

Ellen G. White

The Way to Christ

1 *A Complete Sacrifice*

2 The Way to Christ – A

3 **The commandments of God are comprehensive and far**
4 **reaching; in a few words they unfold the whole duty of man.**

5 “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all
6 thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.... Thou
7 shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.” In these words the length and
8 breadth, the depth and height, of the law of God is

9 comprehended; for Paul declares, “Love is the fulfilling of the
10 law.” **The only definition we find in the Bible for sin is that**
11 **“sin is the transgression of the law.”** The word of God
12 declares, “All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”

13 “There is none that doeth good, no, not one.” **Many are**
14 **deceived concerning the condition of their hearts. They do**
15 **not realize that the natural heart is deceitful above all things,**
16 **and desperately wicked. They wrap themselves about with**
17 **their own righteousness, and are satisfied in reaching their**
18 **own human standard of character; but how fatally they fail**
19 **when they do not reach the divine standard, and of**
20 **themselves they cannot meet the requirements of God.** {ST
21 December 5, 1892, par. 1}

22 We may measure ourselves by ourselves, we may compare
23 ourselves among ourselves, we may say we do as well as this
24 one or that one, but the question to which **the judgment will call**
25 **for an answer is, Do we meet the claims of high heaven? Do**
26 **we reach the divine standard?** Are our hearts in harmony with
27 the God of heaven? {ST December 5, 1892, par. 2}

28 The human family have all transgressed the law of God, and **as**
29 **transgressors of the law, man is hopelessly ruined; for he is**
30 **the enemy of God, without strength to do any good thing.**

31 “The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to
32 the law of God, neither indeed can be.” Looking into the moral
33 mirror,—God’s holy law,—man sees himself a sinner, and is
34 convicted of his state of evil, his hopeless doom under the just
35 penalty of the law. But he has not been left in a state of hopeless
36 distress in which sin has plunged him; for it was to save the
37 transgressor from ruin that He who was equal with God offered
38 up his life on Calvary. “God so loved the world, that he gave his
39 only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not
40 perish, but have everlasting life.” {ST December 5, 1892, par. 3}

41 **Jesus was the majesty of heaven, the beloved commander of**
42 **the angels, who delighted to do his pleasure. He was one with**
43 **God, “in the bosom of the Father,” yet he thought it not a**
44 **thing to be desired to be equal with God while man was lost**
45 **in sin and misery. He stepped down from his throne, he left**
46 **his crown and royal scepter, and clothed his divinity with**
47 **humanity. He humbled himself even to the death of the cross,**
48 **that man might be exalted to a seat with him upon his**
49 **throne.** In him we have a complete offering, an infinite sacrifice,
50 a mighty saviour, who is able to save unto the uttermost all that
51 come unto God by him. In love he comes to reveal the Father, to
52 reconcile man to God, to make him a new creature renewed after
53 the image of Him who created him. {ST December 5, 1892, par.
54 4}

55 **Jesus is our atoning sacrifice. We can make no atonement for**
56 **ourselves; but by faith we can accept the atonement that has**
57 **been made.** “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just
58 for the unjust, that he might bring us to God.” “Ye were not
59 redeemed with corruptible things, ... but with the precious blood
60 of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” It was
61 through infinite sacrifice and inexpressible suffering that our
62 Redeemer placed redemption within our reach. **He was in this**
63 **world unhonored and unknown, that, through his wonderful**
64 **condescension and humiliation, he might exalt man to receive**
65 **eternal honors and immortal joys in the heavenly courts.**
66 During his thirty years of life on earth his heart was wrung with
67 inconceivable anguish. The path from the manger to Calvary was
68 shadowed by grief and sorrow. **He was a man of sorrows, and**
69 **acquainted with grief, enduring such heartache as no human**
70 **language can portray.** He could have said in truth, “Behold,
71 and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow.” **Hating sin**

