fail to present it to others. **It is only as God sees his professed people eager to be laborers together with him, that he can impart to them light and grace; for then they will make every interest secondary to the interest of his work and cause. With such workers the heavenly intelligences will co-operate.** {RH April 4, 1893, par. 9}

The very **simplest modes of work should be devised, and set in operation among the churches. If members will cooperate with such a plan, and perseveringly carry it out, they will reap a rich reward, for their experience will grow brighter, their ability will increase through exercise, and souls will be saved through their efforts. But if, on the other hand, the churches are left to their inactivity, Satan will see that they are employed. He will pre-occupy the field, and give the members lines of work to do that will engage their energies, kill spirituality, and make them fall as dead weights upon the church.** {PH007 11.2}

Every follower of Christ is to do something in the work, and not to do what you can, is to manifest indifference to the claims of Christ. If you refuse to be a faithful steward working under the Master, then you are following the directions of another leader, and ranging yourself with those who are warring against God. Christ said, “He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.” **If we are not active in the service of Christ, we are ranking with those who are in positive hostility against him; for we are in the position of stumbling-blocks.** Every means of influence that God has given you should be employed to the utmost. {RH

church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she would be holy and without blemish.”

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.** {AA 12.1}

The church is God’s fortress, his city of refuge, which he holds in a revolted world. Any betrayal of her sacred trust is treachery to him who has bought her with the precious blood of his only begotten Son. {RH December 4, 1900, par. 5}

God wants His people to be united in the closest bonds of Christian fellowship; confidence in our brethren is essential to the prosperity of the church; union of action is important in a religious crisis. One imprudent step, one careless action, may plunge the church into difficulties and trials from which it may not recover for years. **One member of the church filled with unbelief may give an advantage to the great foe that will affect the prosperity of the entire church, and many souls may be lost as the result. Jesus would have His followers subject one to another; then God can use them as instruments to save one another;** for one may not discern the dangers which another’s eye is quick to perceive; but if the undiscerning will in confidence obey the warning, they may be saved great perplexities and trials. {3T 446.1}

Failing To Fulfill Our Distinctive Mission

Isa. 5:1-4 “Now let me sing to my Well-beloved a song of my Beloved regarding His vineyard: My Well-beloved has a vineyard on a very fruitful hill. He dug it up and cleared out its stones, and planted it with the choicest vine. He built a tower in its midst, and also made a winepress in it; So He expected it to bring forth good grapes, but it brought forth wild grapes. “And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge, please, between Me and My vineyard. What more could have been done to My vineyard that I have not done in it? Why then, when I expected it to bring forth good grapes, did it bring forth wild grapes.”

Matt. 21:19 “And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, ‘Let no fruit grow on you ever again.’ Immediately the fig tree withered away.”

John 4:35 “Do you not say, “There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest.”

Luke 10:2 “Then He said to them, “The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

God has not been unmindful of the good deeds, the self-denying acts, of the church in the past. All are registered on high. But these are not enough. These will not save the church when she ceases to fulfill her mission.

transforming grace of God will not be manifested upon us. When we present our emptied nature to God, he will by his Holy Spirit supply the vacuum made by the renunciation of self, and give us of his fullness. {ST, November 21, 1892 par. 4}

No outward observances can take the place of simple faith and entire renunciation of self. But **no man can empty himself of self. We can only consent for Christ to accomplish the work.** Then the language of the soul will be, Lord, take my heart; for I cannot give it. It is Thy property. Keep it pure, for I cannot keep it for Thee. Save me in spite of myself, my weak, unchristlike self. Mold me, fashion me, raise me into a pure and holy atmosphere, where the rich current of Thy love can flow through my soul. {COL 159.3}

It is not only at the beginning of the Christian life that this renunciation of self is to be made. At every advance step heavenward it is to be renewed. All our good works are dependent on a power outside of ourselves. Therefore **there needs to be a continual reaching out of the heart after God, a continual, earnest, heartbreaking confession of sin and humbling of the soul before Him. Only by constant renunciation of self and dependence on Christ can we walk safely.** {COL 159.4}

When the heart is emptied of self, it will be ready for the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and then you will be fitted to strengthen the sheep and lambs of the flock of Christ; for self will be hid with Christ in God. The Spirit of Christ will be manifested in your daily life. {ST, August 1, 1892 par. 5}

Accept Necessary Trials

John 15:2 “Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.”

Ps. 51:7-8 “Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, That the bones You have broken may rejoice”

Mal. 3:3 “He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the Lord An offering in righteousness.”

2 Cor. 4:17 “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.”

James 1:2-4 “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”

Rev. 3:19 “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.”

Heb. 5:8 “Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience through the things which He suffered.”

Christ desires nothing so much as to redeem His heritage from the dominion of Satan. **But before we are delivered from Satan’s power without, we must be delivered from his power within.** The Lord permits trials in order that we may be cleansed from earthliness, from selfishness, from harsh, unchristlike traits of character. **He suffers the deep waters of affliction to go over our souls in**

order that we may know Him and Jesus Christ whom He has sent, in order that we may have deep heart longings to be cleansed from defilement, and may come forth from the trial purer, holier, happier. Often we enter the furnace of trial with our souls darkened with selfishness; but if patient under the crucial test, we shall come forth reflecting the divine character. When His purpose in the affliction is accomplished, "He shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday." Psalm 37:6. {COL 174.3}

Trials are essential in order that we may be brought close to our heavenly Father, in submission to his will, that we may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness. God's work of refining and purifying the soul **must go on until his servants are so humbled, so dead to self, that when called into active service, they may have an eye single to the glory of God.** ... The Lord brings his children over the same ground again and again, increasing the pressure until perfect humility fills the mind, and the character is transformed; then they are victorious over self, and in harmony with Christ and the Spirit of heaven. {RH April 10, 1894, par. 2}

The very trials that test our faith most severely, and make it seem that God has forsaken us, are designed to lead us nearer to Christ, that we may lay all our burdens at his feet, and receive the peace he will give us in exchange. . . . When you surrender yourself entirely to God, when you fall all broken upon Jesus, you will be rewarded by a victory, the joy of which you have never yet realized. As you review the past with a clear vision, you will see that at the very time when life seemed to you only a perplexity and a burden, Jesus himself was near you, seeking to lead you into the light. Your Father was by your side, bending over you with unutterable love, afflicting you for your good, as the refiner purifies the precious ore. When you have thought yourself forsaken, he has been near you to comfort and sustain. We seldom view Jesus as he is, and are never so ready to receive his help as he is to help us. {GW92 372.3}

Some seek to control their surroundings, thinking that if they are placed in favorable positions, the bad traits in their character will not be developed. But **God orders our surroundings, and he will place us where we shall have test after test, to prove us and to reveal what is in our hearts. Again and again we shall be brought into strait places, that it may be known whether we are indeed crucified with Christ or full of self-love.** How will this proving, testing process end with each of us? The prince of darkness will put forth all his power to retain us in his possession; but we have a mighty helper.—Review and Herald, June 3, 1884. {RH, June 3, 1884 par. 11}

The Father's presence encircled Christ, and **nothing befell Him but that which infinite love permitted for the blessing of the world.** Here was His source of comfort, and it is for us. He who is imbued with the Spirit of Christ abides in Christ. **Whatever comes to him comes from the Saviour, who surrounds him with His presence. Nothing can touch him except by the Lord's permission.** All our sufferings and sorrows, all our temptations and trials, all our sadness and griefs, all our persecutions and privations, in short, all things work together for our good. All experiences and circumstances are God's workmen whereby good is brought to us. {MH 488.4}

By God's mighty cleaver of truth we have been taken from the quarry of the

the greatest service. {8MR 423.1}

Partial Surrender

Rom. 12:1 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."

2 Cor. 8:5 "...they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God."

Until the heart is surrendered unconditionally to God, the human agent is not abiding in the true vine, and can not flourish in the vine, and bear rich clusters of fruit. God will not make the slightest compromise with sin. If he could have done this, Christ need not have come to our world to suffer and die. No conversion is genuine which does not change both the character and the conduct of those who accept the truth. The truth works by love, and purifieth the soul. {1888 1310.2}

There are many who **do not make an entire surrender. They do not die to self that Christ may live in them. They adopt His name, they wear His badge, but they are not partakers of His nature.** They have not overcome their unholy ambition and their love for the world. They **do not take up the cross and follow Christ in the path of self-denial and self-sacrifice.** Almost Christians, yet not fully Christians, they seem near the kingdom of heaven, but they can not enter there. **Almost, but not wholly saved, means to be wholly lost.** {ST January 6, 1904 par. 3}

When you give up your own will, your own wisdom, and learn of Christ as He has invited you, then you shall find entrance to the kingdom of God. **Entire, unreserved surrender He requires. Give up your life for Him to order, mold, and fashion; take upon your neck His yoke; submit to be led and taught as well as to lead and teach; learn that unless you become as a little child you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Abide in Him, to be and do only what He wills. These are the conditions of discipleship.** {21MR 231.4}

O parents, for the sake of yourselves, and your children, ... Set your own hearts in order, and work earnestly for your children. **An unreserved surrender to God will sweep away the barriers that have so long defied the approaches of heavenly grace. When you take up the cross and follow Christ, when you bring your lives into conformity to the will of God, your children will be converted.** The world will take knowledge of them that they have been with Jesus and have learned of him. In word and deed they will bear witness to the power of Christ's grace. {RH, July 15, 1902 par. 13}

Failing To Love God's Body The Church

Matt. 5:14 "You are the light of the world"

1 Tim. 3:15 "I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."

Eph. 5:25-26 "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might present her to Himself a glorious

such an elevating character that unbelievers cannot take advantage, or say evil of him justly, neither be disgusted with his uncourteous ways and unbecoming speech. He will carry the sanctifying influence of the truth into his family, and let his light so shine before them that they by seeing his good works may glorify God. He will in all the walks of life exemplify the life of Christ. {4bSG 156.1}

Compromise

Deut. 18:9 “You shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations.”

