

Ellen White

The True Missionary's Dependence Is in God

1 **There are times when prayer becomes unusually urgent. It is**
2 **when we are to take a decided position that the church and**
3 **the world are not to be united,** when philosophy and science
4 claim to be the gospel, when men by their own interpretation
5 make the commandments of God and the traditions of men
6 identical. **Fervent prayer must go up to God when the church**
7 **is to show forth in her pure and exalted character the religion**
8 **of Christ, and by precept and example affirm the difference**
9 **between the teachings of men, purporting to be for the uplift-**
10 **ing of humanity, and the means by which God would purify**
11 **society. The church is to shine in the world as a light; but she**
12 **is to do so by depending upon a divine agency, by having a**
13 **living connection with the living God. This dependence is in-**
14 **dispensable to her success and victory. {RH July 4, 1893, par.**
15 1}

16 **The true missionary's hope is in God alone, and he makes**
17 **manifest this fact by importuning the throne of grace. Skepti-**
18 **cal philosophy is easily distinguished from the gospel; for the**
19 **gospel makes known the Christian's dependence upon God,**
20 **and requires him to take counsel with God. In this way the**
21 Christian becomes a true sign-board, pointing heavenward. He
22 says, "I can do nothing of myself," and makes manifest the fact
23 that the rebuke of God is upon the pride of human inventions. He
24 lays claim to a power that is all-sufficient to accomplish the
25 work. {RH July 4, 1893, par. 2}

26 **There will come times when the church will be stirred by di-**
27 **vine power, and earnest activity will be the result; for the life-**
28 **giving power of the Holy Spirit will inspire its members to go**
29 **forth and bring souls to Christ. But when this activity is**
30 **manifested, the most earnest workers will be safe only as they**
31 **depend upon God through constant, earnest prayer. They will**
32 need to make earnest supplication that through the grace of
33 Christ they may be saved from taking pride in their work, or of

34 making a saviour of their activity. **They must constantly look to**
35 **Jesus, that they may realize that it is his power which does**
36 **the work, and thus be able to ascribe all the glory to God.** We
37 shall be called upon to make most decided efforts to extend the
38 work of God, and prayer to our heavenly Father will be most es-
39 sential. **It will be necessary to engage in prayer in the closet,**
40 **in the family, and in the church.** Our households must be set in
41 order, and earnest efforts must be made to interest every member
42 of the family in missionary enterprises. We must seek to engage
43 the sympathies of our children in earnest work for the unsaved,
44 that they may do their best at all times and in all places to repre-
45 sent Christ. {RH July 4, 1893, par. 3}

46 But let us not forget that **as activity increases, and we become**
47 **successful in doing the work that must be accomplished,**
48 **there is danger of our trusting in human plans and methods.**
49 **There will be a tendency to pray less, and to have less faith.**
50 **We shall be in danger of losing our sense of dependence upon**
51 **God, who alone can make our work succeed;** but although this
52 is the tendency, **let no one think that the human instrument is**
53 **to do less. No, he is not to do less, but to do more by accepting**
54 **the heavenly gift, the Holy Spirit.** The world in its own wisdom
55 knew not God, and every human power is naturally, to a greater
56 or less degree, opposed to God. **We are to look to Jesus, and**
57 **co-operate with heavenly agencies, offering our petitions to**
58 **the Father in Jesus' name.** In this way we shall not turn aside
59 with those who are content to follow the sparks of their own kin-
60 dling; but by the precept and example we shall make it manifest
61 to the world that we are Christ's witnesses. {RH July 4, 1893,
62 par. 4}

63 The Lord has said that his work is to be done, "not by might nor
64 by power; but by my Spirit." **The work of God is to be carried**
65 **on to completion by the co-operation of divine and human**
66 **agencies. Those who are self-sufficient may be apparently ac-**
67 **tive in the work of God; but if they are prayerless, their ac-**
68 **tivity is of no avail.** Could they look into the censer of the angel
69 that stands at the golden altar before the rainbow-circled throne,
70 they would see that the merit of Jesus must be mingled with our
71 prayers and efforts, or they are as worthless as was the offering
72 of Cain. **Could we see all the activity of human instrumentali-**