There is still, as with ancient Israel, **a constant tendency among the professed people of God to depart from the Lord's instructions, and to imitate the customs and practices of worldlings.** ... The Christianity which will yield to the influence of the world, and conform itself to their principles and customs, is looked upon with favor by men who are the enemies of God. But when the necessity for holiness of heart and life is presented, then the world feels that its rights are endangered. **When the church rebukes fashionable follies, demoralizing amusements, extravagance, and self-indulgence; when Christianity is spiritual, positive, earnest, and aggressive,—then the opposition of the world will be excited.** {ST, September 15, 1881 par. 3}

Love Of Position And Authority

Matt. 20:26 “Whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.”

It is a dangerous work to invest men with authority to judge and rule their fellowmen. Not to you nor to any other man has been given power to control the actions of God's people, and the effort to do this must be no longer continued. God has been dishonored by the education that has been given to the churches in Southern California in looking to one man as conscience and judgment for them. **God has never authorized any man to exercise a ruling power over his fellow workers; and those who have allowed a dictatorial spirit to come into their official work need to experience the converting power of God upon their hearts.** They have placed man where God should be. {SpM 413.4}

It is a wrong education to teach our people to lean on human aids, instead of going to the Lord in prayer. The enemy of souls has been the instigator of this, that minds might become obscured. The people are not to be instructed differently. **God's people are to meet together in counsel, but no leader or worker is to take the position that God's children are to make no move until he is first consulted.** Those who bear responsibilities in the work are to co-operate with heavenly angels in teaching men and women to look to God as the source of their strength. {SpM 415.3}

There are **some who desire to be a ruling power, and who need the sanctification of submission. God brings about a change in their lives, and perhaps places before them duties that they would not choose.** If they are willing to be guided by Him, He will give them grace and strength to perform the objectionable duties in a spirit of submission and helpfulness. They are being qualified to fill places where their disciplined abilities will make them of

world and **brought into the workshop of the Lord to be prepared for a place in his temple.** In this work the hammer and chisel must act their part, and then comes the polishing. Rebel not under this process of grace. You may be a rough stone, on which much work must be done before you are prepared for the place God designs you to fill. **You need not be surprised if with the hammer and the chisel of trial God cuts away your defects of character.** He alone can accomplish this work. **And be assured that he will not strike one useless blow. His every blow is struck in love,** for your eternal good and happiness. He knows your defects, and **works to restore, not to destroy.** He sends trials to you to make you strong to do and to suffer for him. {RH, June 20, 1907 par. 4}

God's love for his church is infinite. His care over his heritage is unceasing. **He suffers no affliction to come upon the church but such as is essential for her purification,** her present and eternal good. **He will purify his church even as he purified the temple at the beginning and close of his ministry on earth. All that he brings upon the church is test and trial comes that his people may gain deeper piety and more strength to carry the triumphs of the cross to all parts of the world.** He has a work for all to do. There must be constant enlargement and progress. The work must extend from city to city, from country to country, and from nation to nation, moving continually onward and upward, established, strengthened, and settled. {KC 114.5}

Receive New Life And Power “In Christ”

John 15:4 “Abide in me, and I in you.”

Col. 1:27 “To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

1 Cor. 3:16 “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you.”

Gal. 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

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

1 John 4:4 “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”

When the soul surrenders itself to Christ, a new power takes possession of the new heart. A change is wrought which man can never accomplish for himself. **It is a supernatural work, bringing a supernatural element into human nature.** The soul that is yielded to Christ becomes His own fortress, which He holds in a revolted world, and He intends that no authority shall be known in it but His own. A soul thus kept in possession by the heavenly agencies is impregnable to the assaults of Satan. {DA 324.1}

The Lord Jesus loves His people, and **when they put their trust in Him, depending wholly upon Him, He strengthens them. He will live through them, giving them the inspiration of His sanctifying Spirit, imparting to the soul a vital transfusion of Himself.** He acts through their faculties and **causes them to choose His will and to act out His character.** With the apostle

Paul they then may say, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). . . . {TMK 78.4}.

Jesus "has life in himself," and **this life he offers to impart freely to souls that are dead in trespasses and sins.** Yea, he shares with them his purity, his honor, and exaltation. "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God." The sapless branch, ingrafted into the living vine, becomes a part of the vine. It lives while united to the vine. **So the Christian lives by virtue of his union with Christ.** The sinful and human is linked to the holy and divine. {RH, September 11, 1883 par. 6}

At the altar of self-sacrifice,—the appointed place of meeting between God and the soul,—we receive from the hand of God the celestial torch, which searches the heart, revealing our great need of an abiding Christ. **When we feel our heart need, when we long after the quickening influence of the Holy Spirit, Christ draws nigh to us. Self is crucified. Christ lives in us,** and the power of the Spirit attends our efforts; then the soul is refined and elevated. Light from the heavenly sanctuary shines upon us, and we are enabled to exert an influence which is a savor of life unto life. **By a union with Christ, by living faith, we are privileged to enjoy the efficacy of His mediation. We are crucified with Christ, buried with Christ, risen with Christ, to walk in newness of life.** {ST October 11, 1899 Par. 14, 15}

"Without me ye can do nothing." It is at the peril of the soul that so many feel able to work in their own finite wisdom. **Without Christ we cannot subdue a single sin nor resist the slightest temptation. It is connection with a power that is almighty which will make us overcomers.** Then let everyone who comes to Jesus walk humbly, and feel daily that he needs a power out of and above himself, to soften his stony heart; that he needs to be melted over, that the dross of self may be consumed. **The same power that turned the water to wine at the marriage feast of Cana is able to eradicate all evil from our nature, and to make us partakers of the divine nature.** The very same power that made the leper clean can make the heart pure, fit for the society of God, of angels, and of the redeemed host. **Holy obedience will be found only in the righteousness which Christ imparts to the believing soul.** "As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me." And **every soul that abides in Christ and has Christ abiding in him, is as dear to God as is his own beloved Son.** Accepted in the Beloved, he is an object of the Father's tender care, and he will bear much fruit as the result of his union with the True Vine. {ST August 10, 1891, par. 2}.

A union with Christ by living faith is enduring; every other union must perish. Christ first chose us, paying an infinite price for our redemption; and the true believer chooses Christ as first and last and best in everything. But **this union costs us something. It is a union of utter dependence, to be entered into by a proud being.** All who form this union must feel their need of the atoning blood of Christ. They must have a change of heart. They must submit their own will to the will of God. There will be a struggle with outward and internal obstacles. **There must be a painful work of detachment as well as a work of attachment.** Pride, selfishness, vanity, worldliness--sin in all its

instruct the students. It is he who **has introduced the idea that selfish amusements are a necessity.** Students sent to school for the purpose of receiving an education to become evangelists, ministers and missionaries to foreign countries, **have received the idea that amusements are essential to keep them in physical health, while the Lord has presented before them that the better way is to embrace in their education manual labor in the place of amusements.** This amusement question, if practiced, will soon become a passion that gives disrelish to useful, healthful exercise of mind and body, which makes students useful to themselves and others. {SpM 49.4}

When the students at the school went into their match games and football playing, when they became absorbed in the amusement question, Satan saw it a good time to step in and make of none effect the Holy Spirit of God in molding and using the human subject. {1888 1211.1}

Ask yourself, **What bearing has the question of amusements on my religious life, on my character as a Christian? Do the games in which you participate, fit you to engage in prayer and in the service of God? Do they aid you to bring as much zeal and earnestness into the Lord's work as you put into the games you play?** Have not these amusements in which you have engaged, absorbed your interest so that you have not been able to put as much fervor into the learning of your lessons as you should have done? Which is to have the supremacy,—the service of God, or the service of self? Let every student closely examine the ground on which he is standing. {YI, May 17, 1894 par. 7}

Cheap Conversation

Eph. 5:4 "Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving."

The tenor of the conversation reveals the treasure of the heart. The cheap, common talk, the words of flattery, the foolish witticism, spoken to create a laugh, are the merchandise of Satan, and all who indulge in this talk are trading in his goods. {CT 340.2}

All frivolity, all cheapness of conversation, all jesting and joking, weakens the soul, and weans the heart from prayer. Like Paul, the true followers of Christ will ever bear about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus; they cannot keep in mind the sufferings of Christ for them, and yet be light and trifling. {GW92 233.1}

But few realize that they drive away the Spirit of God with their selfish thoughts and feelings, their foolish, trifling talk. . . . If the grace of Christ were planted in their hearts, and striking its roots down deep into good soil, they would bear fruit of an altogether different character. {SD 316.4}

There are those whom the truth finds coarse, rough, odd, boastful, who take advantage of their neighbors if they can, in order to benefit themselves. They err in many ways, yet **when the truth is believed by them from the heart, it will work an entire change in their life. They will immediately commence the work of reformation.** The pure influence of truth will elevate the whole man. In his business deal with his fellow men he will have the fear of God before him, and will love his neighbor as himself, and will deal just as he would wish to be dealt by. **His conversation will be truthful, chaste and of**

among Christ's disciples. These things are the cause of the present feebleness of the church. We have a perfect Pattern, even the life of Christ. It is to be our eager desire to do as he has done, to live as he lived, that others, by seeing our good works, may be led to glorify God. {RH, May 10, 1906 par. 13}

An earnest effort should be made in every church to put away evilspeaking and a censorious spirit as among the sins productive of the greatest evils in the church. Severity and faultfinding must be rebuked as the workings of Satan. Mutual love and confidence must be encouraged and strengthened in the members of the church. Let all, in the fear of God and with love to their brethren, close their ears to gossip and censure. Direct the talebearer to the teachings of God's word. Bid him obey the Scriptures and carry his complaints directly to those whom he thinks in error. **This united action would bring a flood of light into the church and close the door to a flood of evil. Thus God would be glorified, and many souls would be saved.** {5T 609.3}

He in whose heart Christ abides recognizes Christ abiding in the heart of his brother. Christ never wars against Christ. Christ never exerts an influence against Christ. **Christians are to do their work, whatever it may be, in the unity of the Spirit,** for the perfecting of the whole body. {ML 276.5}

One great reason why our brethren and sisters have no more confidence toward God in prayer, is, that **nearly all neglect to follow the words of Jesus in preserving harmony between brethren.** They allow various wrongs to exist with members of the church, **which create bitter envy and strife; and while these differences exist, God neither hears nor answers their prayers,** and darkness comes over the mind, because they have neglected the duty so plainly pointed out by our Redeemer. {RH, April 15, 1880 par. 9}

The success of our work depends upon our love to God and our love to our fellowmen. When there is harmonious action among the individual members of the church, **when there is love and confidence manifested by brother to brother, there will be proportionate force and power in our work for the salvation of men.** Oh, how greatly we need a moral renovation! Without the faith that works by love, you can do nothing. May the Lord give you hearts to receive this testimony. {TM 188.1}

Hindering Amusements

Definition: "A pleasurable occupation of the senses...."

2 Tim. 3:4 "...lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God."

Php. 4:8 "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things."

Ps. 101:3 "I will set nothing wicked before my eyes;"

Any amusement in which you can engage asking the blessing of God upon it in faith will not be dangerous. But **any amusement which disqualifies you for secret prayer, for devotion at the altar of prayer, or for taking part in the prayer meeting is not safe,** but dangerous. {AH 513.3}

In every school **Satan** has tried to make himself the guide of the teachers who

forms--must be overcome if we would enter into a union with Christ. **The reason why many find the Christian life so deplorably hard, why they are so fickle, so variable, is that they try to attach themselves to Christ without first detaching themselves from these cherished idols.** {5T 231.3}

Do you ask, "How am I to abide in Christ?" In the same way as you received Him at first. "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him." "The just shall live by faith." Colossians 2:6; Hebrews 10:38. You gave yourself to God, to be His wholly, to serve and obey Him, and you took Christ as your Saviour. You could not yourself atone for your sins or change your heart; but having given yourself to God, you believe that He for Christ's sake did all this for you. By faith you became Christ's, and by faith you are to grow up in Him--**by giving and taking. You are to give all,--your heart, your will, your service,--give yourself to Him to obey all His requirements; and you must take all,--Christ, the fullness of all blessing, to abide in your heart, to be your strength, your righteousness, your everlasting helper,--to give you power to obey.** {SC 69.2}

Cooperate With The Holy Spirit

Acts 1:8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Eph. 5:18 "And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit."

The only power that can quicken the heart into activity is the power which will give life to the dead—the Holy Spirit of God. . . . Hang your helpless soul upon your Mediator. In and through Him, and Him alone, you can come to God. . . . {2MR 24.4}

The Spirit was to be given as a regenerating agent, and without this the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail. The power of evil had been strengthening for centuries, and the submission of men to this satanic captivity was amazing. Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the third person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. **It is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world's Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature.** {RH November 19, 1908, Art. B, par. 5}

Transformation of character is wrought through the operation of the Holy Spirit, which works upon the human agent, implanting in him, according to his desire and consent to have it done, a new nature. The image of God is restored to the soul, and **day by day he is strengthened and renewed by grace, and is enabled more and more perfectly to reflect the character of Christ in righteousness and true holiness.**" {RH September 17, 1895, par. 7}

Christ has promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to His church.... but like every other promise, it is given on conditions. There are many who believe and profess to claim the Lord's promise; they **talk about Christ and about the Holy Spirit, yet receive no benefit. They do not surrender the soul to be guided and controlled by the divine agencies. We cannot use the Holy**

Spirit. The Spirit is to use us. ... But many will not submit to this. They want to manage themselves. This is why they do not receive the heavenly gift. **Only to those who wait humbly upon God, who watch for His guidance and grace, is the Spirit given. This promised blessing, claimed by faith, brings all other blessings in its train.**” {DA 672.2}

Do Not Consult Your Feelings

Jer. 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?”

Rom. 10:17 “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Prov. 3:5-6 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

If you look to yourself, you will see only weakness. There is no Saviour there. You will find Jesus away from yourself. You must look and live; [look] to Him who became sin for us, that we might be cleansed from sin and receive of Christ’s righteousness. {DG 146.3}

Satan may try to bind you to his car [chariot] as a helpless soul. But shout in victory that Christ has made you a free man. Do not dishonor God by one expression of inefficiency and inability to overcome fully, entirely, and gloriously through Jesus Christ, who has died to redeem you, and make you a free man. **Conquer, yes, conquer. Put your will every moment on the side of God’s will. Think hopefully and courageously.** In faith cry out against Satan, and looking unto Jesus who is the author and finisher of your faith, **say, “Jesus, my Redeemer, I am weak. I cannot do anything without Thy special help. I hang my helpless soul on Thee.” Then let your imagination dwell on the thought that you are in the presence of Jesus, walking with God, your life hid with Christ in God.... Then you will not glorify Satan by imagining yourself weak and helpless. You will keep yourself uplifted into a pure and holy atmosphere. You will receive the Holy Spirit as a comforter, as a sanctifier.... You will have a calm, restful spirit in God. You will say, “Jesus lives, and because He lives I will live also. He has conquered Satan in my behalf, and I will not be conquered by the devil once. I will not disgrace my Lord and Leader; but I will triumph in His holy name, and come off more than conqueror.”** {OHC 41.3}

If we believe in the power of Jesus’ name, and present our petitions to God in His name, we shall never be turned away.... Our help cometh from God, who holds all things in His own hands. Our peace is in the assurance that His love is exercised toward us. **If faith grasps this assurance, we have gained all; if we lose this assurance, all is lost.** When we surrender all we have and are to God and are placed in trying and dangerous positions, coming in contact with Satan, **we should remember that we shall have victory in meeting the enemy in the name and power of the Conqueror.** Every angel would be commissioned to come to our rescue when we thus depend upon Christ rather than that we should be permitted to be overcome. {TMK 265.3}

An Instructive Testimony

life. The grace of Christ can make your home a place of peace and rest, but unless you heed His Word and cherish His Spirit, you are none of His. **God requires you to be sanctified wholly in your home life.** The religion of Christ is not a religion to be reserved for certain places and occasions, and then laid aside at home. **The truth as a sanctifier is needed more in the home than in any other place.** Every thought, every impulse, every word and deed, is to be sanctified by the power of the truth. {13MR 80.1}

The traits of character you cherish in life will not be changed by death or by the resurrection. You will come up from the grave with the same disposition you manifested in your home and in society. Jesus does not change the character at His coming. The work of transformation must be done now. Our daily lives are determining our destiny. **Defects of character must be repented of and overcome through the grace of Christ, and a symmetrical character must be formed while in this probationary state, that we may be fitted for the mansions above.** {13MR 82.1}

In The Church

Romans 12:18 “If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.”

1 Cor. 1:10 “Now I plead with you ... that there be no divisions among you.”

James 3:16 “For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.”

John 17:21 “...that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.”

A **sleepy, Christless church, quarreling and surmising evil,** will have no reward, and **need look for no revival, unless its members repent,** and do the first works. {RH June 26, 1888 Par. 9}

Many who profess to gather with Christ are scattering from Him. This is why the church is so weak. Many indulge freely in criticism and accusing. By giving expression to suspicion, jealousy, and discontent, they yield themselves as instruments to Satan. Before they realize what they are doing, the adversary has through them accomplished his purpose. The impression of evil has been made, the shadow has been cast, the arrows of Satan have found their mark. **Distrust, unbelief, and downright infidelity have fastened upon those who otherwise might have accepted Christ. Meanwhile the workers for Satan look complacently upon those whom they have driven to skepticism, and who are now hardened against reproof and entreaty. They flatter themselves that in comparison with these souls they are virtuous and righteous. They do not realize that these sad wrecks of character are the work of their own unbridled tongues and rebellious hearts. It is through their influence that these tempted ones have fallen.** {COL 340.3}

There is **no more effectual hindrance to growth in grace than this disposition to criticize and condemn others.** We have in our experience **seen this accusing spirit gradually enter the hearts of church-members until it had leavened nearly the entire church,** and the result was that little of real godliness or of the spirit of Christ remained.--HS 212, 213. {PaM 268.3}

Envy, evil surmising, backbiting, and faultfinding,--let these not be named

helped to spoil the spirit of the work there.... The cause of present truth was founded in self-denial and self-sacrifice. This selfish, grasping spirit is entirely opposed to its principles. It is like the deadly leprosy, which in time will disease the whole body. I am afraid of it. **We need to take heed lest we outgrow the simple, self-sacrificing spirit that marked our work in its early years.**—Selected Messages 2:197. {PM 248.6}

The Lord has not stirred hearts to give for the advancement of the cause, and selfishness has leavened the churches. Unfaithful stewardship has been revealed in the payment of large wages to men who have made God's work and cause a matter of merchandise by which to enrich themselves. Those at the very heart of the work have displeased the Lord, and he has turned away from his people. Temptations came to the people, and back sliding was the result. **If they had called together the men of the conference and demanded an investigation of matters - which it was their right to do - decisive measures would have been taken to stop the existing evil. But this was not done.** Had they changed the order of things, and brought in the same principles which were revealed in the work when the first buildings were erected, the spirit of self-sacrifice would have been retained, and the work have moved onward and upward. **God's people would have understood that the way and work of the Lord can not prosper when his people are unwilling to sacrifice self.** {SpM 149.1}

Quarreling And Disunity

Definition: "Contention; dispute in angry words; breach of concord; a caviling or finding fault; disagreement."

In the Family

Eph. 5:25 "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her."

Eph. 5:33 "Let the wife see that she respects her husband."

Col. 3:18 "Wives submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord."