73 ty, as it appears before God, we would see that only the work
74 accomplished by much prayer, which is sanctified by the
75 merit of Christ, will stand the test of the judgment. When the
76 grand review shall take place, then shall ye return and discern
77 between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not. {RH
78 July 4, 1893, par. 5}

79 **To preach to the people will avail nothing unless the worker**
80 **has a vital connection with God.** The minister may attract at-
81 tention by his eloquence; but if his spirit and action are not in
82 harmony with his words, they will have little power to convert
83 the soul. **Christ sent forth his disciples to preach the gospel**
84 **not singly, but by twos, that they might labor unitedly in**
85 **spreading the truth. Jesus saw that this plan would result in**
86 **much more good than if one was sent alone.** There is need of
87 two working together; for one can encourage the other, and they
88 can counsel, pray, and search the Bible together. In this they may
89 get a broader light upon the truth; for one will see one phase, and
90 the other another phase of the truth. **If they are erring, they can**
91 **correct one another in speech and attitude, so that the truth**
92 **may not be lightly esteemed because of the defects of its ad-**
93 **vocates.** If the workers are sent out alone, there is no one to see
94 or correct their errors; but **when two go together, an educating**
95 **work may be carried on, and each worker become what he**
96 **should be,—a successful soul-winner.** {RH July 4, 1893, par.
97 6}

98 **If frequently happens that one of the workers is self-conceit-**
99 **ed because of his power to interest his hearers, and yet he**
100 **may not be one who may win souls to Christ. How important**
101 **that a humble man be set aside, who is a laborer together**
102 **with God, who watches and prays in simplicity, whom the**
103 **heavenly Father that seeth in secret can reward openly.** In the
104 sight of men the self-sufficient worker may seem to be moving
105 the world; but **in the sight of God the humble wrestler moves**
106 **heaven. The hosts of God are interested in the humble, pray-**
107 **ing man, who dares not make a move without first coming in**
108 **prayer into the presence of God to counsel with the Omnipotent.**
109 True missionary work can be done only in the spirit of the
110 first Missionary who visited our world. He was often in prayer to
111 his Father, and at times presented his petitions with strong crying

112 and tears, pleading that the power of God might save those who
113 knew not that they needed salvation. **We must have the spirit**
114 **that actuated Christ, that led him to entreat and persuade**
115 **the rebellious to come unto him.** Even when men turn away
116 from us in hardness of heart, refusing the gift of eternal life, **we**
117 **are to imitate the example of Christ. He did not look with in-**
118 **difference upon those who slighted and rejected him.** It was a
119 hard struggle for the Saviour to give up the child of his love,
120 even Jerusalem. He had led his chosen people through the
121 wilderness, enshrouded in the pillar of cloud by day and pillar of
122 fire by night. He had directed their ways, guided them by his eye,
123 and watched over them continually. Must he now give up his son
124 whom he had delivered from slavery in Egypt? O, if the Jewish
125 nation had known the Prince of Life who came to save them,
126 they would not have hated him, refused to hear him, and at last
127 crucified him. But knowing that they would work the will of Sa-
128 tan against him, he looked upon Jerusalem, saying, “O
129 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest
130 them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered
131 thy children together, even as a hen gathered her chickens under
132 her wings, and ye would not.” {RH July 4, 1893, par. 7}

133 **The church must pray in faith, else if the Lord grants success**
134 **to our work, we shall be ensnared through spiritual pride.**
135 **Sincere, earnest prayer will be answered.** God has pledged his
136 word that he will answer the cry of the honest heart. The order
137 will be given in heaven, “Open the windows of heaven, and pour
138 out a blessing upon the earnest suppliant.” **Let many missionar-**
139 **ies enter the field, but let them count the cost before begin-**
140 **ning the work. Let each ask himself, Am I prepared to sur-**
141 **render everything for the success of the work?** Then as wise
142 men lay your plans that you may devote yourself to the work,
143 that in singleness of purpose you may endure hardness as good
144 soldiers of Jesus Christ, giving yourselves wholly to his service,
145 humbly trusting in God, who has said, “The effectual, fervent
146 prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” Go forth to labor in
147 the interests of the truth, and become agents in the hands of God
148 for the saving of perishing souls for whom Christ died. {RH July
149 4, 1893, par. 8}—Ellen White, *Review and Herald*, July 4, 1893

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