1 Pet. 3:7 "Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, ... that your prayers may not be hindered."

If the Word of God is obeyed, **the home will be the center of the highest kind of missionary work, but those who are at a disagreement in the home life, do not practice the words of the Lord, and will never be fit to enter the heavenly mansions, unless they are transformed by the grace of Christ.** If the Lord should permit them to enter heaven, they would not be happy, for they would find something that would not please them. **Someone would be in heaven whom they had never loved on earth, and they would want them banished from the place of bliss.** If we are sanctified, refined, and made meet for the society of the saints in this life, we shall be fitted for heaven. If we manifest the character of Christ here, we shall have a heaven to go to heaven in, and shall be cheered by glimpses of our eternal home, which Jesus has gone to prepare. {13MR 78.2}

Whatever will make the character lovely in the home will make it lovely in the heavenly mansion, and **by your home life Jesus will measure your religious**

One place we were laboring in America, **and there was every youth in our college at South Lancaster, Massachusetts, converted as we were telling them the simple story of the cross, to come to Jesus just as they were.** Such an experience. **I missed the youth there one evening, and I inquired, "Where are they? They have been here, but they are not here now." Soon a whole class of them came in and took their seats. Then they got up and began to bear their testimonies--I have done wrong to such a neighbor, I have done wrong to such a man, I have done this sin and that and the other one--and another one stood up on his feet and bore his confessions. They said, "I wanted to come to this meeting knowing that I had removed the last stumbling block before my feet and the feet of others."** What a testimony they bore. . . . {10MR 308.1,2} Now here is the word before us. "According to His divine power." **We have no strength, we have nothing of ourselves, we are utter weakness. We cannot take one step toward God unless His grace is working upon human hearts and drawing us.** Just as soon as we take the first step toward His mercy and grace He advances toward us, He advances with His pardon and grace. He takes away the sins of the world, and imputes to us His righteousness. {10MR 308.4} **Now we may think, "I did not feel just as I wanted to."** In that very meeting **there was one that thought that he had received the love of God as he never had received it before.** The next morning he came to the meeting and he got up. I knew in a moment something was the matter. The light was not in his countenance. **Said he, "Somehow I don't feel as I did last night.** Somehow I don't feel a nearness to God. **I lost the blessing."** {10MR 309.1} **"Where did you lose it, Brother R? Where did you lose it?" "I can't tell."** "You slept through the night and God guarded you all night. Then what is the matter this morning?" **Well, he did not know. I will tell you. You have not educated yourself to believe in God whatever feelings you have.** Feeling is not your God, and it is no use for you to offer sacrifice on the altar of feeling, for feeling and faith are just as distinct from each other as heaven and earth, as the east is from the west. {10MR 309.2} **"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Now faith walks the narrow plank, and walks till it comes to the end, then steps right off onto nothing, as it were. Yet it is everything. It is a mighty upholder. You walk the plank of faith and you cannot see another step to go. You need not consult how you feel. Feeling has nothing to do with it.** Do I believe in God, that He is my God, and that His promises will be verified to me? Then I go right about my work. **I never look or examine whether I have feeling or have no feeling. I know what my duty is from the expressed will of God, and it is for me to do it and do it intelligently.** {10MR 309.3}

Receive Victory

2 Cor. 2:14 "Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ...."

2 Cor. 7:1 "Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

In order to gain the victory over every besetment of the enemy, we must lay hold on a power that is out of and beyond ourselves. We must maintain a constant, living connection with Christ, who has power to give victory to

every soul that will maintain an attitude of faith and humility.... As those who hope to receive the overcomer's reward, we must press forward in the Christian warfare, though at every advance we meet with opposition.... As overcomers, we are to reign with Christ in the heavenly courts, and we are to overcome through the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony. "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God." {SD 370.4}

None will enter the holy city, the paradise of God, but as conquerors,—those who have separated themselves from the world, and stood in defense of the faith once delivered to the saints, and have fought the good fight of faith, looking constantly to "Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." {RH August 25, 1885, par. 16}

Let us take the robe of His righteousness woven in the loom of heaven. There is not a thread of humanity in that robe. It is the robe of Christ's righteousness. Let us put it on right here. We want life. We want to give the example of what Christ is and what we may be. Oh, that we might manifest God to a fallen world. **We may be purified so that we may wear the robe of Christ's righteousness, and the crown of immortality.** God grant that this may be our lot; for Jesus loves us with a love that is infinite. He does not want that one of us should perish, but that everyone may have that life that measures with the life of God. God grant that we may secure that blessed inheritance—Ms. 12, 1894. (MR 900.11) {1SAT 249.1}

III. Adopt Christ's Lifestyle Of Obedience And Service

Take Christ's Yoke

Matt. 11:28-30 "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Do Not Take On False Yokes

Gal. 5:1 "Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage."

John 8:36 "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."

Does He not tell us the truth when He says, "My yoke is easy"? **If we manufacture yokes for ourselves, as many are doing, we shall find them extremely galling;** but if we take the yoke that Christ has prepared for us, and become meek and lowly in heart, self will be hid with Christ in God. This is the correct position for us to occupy. {2SAT 275.1}

We often think we are having a hard time in bearing burdens, and it is too often the case, because **God has not made any provision for us to carry these burdens;** but when we bear His yoke and carry His burdens, we can testify that the yoke of Christ is easy and His burdens are light, because He has made provision for these. {5BC 1091.2}

Jesus **invites you to lay down the yoke you have been bearing, which has been galling your neck ... the load of self-love, covetousness, pride, passion,**

Untidiness

Deut. 23:14 "For the Lord your God walks in the midst of your camp, to deliver you and give your enemies over to you; therefore your camp shall be holy, that He may see no unclean thing among you, and turn away from you."

I then **saw a lack of cleanliness among Sabbathkeepers. I saw that God was purifying unto Himself a peculiar people. He will have a clean and a holy people in whom he can delight. I saw that the camp must be cleansed, or God would pass by** and see the uncleanness of Israel and would not go forth with their armies to battle. He would turn from them in displeasure, and our enemies would triumph over us and we be left weak, in shame and disgrace. {3SM 273.2}

I **saw that God would not acknowledge an untidy, unclean person as a Christian. His frown was upon such.** Our souls, bodies, and spirits are to be presented blameless by Jesus to his Father, and **unless we are clean in person, and pure, we cannot be presented blameless to God.** {3SM 273.3}

I **saw that the houses of the saints should be kept tidy and neat, free from dirt and filth and all uncleanness.** I saw that the house of God had been desecrated by the carelessness of parents with their children and by the untidiness and uncleanness there. **I saw that these things should meet with an open rebuke, and if there was not an immediate change in some that profess the truth in these things they should be put out of the camp....** {3SM 274.1}

Greed And Oppression

Prov. 22:22-23 "Do not rob the poor because he is poor, Nor oppress the afflicted at the gate; for the Lord will plead their cause, And plunder the soul of those who plunder them."

Extravagance, overreaching, extortion, are corrupting the faith of many and destroying their spirituality. The church is in a great degree responsible for the sins of her members. She gives countenance to evil if she fails to lift her voice against it. {PK 651.2}

As we bring ourselves into right relationship with God, we shall have success wherever we go; and it is success that we want, not money—living success, and God will give it to us because He knows all about our self-denial. He knows every sacrifice that we make. You may think that your self-denial does not make any difference, that you ought to have more consideration and so on. But it makes a great difference with the Lord. **Over and over again I have been shown that when individuals begin to reach out after higher and still higher wages, something comes into their experience that places them where they stand no longer on vantage ground. But when they take the wage that carries on the face of it the fact that they are self-sacrificing, the Lord sees their self-denial and He gives them success and victory.** This has been presented to me over and over again. The Lord that seeth in secret will reward openly for every sacrifice that His tried servants have been willing to make.—Manuscript 12, 1913. {2SM 179.3}

It was **the demand for large wages among the workers at Battle Creek that**

short to adorn the body with gold or silver or costly apparel. {3SM 248.1}

We do not discourage neatness in dress. Correct taste is not to be despised nor condemned. Our faith, if carried out, will lead us to be so plain in dress, and zealous of good works, that we shall be marked as peculiar. But **when we lose taste for order and neatness in dress, we virtually leave the truth; for the truth never degrades, but elevates. When believers are neglectful of their dress, and are coarse and rough in their manners, their influence hurts the truth.** “We are,” said the inspired apostle, “made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.” All heaven is marking the daily influence that the professed followers of Christ exert upon the world. **My sisters, your dress is telling either in favor of Christ and the sacred truth or in favor of the world. Which is it? Remember that we must all answer to God for the influence we exert.** {RH November 17, 1904 Par. 10}

Simplicity of dress will make a sensible woman appear to the best advantage. We judge of a person’s character by the style of dress worn. A modest, godly woman will dress modestly. **A refined taste, a cultivated mind, will be revealed in the choice of a simple, appropriate attire. The young women who break away from the slavery of fashion will be ornaments to society. The one who is simple and unpretending in her dress and in her manners shows that she understands that a true woman is characterized by moral worth. How charming, how interesting, is simplicity in dress, which in comeliness can be compared with the flowers of the field.** {RH November 17, 1904 Par. 11}

In Houses And Lands

1 Tim. 6:9 “But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.”

The voice of Providence is calling upon all who have the love of God in their hearts to arouse to this great emergency. Never was there a time when so much was at stake as today. **Never was there a period in which greater energy and self-sacrifice were demanded of God’s commandment-keeping people. If there was ever need of economy and self-denial, it is now. There should be no extravagance in dress, no useless expenditure for self-indulgence or display.** Let our means and our labors be devoted to the cause of God, to save souls for whom Christ died. {RH December 7, 1886 Par. 13}

Should we dress in plain, modest apparel without reference to the fashions; should our tables at all times be set with simple, healthful food, avoiding all luxuries, all extravagance; should our houses be built with becoming plainness, and furnished in the same manner, it would show the sanctifying power of the truth, and would have a telling influence upon unbelievers. But while we conform to the world in these matters, in some cases apparently seeking to excel worldlings in fanciful arrangement, the preaching of the truth will have but little or no effect. Who will believe the solemn truth for this time, when those who already profess to believe it contradict their faith by their works? It is not God who has closed the windows of heaven to us, but it is our own conformity to the customs and practices of the world. {CD 90.2}

jealousy, and evil surmising. Yet how closely do men clasp these curses, and how loath are they to give them up. {4T 240.3}

Take Up God’s Yoke

1 John 5:3 “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.”

This yoke, [which] you are afraid [to] put upon your neck because you fear it will gall, Jesus says is easy. The **burden you dare not touch—it is light.** All that is required on your part is to resolutely lay hold upon it, and **you will find it a support rather than a grievous burden.** That cross which seems to you so inconvenient an instrument to lift, which seems too heavy to be raised, when you cheerfully lay hold upon it and lift it, **it will lift you and be a support and strength to you....** {UL 376.4}

What is God’s Yoke?

It Is A Yoke Of Obedience

John 6:38 “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”

John 13:17 “If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”

The **yoke and the cross are symbols representing the same thing**,—the giving up of the will to God. {5BC 1090.8}

What is “My yoke”? **It is perfect submission to God.** {1SAT 152.3}

“When you give up your own will, your own wisdom, and learn of Christ, you will find admittance into the kingdom of God. He **requires entire, unreserved surrender.** Give up your life for Him to order, mold, and fashion. Take upon your neck His yoke. **Submit to be led and taught by Him.** Learn that unless you become as a little child, you can never enter the kingdom of heaven. {1SM 110.2}

Holiness is not rapture: **it is an entire surrender of the will to God;** it is living by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God; it is doing the will of our heavenly Father; it is **trusting God in trial, in darkness as well as in the light;** it is walking by faith and not by sight; it is **relying on God with unquestioning confidence,** and resting in His love. {AA 51.2}

Holiness is constant agreement with God. {ST, June 21, 1905 par. 3}

It Is Also A Yoke of Service

Matt. 10:8 “Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”

Matt. 20:26-28 “And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve....”

The **yoke is an instrument of service.** Cattle are yoked for labor, and the yoke is essential that they may labor effectually. **By this illustration Christ teaches us that we are called to service as long as life shall last.** We are to take upon us His yoke, that we may be co-laborers with Him. {ST June 29, 1904 Par. 3}

If you will seek the Lord and be converted every day; if you will of your own spiritual choice be free and joyous in God; if with gladsome consent of heart to His gracious call, you come wearing the yoke of Christ,—**the yoke of obedience and service**,—all your murmurings will be stilled, all your difficulties will be removed, all the perplexing problems that now confront you will be solved. {MB 101.3}

Whatever business engagements men may yoke up with, if Christians, they must wear the yoke of duty to Christ. This is their allegiance. They are to consider themselves bound by superior obligations. **The Master, Jesus Christ, has placed His yoke upon the neck of every disciple. The life service is pledged to Him in accepting His yoke. Anything that will mar or hinder his perfect service to God is to be broken off**, whatever its nature or character may be. . . . {HP 201.4}

This Yoke Is To Be Worn In Meekness And Lowliness

Ps. 25:9 “The meek will he guide . . . the meek will he teach his way.”

Ps. 37:11 “But the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.”

Ps. 149:4 “He will beautify the meek with salvation.”

Matt. 5:5 “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”

We are to take his yoke of submission, restraint, and obedience, **in meekness and lowliness of heart**. Those who yoke up with Christ will find rest and peace. {GH, December 1, 1899 par. 6}

Meekness is a precious, Christian attribute. The meekness and lowliness of Christ are only learned by wearing Christ's yoke. . . . **That yoke signifies entire submission**. {HP 236.2}

In our separation from God, in our pride and darkness, we are constantly seeking to elevate ourselves, and we forget that **lowliness of mind is power**. Our Saviour's power was not in a strong array of sharp words that would pierce through the very soul; **it was His gentleness and His plain, unassuming manners that made Him a conqueror of hearts**. Pride and self-importance, when compared with lowliness and humility, are indeed weakness. {3T 477.1}

The meekness and lowliness of Christ is the Christian's power. It is indeed more precious than all things which genius can create or wealth can buy. {CH 403.1}

Jesus expects that **his gentleness and condescension will be reproduced in those whom he blesses**. Jesus came to our world, and chose the lowliest life, took the humblest position, leaving us an example that we should follow in his steps. The Majesty of heaven **was meek and lowly in heart, and he expects all his followers to catch his spirit** of meekness and lowliness.... {ST August 22, 1895 Par. 1}

In the world the Christian will **be slighted and dishonored**, and will **consent to be least of all and servant of all**. He will **submit to be injured, to be despitely used and persecuted**, but wearing the yoke of Christ he will find rest unto his soul, and the yoke will not be galling. {ST August 22, 1895 Par. 5}

Meekness is a precious grace, **willing to suffer silently, willing to endure**

or selfish pleasures, in excursions merely for selfish gratifications. All this is embezzling the Lord's goods, using to please self that means that is wholly His and which should be devoted to His service.—Letter 42a, 1893. {Ev 344.4}

Your room may contain many little ornaments placed there for admiration; but **if you would have an eye single to the glory of God, you would do well to pack away these little idols. In handling, dusting, and replacing them, many precious moments are spent that might be employed in needful work**. But if these trinkets are not to be stored away, then you have another lesson to learn. Be expeditious. Do not dreamily take up every article, and keep it in your hand, as though loath to lay it down. It is the duty of those who are slow in their movements to improve in this respect. The Lord has said, "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord." {Ev 480.3}

VII. What Needs Confessing (B)

Vanity And The Love Of Display

In Dress

Ex. 28:2 “And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty.”

1Peter 3:3-4 “Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.”

As I have seen those of our faith becoming worldly, my heart has been saddened. **Some of those who profess to believe that they have the last message of mercy to give to the world, follow the fashions as far as they think their profession of faith will allow them to do. And their influence leads others astray**. Their lack of Christlikeness is apparent to all. **The Lord is dishonored by their conformity to the fashions of this degenerate age. Outward display is contradictory to our profession of faith**. I entreat my sisters to guard against the tendency to dress in accordance with the demands of fashion. {RH November 17, 1904 Par. 3}

Satan invented the fashions in order to keep the minds of women so engrossed with the subject of dress that they could think of but little else. {4T 629.2}

Obedience to fashion is pervading our Seventh-day Adventist churches and is doing more than any other power to separate our people from God. I have been shown that our church rules are very deficient. All exhibitions of pride in dress, which is forbidden in the word of God, should be sufficient reason for church discipline. If there is a continuance, in face of warnings and appeals and entreaties, to still follow the perverse will, it may be regarded as proof that the heart is in no way assimilated to Christ. Self, and only self, is the object of adoration, and one such professed Christian will lead many away from God. {4T 647.2}

Those who have bracelets, and wear gold and ornaments, had better take these idols from their persons and sell them, even if it should be for much less than they gave for them, and thus practice self-denial. Time is too

matters and lay plans on the Sabbath, are regarded of God as though they engaged in the actual transaction of business. To keep the Sabbath holy, we should not even allow our minds to dwell upon things of a worldly character. {CCh 269.3}

Our brethren **cannot expect the approval of God while they place their children where it is impossible for them to obey the fourth commandment.** They should endeavor to make some arrangement with the authorities whereby the children shall be excused from attendance at school upon the seventh day. **If this fails, then their duty is plain, to obey God's requirements at whatever cost.** {CCh 268.4}

Proper Reverence For God's House

Hab. 2:20 "The Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him."

The **house of God is often desecrated, and the Sabbath violated by Sabbath-believers' children. In some cases they are even allowed to run about the house, play, talk, and manifest their evil tempers in the very meetings where the saints should worship God in the beauty of holiness. And the place that should be holy, and where a holy stillness should reign, and where there should be perfect order, neatness, and humility, is made to be a perfect Babylon, "confusion." This is enough to bring God's displeasure and shut His presence from our assemblies.** {CG 540.4}

It is too true that reverence for the house of God has become almost extinct. Sacred things and places are not discerned; the holy and exalted are not appreciated. Is there not a cause for the want of fervent piety in our families? ... Would it not be well for us often to read the directions given by God Himself to the Hebrews, that we who have the light of the glorious truth shining upon us may imitate their reverence for the house of God? We have abundant reason to maintain a fervent, devoted spirit in the worship of God. **We have reason even to be more thoughtful and reverential in our worship than had the Jews. But an enemy has been at work to destroy our faith in the sacredness of Christian worship.** {2TT 198.2}

Wasting Time And Money On Little Idols

Matt. 13:22 "Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful."

How **much means are spent for things that are mere idols, things that engross the thoughts and affections, little ornaments that require attention to be kept free from dust and placed in order.** The moments spent in arranging these little idols might be spent in speaking a word in season to some soul, awakening an interest to inquire, "What shall I do to be saved?" These little things take the time that should be devoted to prayer, seeking the Lord, and grasping by faith the promises.... {Ev 344.3}

When I see how much might be done in such countries as I am now in, my heart burns within me to show to those who profess to be the children of God how much money they are wasting on dress, on expensive furniture,

trials. Meekness is patient and labors to be happy under all circumstances. Meekness is **always thankful** and makes its own songs of happiness, making melody in the heart to God. Meekness **will suffer disappointment and wrong, and will not retaliate.** {3T 335.1}

This Yoke Is Easy To Carry

John 16:33 "Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

James 1:2-4 "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."

2 Cor. 4:17 "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

It was the **spirit of uncomplaining submission in which our Saviour did His duty that made His yoke easy** and His burden light. He conformed to the law of obedience and service, and the **same principle that made Him so useful everywhere, He requires His followers to obey.** In this way every man must be educated before he can love God supremely and his neighbor as himself. {ST, June 16, 1898 par. 9}

When you **find your work hard**, when you **complain of difficulties and trials**, when you say that **you have no strength** to withstand temptation, that **you cannot overcome** impatience, and that **the Christian life is uphill work, be sure that you are not bearing the yoke of Christ;** you are bearing the yoke of another master. {CG 267.3}

What Does This Mean On A Practical Basis?

1 John 2:6 "He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked."

Mic. 6:8 "He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you, to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Isa. 66:2 "But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word."

Take hold of the arm of God, and **say, "I am nothing, and Thou art everything.** Thou hast said, 'Without me ye can do nothing.' **Now, Lord, I must have Thee abiding in me, that I may abide in Thee.**" Then advance step by step, by living faith abiding in Jesus Christ. **This is wearing His yoke, the yoke of obedience** (MS 85, 1901). {5BC 1092.1}

Lowliness of heart, that meekness which is the fruit of abiding in Christ, is the true secret of blessing. ... It was through the desire for self-exaltation that sin entered into the world, and our first parents lost the dominion over this fair earth, their kingdom. **It is through self-abnegation that Christ redeems that which was lost. And He says we are to overcome as He did.** Through humility and self-surrender we may become heirs with Him, when the "meek shall inherit the earth." [49] – {SD 303.5}

We Will Be Blessed In Obeying

Rom. 8:37 "Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors...."

1 Cor. 15:57 "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

The **blessings connected with Christ's invitation can be realized and enjoyed by those only who wear Christ's yoke.** Accepting this invitation, you withdraw your sympathy, your affections, from the world, and place them where you can enjoy the blessing of close fellowship and communion with God. By coming to Christ, you bind up your interests with his. {RH October 23, 1900 Par. 10}

There is rest for the soul in wearing Christ's yoke, in lifting Christ's burdens. It seems a contradiction to say that **there is no rest for the soul except that which is found in continuous and devoted service. But this is true.** Happiness comes in willing, obedient service, where all the powers of our being are moving in happy, healthy, harmonious action in obeying our Captain's orders. **The more responsible the task assigned to Christ's soldiers, the more the soul exults in the Saviour's love and approval. The soul realizes a freedom in the performance of the weightiest and most taxing duties.** Youth Instructor, December 22, 1886

Oh, **what wonderful blessings and opportunities God has in store for those who wear Christ's yoke!** Trouble comes to us because we manufacture yokes for ourselves, refusing to wear the yoke of Christ. {PUR, January 15, 1903 par. 3}

None but God can subdue the pride of man's heart. We cannot save ourselves. We cannot regenerate ourselves. In the heavenly courts **there will be no song sung, "To me that loved myself, and washed myself, redeemed myself, unto me be glory and honor, blessing and praise."** But this is the keynote of the song that is sung by many here in this world. They do not know what it means to be meek and lowly in heart, and they do not mean to know this if they can avoid it. **The whole gospel is comprised in learning of Christ His meekness and lowliness.** {20MR 117.2 }

IV. What Is The Condition of God's People

Iniquity Separated God's Chosen People From Him In The Past

Isa. 1:4 "Alas, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity...."

Isa. 1:11 "To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?"

Isa. 1:15 "When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; Even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood."

Isa. 59:1-2 "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you."

Jer. 5:30-31 "An astonishing and horrible thing has been committed in the land; The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule by their own power; and My people love to have it so. But what will you do in the end."

worship on the Sabbath. They **are not to enter the presence of God in the common clothing worn during the week. All should have a special Sabbath suit,** to be worn when attending service in God's house. While we should not conform to worldly fashions, we are not to be indifferent in regard to our outward appearance. We **are to be neat and trim, though without adornment.** The children of God should be pure within and without. {CG 531.2}

In Our Activities

Isa. 58:13 "If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, The holy day of the Lord honorable, And shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, Nor finding your own pleasure, Nor speaking your own words...."

It is **displeasing to God for Sabbathkeepers to sleep during much of the Sabbath. They dishonor their Creator in so doing, and, by their example, say that the six days are too precious for them to spend in resting.** They must make money, although it be by robbing themselves of needed sleep, which they make up by sleeping away holy time. They then excuse themselves by saying: "The Sabbath was given for a day of rest. I will not deprive myself of rest to attend meeting, for I need rest." Such make a wrong use of the sanctified day. {CCh 270.4}

All who love God should do what they can to make the Sabbath a delight, holy and honorable. They cannot do this by seeking their own pleasure in sinful, forbidden amusements. Yet they can do much to exalt the Sabbath in their families and make it the most interesting day of the week. We should devote time to interesting our children. A change will have a happy influence upon them. We can walk out with them in the open air; we can sit with them in the groves and in the bright sunshine, and give their restless minds something to feed upon by conversing with them upon the works of God, and can inspire them with love and reverence by calling their attention to the beautiful objects in nature. {CG 536.1}

In Closing The Sabbath

As the sun goes down, let the voice of prayer and the hymn of praise mark the close of the sacred hours, and invite God's presence through the cares of the week of labor. {CG 536.3} Thus parents can make the Sabbath, as it should be, the most joyful day of the week. They can lead their children to regard it as a delight, the day of days, the holy of the Lord, honorable. {CG 537.1}

In Guarding The Sabbath

It is the grossest presumption for mortal man to venture upon a compromise with the Almighty in order to secure his own petty, temporal interests. **It is as ruthless a violation of the law to occasionally use the Sabbath for secular business as to entirely reject it;** for it is making the Lord's commandments a matter of convenience. CCh 269.2}

The words and thoughts should be guarded. **Those who discuss business**

September 17, 1889 par. 12}

Making The Sabbath A Delight In Our Eating

Ex. 20:8 “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.”

Ezek. 20:12 “Moreover I also gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between them and Me, that they might know that I am the Lord who sanctifies them.”

Isa. 58:13-14 “If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the Lord honorable, and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words, then you shall delight yourself in the Lord; and I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father.

The mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

Speak not lightly of the restrictions placed upon Israel in Sinai regarding the cooking of manna. **The Lord has placed barriers around his Sabbath, that it may not be regarded with the least carelessness or irreverence.** When the Lord said, "Tomorrow is the rest of the holy Sabbath: bake that which ye will bake today, and seethe that ye will seethe," **he meant that Friday should be our preparation day, in which we are to do all our cooking.** The Sabbath is not to be a day when tidbits shall be prepared or cooked. If it is really essential to have beans on the Sabbath, let them be cooked on Friday, and kept warm in the oven. They need not be eaten cold unless preferred. But **let no remarks be made as though it were a very light thing whether or not we regard the special requirements of God in regard to the Sabbath.** {RH, June 8, 1897 par. 3}

God meant what He said when He gave these directions, and shall we, who are presenting to the people the claims of the divine law, break that law ourselves, merely to please the appetite? God forbid. **There has sometimes been almost as much cooking done on the Sabbath as on other days; and the blessing of God has been shut out by our failure to honor Him** in keeping the Sabbath according to the commandment.— Undated Manuscript 88. {13MR 293.3}

We should not provide for the Sabbath a more liberal supply or a greater variety of food than for other days. Instead of this the food should be more simple, and less should be eaten, in order that the mind may be clear and vigorous to comprehend spiritual things. Overeating befogs the brain. The most precious words may be heard and not appreciated, because the mind is confused by an improper diet. By overeating on the Sabbath, many have done more than they think to dishonor God. {CG 532.1}

While cooking upon the Sabbath should be avoided, it is not necessary to eat cold food. In cold weather let the food prepared the day before be heated. And **let the meals, though simple, be palatable and attractive. Provide something that will be regarded as a treat, something the family do not have every day.** {CG 532.2}

In Our Dressing

Many need instruction as to how they should appear in the assembly for

2Chron. 36:15,16 “And the Lord God of their fathers sent warnings to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending them, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against His people till there was no remedy.”

Blessings Were Promised And Fulfilled

Zech. 13:1,2 “In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David....”

Acts 2:41-43 “... that day about three thousand souls were added....”

Acts 5:14 “And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes....”

What was the result of the outpouring of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost? **The glad tidings of a risen Saviour were carried to the uttermost parts of the inhabited world.** As the disciples proclaimed the message of redeeming grace, hearts yielded to the power of this message. **The church beheld converts flocking to her from all directions.** Backsliders were reconverted. Sinners united with believers in seeking the pearl of great price. Some who had been the bitterest opponents of the gospel became its champions. ... **Every Christian saw in his brother a revelation of divine love and benevolence.** One interest prevailed; one subject of emulation swallowed up all others. **The ambition of the believers was to reveal the likeness of Christ's character and to labor for the enlargement of His kingdom.** {AA 48.1}

What Happened In The Church Over Time?

Rev. 2:4 “Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.”

After the descent of the Holy Spirit, when the disciples went forth to proclaim a living Saviour, their one desire was the salvation of souls. They rejoiced in the sweetness of communion with saints. **They were tender, thoughtful, self-denying, willing to make any sacrifice for the truth's sake. In their daily association with one another, they revealed the love that Christ had enjoined upon them.** By unselfish words and deeds they strove to kindle this love in other hearts. {AA 547.3}

But **gradually a change came. The believers began to look for defects in others. Dwelling upon mistakes, giving place to unkind criticism, they lost sight of the Saviour and His love.** They became **more strict in regard to outward ceremonies,** more particular about the theory than the practice of the faith. **In their zeal to condemn others, they overlooked their own errors.** They lost the brotherly love that Christ had enjoined, and, **saddest of all, they were unconscious of their loss.** They did not realize that happiness and joy were going out of their lives and that, having shut the love of God out of their hearts, they would soon walk in darkness. {AA 548.1}

What Is The Situation In Our Day?

Rev. 3:14-16 “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot.”

2 Tim 4:3 “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine.”

Titus 1:16 “They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being

abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.”

Today there are few who are heartily serving God. The most of those who compose our congregations are spiritually dead in trespasses and sins. They come and go like the door upon its hinges. For years they have complacently listened to the most solemn, soul-stirring truths, but they have not practiced them. **They are less and less sensible of the preciousness and value of truth, because they neglect the practice of those things which are pleasing in the sight of God.** The stirring testimonies of reproof and warning do not arouse them. The sweetest melodies that come from God through human lips—justification by faith, and the righteousness of Christ—do not bring forth from them a response of love and gratitude. {RH April 4, 1893 Par. 4}

We are living in a most solemn time. In the last vision given me, I was shown the startling fact that but a **small portion of those who now profess the truth will be sanctified by it and be saved.** Many will get above the simplicity of the work. They will conform to the world, cherish idols, and become spiritually dead. The humble, self-sacrificing followers of Jesus will pass on to perfection, leaving behind the indifferent and lovers of the world. {1T 608.3}

Sins of a grave character are in our borders, and unless there is an awakening such as we have not seen for some time which will convict and convert professed Sabbath keepers, they will die in their sins; and the punishment of Sodom and Gomorrah will be light in comparison with those who have had great light and precious opportunities, but have been worldly minded, corrupt in thoughts and practices, and have not purified their souls by obeying the truth. {PC 343.5}

This is no time now to make excuses and blame others for our backslidings; no time now to flatter the soul: if circumstances had only been more favorable, how much easier for us to work the work of God. We must tell even those who profess the truth that they must cease to offend God by their sinful excuses. Jesus has provided for every emergency. If they will walk where he leads the way, he will make rough places plain. {PC 345.2}

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 very earnestly serving mammon. This half and half work is a constant denying of Christ rather than a confessing of Christ.** So many have brought 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.** PC 347.5}

The only hope for our churches of today is to repent and do their first work. The name of Jesus does not kindle the heart with love. A mechanical, formal orthodoxy has taken the place of deep, fervent charity and tenderness to one another. **Will any give heed to the solemn admonition, “Turn ye, turn ye; for why will ye die?” Fall upon the rock and be broken; then let the Lord Jesus prepare you, mould and fashion you, as a vessel unto honor.**

souls. The mind that is occupied with exciting stories loses all relish for solid reading that would improve the memory and strengthen the intellect. {ST May 19, 1887 Par. 3}

I am acquainted with many sad examples of the evil effects of this baneful practice. I have known persons of well-balanced minds, whom God had endowed with mental powers of no ordinary character, to take up the reading of romance; and **the more they indulged the appetite for this kind of mental food, the greater was the demand. The imagination constantly craved its accustomed stimulus, as the inebriate longs for his wine or tobacco.** Their mental and moral powers were weakened and perverted. **They lost their interest in the Scriptures, and their relish for prayer; and they were as truly ruined, mentally and spiritually, as is the liquor drinker or the tobacco devotee. Novel-readers are mental inebriates; and they need to sign a pledge of total abstinence as verily as does the victim of any other form of intemperance.** {ST May 19, 1887 Par. 4}

Robbing God

Definition: “Feliciously taking [money] from the person of another.”

Mal. 3:8 “Will a man rob God? Yet you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings.”

Prov. 3:9,10 “Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.”

Mal. 3:10 “Try Me now in this,” says the LORD of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.”

Men are robbing God; and with self-complacency they look up and say, “Wherein have we robbed thee?” The answer comes from him, “In tithes and in offerings.” **There are men in the ranks of Sabbath-keepers who are holding fast their earthly treasure. It is their god, their idol; and they love their money, their farms, their cattle, and their merchandise better than they love their Saviour,** who for their sakes became poor, that they, through his poverty, might be made rich. They exalt their earthly treasures, considering them of greater value than the souls of men. **Will such have the “Well done” spoken to them? No; never.** The irrevocable sentence, “Depart,” will fall upon their startled senses. Christ has no use for them. They have been slothful servants, hoarding the means God has given them, while their fellow-men have perished in darkness and error. {RH, March 14, 1878 par. 2}

When the Lord's portion, which He has reserved as His own in tithes and offerings, is used for common purposes while the church is displaying a love of self-indulgence and selfish gratification, **the Lord will not, cannot bless churches and will withdraw His Spirit from all who serve themselves and dishonor God.** {21MR 185.1}

None need fear that their liberality would bring them to poverty. Obedience to God's commandments would surely result in prosperity. "Thou shalt lend unto many nations," he said, "but thou shalt not borrow; and thou shalt reign over many nations, but they shall not reign over thee." {RH,

Lord, meat-eating will eventually be done away; flesh will cease to form a part of their diet. We should ever keep this end in view, and endeavor to work steadily toward it. **I can not think that in the practice of flesh-eating we are in harmony with the light which God has been pleased to give us.** All who are connected with our health institutions especially should be educating themselves to subsist on fruits, grains and vegetables. If we move from principle in these things, **if we as Christian reformers educate our own taste, and bring our diet to God's plan, then we may exert an influence upon others in this matter, which will be pleasing to God.** {TSDF 64.5}

Vegetables, fruits and grains should compose our diet. Not an ounce of flesh-meat should enter our stomachs. The eating of flesh is unnatural. We are to return to God's original purpose in the creation of man. {TSDF 78.3}

Now in regard to milk and sugar: **I know of persons who have become frightened at the health reform, and said they would have nothing to do with it, because it has spoken against a free use of these things.** Changes should be made with great care; and we should move cautiously and wisely. **We want to take that course which will recommend itself to the intelligent men and women of the land. Large quantities of milk and sugar eaten together are injurious.** They impart impurities to the system. Animals from which milk is obtained are not always healthy. They may be diseased. A cow may be apparently well in the morning and die before night. Then she was diseased in the morning, and her milk was diseased, but you did not know it. The animal creation is diseased. Flesh meats are diseased. **Could we know that animals were in perfect health, I would recommend that people eat flesh meats sooner than large quantities of milk and sugar. It would not do the injury that milk and sugar do.** Sugar clogs the system. It hinders the working of the living machine.—Testimonies for the Church 2:368, 369, 1870 {CD 330.3}

Pernicious And Addictive Reading Material

Rom. 12:9 "Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good."

Php. 4:8 "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things."

I have a straightforward testimony to bear in regard to [pictures illustrating the birthplace of Shakespeare, or for pictures similar to the illustration of heathen goddesses that was used to fill the space on the first page of a ... Review and Herald.]. We are to extol neither idolatry nor men who did not choose to serve God. Years ago reproof was given our editors in regard to advocating the reading of even such books as Uncle Tom's Cabin, Aesop's Fables, and Robinson Crusoe. Those who begin to read such works usually desire to continue to read novels. **Through the reading of enticing stories they rapidly lose their spirituality. This is one of the principal causes of the weak, uncertain spirituality of many of our youth.** {19MR 43.2}

A love for fictitious reading should be broken up at once; and rigid rules should be enforced to hold the mind in a proper channel. The pernicious practice of story-reading is one of the means employed by Satan to destroy

Well may the people fear and tremble under these words: "Except thou repent, I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place." What then? "If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!" {PC 349.2}

The church is like the unproductive tree, which, receiving the dew, and rain, and the sunshine, **should have produced an abundance of fruit, but on which the divine Searcher finds nothing but leaves.** Solemn thought for our churches, solemn indeed for every individual. Marvelous is the patience and forbearance of God, but "except thou repent," it shall be exhausted; **the churches, our institutions, will go from weakness to weakness, from cold formality to deadness while they are saying, "I am rich and increased in goods, and have need of nothing."**

There is to be in the churches a wonderful manifestation of the power of God, but it will not move upon those who have not humbled themselves before the Lord and opened the door of the heart by confession and repentance. In the manifestation of that power which lightens the earth with the glory of God, **they will see only something which in their blindness they think dangerous, something which will arouse their fears, and they will brace themselves to resist it.** {RH Dec. 23, 1890 Par. 17, 18}

V. God's Remedy And The Pathway To Revival

What Is Our Greatest And Most Urgent Need?

Ps. 85:6 "Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?"

Hab. 3:2 "O Lord, revive Your work in the midst of the years! ... In wrath remember mercy."

A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work. There **must be earnest effort to obtain the blessing of the Lord, not because God is not willing to bestow His blessing upon us, but because we are unprepared to receive it.** Our heavenly Father is more willing to give His Holy Spirit to them that ask Him, than are earthly parents to give good gifts to their children. But it is our work, **by confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer, to fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised to grant us His blessing.** A revival need be expected **only in answer to prayer.** {1SM 121.1}

A revival and a reformation must take place, under the ministration of the Holy Spirit. **Revival and reformation are two different things. Revival signifies a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of the powers of mind and heart, a resurrection from spiritual death. Reformation signifies a reorganization, a change in ideas and theories, habits and practices.** Reformation will not bring forth the good fruit of righteousness unless it is connected with the revival of the Spirit. **Revival and reformation are to do their appointed work, and in doing this work they must blend.**—The Review and Herald, February 25, 1902. {1SM 128.1}

We Must Seek God

2 Chron. 7:14 "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then

I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

Our heavenly Father is more willing to give His Holy Spirit to them that ask Him, than are earthly parents to give good gifts to their children. But **it is our work, by confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer, to fulfill the conditions** upon which God has promised to grant us His blessing. A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer. {1SM 121.1}

Humiliation, confession and most earnest prayer will bring about that which all the devising of men, be they high or low, cannot accomplish. {11MR 100.1}

Seeking God Includes Confession,

Repentance, Humiliation and Earnest Prayer

1John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Pr. 28:13 “He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.”

James 5:16 “Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed.”

It was by the confession and forsaking of sin, by earnest prayer and consecration of themselves to God, that the early disciples prepared for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. The same work, only in greater degree, must be done now. {RH March 2, 1897 Par. 4}

Confession would break up the fallow ground of the heart; it would rid you of your pride and self-complacency. **While you neglect this work, wonder not that the Holy Spirit has not softened your heart and led you into all truth.** God could not have blessed you without sanctioning sin and confirming you in unbelief. **You have been deceiving yourselves and deceiving others, and the Holy Spirit will never by its work or witness make God a liar.** {RH, December 16, 1890 par. 24}

VI. What Needs Confessing (A)

[Compiler’s Note: The things needing confessing include activities that (1) dishonor God, (2) prevent or limit our ability to have a quality relationship with God, (3) prevent or limit our ability to witness for God, (4) physically, emotionally or otherwise harm, or create negative feelings towards, or between, others, created in the image of God, or (5) reflect squandered opportunities. Some things that seem innocent may not be so innocent when understood correctly, as Susanna Wesley put it: "Whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of God, or takes off your relish of spiritual things; in short, whatever increases the strength and authority of your body over your mind, that thing is sin to you, however innocent it may be in itself."

Why Is There A Lack Of Power In The Church?

2 Tim. 3:2-5 “For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving,

knowledge of themselves. Satan is alluring them to sin that they may be lost; God gives a clear presentation of their sins that they may repent and be saved. **The greatest danger of the world is, that sin does not appear sinful. This is the greatest evil existing in the church; sin is glossed over with self-complacency.** Blessed indeed are they who possess a sensitive conscience; who can weep and mourn over their spiritual poverty and wanderings from God; who are poor in spirit and can receive the reproof God sends them; and who, with confessions and brokenness of heart, will take their places, all penitent, in humiliation at the cross of Christ. {ST, June 15, 1876 par. 5}

Oh, **how many flatter themselves that they have goodness and righteousness, when the true light of God reveals that all their lives they have only lived to please themselves!** Their whole conduct is abhorred of God. How many are alive without the law! In their gross darkness **they view themselves with complacency; but let the law of God be revealed to their consciences, as it was to Paul, and they would see that they are sold under sin** and must die to the carnal mind. Self must be slain. {3T 475.1}

Indulging Appetite

Definition: An ungodly “gratified ... desire for food or drink.”

Php. 3:19 “whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.”

1 Cor. 6:19 “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?”

We need to learn that indulged appetite is the greatest hindrance to mental improvement and soul sanctification. With all our profession of health reform, many of us eat improperly. Indulgence of appetite is the greatest cause of physical and mental debility, and lies largely at the foundation of feebleness and premature death. **Let the individual who is seeking to possess purity of spirit bear in mind that in Christ there is power to control the appetite.** {9T 156.2}

The **subject of health reform has been presented in the churches; but the light has not been heartily received.** The selfish, health-destroying indulgences of men and women have counteracted the influence of the message that is to prepare a people for the great day of God. **If the churches expect strength, they must live the truth which God has given them.** If the members of our churches disregard the light on this subject, they will reap the sure result in both spiritual and physical degeneracy. And the influence of these older church members will leaven those newly come to the faith. **The Lord does not now work to bring many souls into the truth, because of the church members who have never been converted, and those who were once converted, but who have backslidden. What influence would these unconsecrated members have on new converts?** Would they not make of no effect the God-given message which His people are to bear?—Testimonies for the Church 6:370, 371, 1900 {CD 455.2}

Again and again I have been shown that God is trying to lead us back, step by step, to His original design,—that man should subsist upon the natural products of the earth. Among those who are waiting for the coming of the

The reason that more power does not attend the proclamation of the truth for this time, is that there is too much reliance placed upon the ability of man, too much trust in the talent and tact of the workers, and not enough reliance upon the arm of Infinite Power. The gospel of truth is not preached in demonstration of the Spirit and in the power of God. **Self is ready to take the credit if any measure of success attends the work, self is flattered, self is exalted, and the impression is not made upon minds that God is all and in all.** Signs Of The Times, April 7, 1890. {ST, April 7, 1890 par. 2}

Self-Sufficiency And Excessive Confidence In Ourselves

Definition: “An overweening opinion of one's own strength or worth; excessive confidence in one's own competence or sufficiency.”

Prov. 16:5 “Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord”

Prov. 16:18 “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”

Jer. 9:23-24 “Thus says the Lord: ‘Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; But let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,’ says the Lord.”

The most hopeless, the most incurable of all sins is pride, self-sufficiency. This sin stands in the way of all advancement, all growth in grace. It has caused the ruin of thousands and thousands of souls. A man may be a great sinner, but if he realizes that he has sinned against God, **if he repents and confesses his sin, and strives to make restitution for the past, he will receive forgiveness.** {ST, April 9, 1902 par. 1}

From the light which God has given me, I know that **the Lord would do far more for us as a people if we would walk in humility before him.** ... We want you to be constantly moving onward and upward; but **that which hinders your progress in a large degree is your self-esteem, the high opinion that you entertain of your own ability. If there was ever a place where self needed to die, it is here. Let us see the death struggle. Let us hear the dying groans.** Review and Herald, June 18, 1889. {RH, June 18, 1889 par. 2}

The Word of God forbids our attaching undue importance to our works, but it nowhere forbids self-respect. There is a conscious dignity of character which is not pride or self-esteem, but is the safeguard of youth. He is impressed that he has a reputation to sustain, a character to lose or to keep. {18MR 259.2}

Self-Complacency

Definition: “Self-satisfaction especially when accompanied by unawareness of actual dangers or deficiencies.”—*Miriam-Webster Dictionary*

Zeph. 1:12 “And it shall come to pass at that time that I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and punish the men who are settled in complacency, who say in their heart, ‘The LORD will not do good, nor will He do evil.’”

Amos 6:1 “Woe to you who are at ease in Zion.”

Rev. 2:23 “I will give to each one of you according to your works.”

God sends to the church the greatest blessing he can give them in a

unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

The question is often asked, **Why is there not more power in the church? Why not more vital godliness? The reason is, the requirements of God's word are not complied with in verity and in truth;** God is not loved supremely, and our neighbor as ourselves. ... Outward forms take the place of the inner work of grace. They are whited sepulchers,—beautiful without, as far as claims to piety and a profession of the truth are concerned, but within full of uncleanness. **The theory of the truth has converted the head, but the soul temple has not been cleansed from its idols.** {RH August 28, 1879 Par. 1}

God, in his dealings with his people in the past, shows the necessity of purifying the church from wrongs that exist among them. One sinner may diffuse darkness which will exclude the light of God from the entire congregation. **When the people realize that darkness is settling upon them, and they do not know the cause, then they should earnestly seek God in great humility and self-abasement, until the wrongs which grieve God's Spirit are searched out and put away from among them. The true people of God, who have the spirit of the work of the Lord and the salvation of souls at heart, will ever view sin in its real, sinful character. They will always be on the side of faithful and plain dealing with sins which easily beset the people of God.** {RH September 23, 1873 Par. 1,2}

What Is An Idol?

Ex. 20:3 “You shall have no other gods before Me.”

Hos. 4: 17 “Ephraim is joined to idols, let him alone.”

1 John 5:21 “Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.”

He **claims the undivided affections; and anything which tends to absorb the mind and divert it from God assumes the form of an idol.** The true and living God is crowded out of the thoughts and heart, and the soul temple is defiled by the worship of other gods before the Lord. {RH, July 8, 1880 par. 13}

An **idol is anything that human beings love and trust in instead of loving and trusting in the Lord their Maker. Whatever earthly thing men desire and trust in as having power to help them and do them good, leads them away from God, and is to them an idol.** Whatever divides the affections, or takes away from the soul the supreme love of God, or interposes to prevent unlimited confidence and entire trust in God, assumes the character and takes the form of an idol in the soul temple. {3SM 330.2}

Self Is The Greatest Idol

2 Tim. 3:2 “For men will be lovers of themselves....”

Many love self supremely. They seek their own enjoyment, disregarding the good of others. **Those in whose hearts love of self is strong will hate those who refuse to sustain them in a wrong course of action.** {10MR 54.1}

There is a cause for the great weakness in our churches, and that cause is

hard to remove. It is self. Men have none too much will, but they must have it wholly sanctified to God. They need to fall on the Rock and be broken. Self must be crucified in every one who shall enter the gates of the city of God. **The fierce spirit which rises up in the hearts of some in the church when anything does not please them, is the spirit of Satan, and not the spirit of Christ.** Is it not fully time that we return to our first love, and be at peace among ourselves? We must show ourselves to be not only Bible readers, but Bible believers. If we are united to Christ, we shall be united to one another. {SpTA01b 11.1}

How Is The Love Of Self Manifested?

Selfishness

Definition: “Regarding one's own interest chiefly or solely; influenced in actions by a view to private advantage.”—*Dictionary definitions from Noah Webster's 1828 Edition unless indicated otherwise.*

Jer. 8:10 “Therefore I will give their wives to others, and their fields to those who will inherit them; because from the least even to the greatest every one is given to covetousness; from the prophet even to the priest everyone deals falsely.”

Ezek. 33:31 “...with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain.”

Luke 12:15 “And He said to them, ‘Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.’”

1 John 3:17 “But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?”

Prov. 11:24 “There is one who scatters, yet increases more; And there is one who withholds more than is right, But it leads to poverty.”

The **sin which is indulged to the greatest extent, and which separates us from God and produces so many contagious spiritual disorders, is selfishness.** There can be **no returning to the Lord except by self-denial.** Of ourselves we can do nothing; but, **through God strengthening us, we can live to do good to others, and in this way shun the evil of selfishness....** {2T 132.1}

All sin is selfishness. Satan's first sin was a manifestation of selfishness. He sought to grasp power, to exalt self. A species of insanity led him to seek to supersede God. And the temptation that led Adam to sin was Satan's declaration that it was possible for man to attain to something more than he already enjoyed, possible for him to be as God Himself. The **sowing of seeds of selfishness in the human heart was the first result of the entrance of sin into the world.** {WB, September 9, 1902 par. 3}

Constant, self-denying benevolence is God's remedy for the cankering sins of selfishness and covetousness. God has arranged systematic benevolence to sustain His cause and relieve the necessities of the suffering and needy. He **has ordained that giving should become a habit,** that it may counteract the dangerous and deceitful sin of covetousness. **Continual giving starves covetousness to death.** Systematic benevolence is designed in the order of God to tear away treasures from the covetous as fast as they are gained, and to

consecrate them to the Lord, to whom they belong.... {AH 370.4}

Some rich men feel like murmuring because the work of God is extending and there is a demand for money. They say that there is no end to the calls for means. One object after another is continually arising, demanding help. To such we would say that **we hope the cause of God will so extend that there will be greater occasion, and more frequent and urgent calls, for supplies from the treasury to prosecute the work.** {3T 389.3}

Those **churches who are the most systematic and liberal in sustaining the cause of God are the most prosperous spiritually.** ... Unlimited effort is demanded at this time when moral darkness is covering the world. Worldliness and covetousness are eating out the vitals of God's people. They should understand that it is **His mercy which multiplies the demands for their means.** {3T 405.1}

Sin Of Unbelief

Definition: “Disbelief of the truth of the gospel, rejection of Christ as the Savior of men ... distrust of God's promises and faithfulness, etc.”

Matt. 13:58 “Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.”

Heb. 3:12 “Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;”

Heb. 3:19 “So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.”

The sin of unbelief, by which their confidence in the Son of God was destroyed, led Israel far astray. **At the very time when they should have been praising God and magnifying the name of the Lord, talking of His goodness, telling of His power, they were found in unbelief, and full of murmuring and complaint.** The deceiver was seeking through every means possible to sow discord among them, to create envy and hatred in their hearts against Moses, and to stir up rebellion against God. **By listening to the voice of the great deceiver they were led into affliction, trial, and destruction.**—Manuscript 65, 1895 (Signs of the Times, Apr. 25, 1895). {CTr 108.4}

Self-Exaltation

Definition: “The act of raising [oneself] high.”

Isa. 14:14 “‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’”

Dan. 5:20 “But when his heart was lifted up, and his spirit was hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him.”

1 Peter 5:6 “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.”

If Satan can get us to enshroud ourselves in garments of self-righteousness, then we will not wear the robe of Christ's righteousness. **Self-exaltation and pride of position and self-importance were the sins of Satan** in heaven. **True religion dies out of the heart when these take possession** and are developed in the character. {21MR 330.3}