72 **with a perfect hatred, he yet gathered to his soul the sins of**
73 **the whole world. Guiltless, he bore the punishment of the**
74 **guilty. Innocent, yet offering himself as a substitute for the**
75 **transgressor. The guilt of every sin pressed its weight upon**
76 **the divine soul of the world's Redeemer.** The evil thoughts, the
77 evil words, the evil deeds of every son and daughter of Adam,
78 called for retribution upon himself; for he had become man's
79 substitute. Though the guilt of sin was not his, his spirit was torn
80 and bruised by the transgressions of men, and **he who knew no**
81 **sin became sin for us, that we might be made the**
82 **righteousness of God in him.** {ST December 5, 1892, par. 5}
83 Voluntarily our divine substitute bared his soul to the sword of
84 justice, that we might not perish but have everlasting life. Said
85 Christ: "I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man
86 taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to
87 lay it down, and I have power to take it again." No man of earth
88 or angel of heaven could have paid the penalty for sin. **Jesus was**
89 **the only one who could save rebellious man. In him divinity**
90 **and humanity were combined, and this was what gave**
91 **efficiency to the offering on Calvary's cross.** At the cross
92 mercy and truth met together, righteousness and peace kissed
93 each other. {ST December 5, 1892, par. 6}
94 As the sinner looks upon the Saviour dying on Calvary, and
95 realizes that the sufferer is divine, he asks why this great
96 sacrifice was made, and the cross points to the holy law of God
97 which has been transgressed. **The death of Christ is an**
98 **unanswerable argument as to the immutability and**
99 **righteousness of the law. In prophesying of Christ, Isaiah**
100 **says, "He will magnify the law, and make it honourable."**
101 **The law has no power to pardon the evil doer. Its office is to**
102 **point out his defects, that he may realize his need of One who**
103 **is mighty to save, his need of One who will become his**
104 **substitute, his surety, his righteousness.** Jesus meets the need
105 of the sinner; for he has taken upon him the sins of the
106 transgressor. "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was
107 bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was
108 upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." The Lord could
109 have cut off the sinner, and utterly destroyed him; but the
110 costlier plan was chosen. In his great love he provides hope for
111 the hopeless, giving his only-begotten Son to bear the sins of the
112 world. And since he has poured out all heaven in that one rich

113 gift, he will withhold from man no needed aid that he may take
114 the cup of salvation, and become an heir of God, joint heir with
115 Christ. {ST December 5, 1892, par. 7}

116 Christ came to manifest the love of God to the world to draw the
117 hearts of all men to himself. He said, “And I, if I be lifted up
118 from the earth, will draw all men unto me.” **The first step**
119 **toward salvation is to respond to the drawing of the love of**
120 **Christ. God sends message after message to men, entreating**
121 **them to repentance, that he may forgive, and write pardon**
122 **against their names.** Shall there be no repentance? Shall his
123 appeals be unheeded? **Shall his overtures of mercy be ignored,**
124 **and his love utterly rejected? Oh, then man will cut himself**
125 **off from the medium through which he may gain life eternal;**
126 **for God only pardons the penitent! By the manifestation of his**
127 **love, by the entreating of his spirit, he woos men to**
128 **repentance; for repentance is the gift of God, and whom he**
129 **pardons he first makes penitent.** The sweetest joy comes to
130 man through his sincere repentance toward God for the
131 transgression of his law, and through faith in Christ as the
132 sinner’s Redeemer and Advocate. It is that men may understand
133 the joy of forgiveness, the peace of God, that Christ draws them
134 through the manifestation of his love. If they respond to his
135 drawing, yielding their hearts to his grace, he will lead them on
136 step by step, to a full knowledge of himself, and this is life
137 eternal. {ST December 5, 1892, par. 8}

138 **But Satan will not permit a soul to escape from the captivity**
139 **of sin if by any means he can prevent it.** Though all heaven
140 has been poured out in one rich gift—for when God gave his
141 Son, he gave the choicest gift of heaven, and the treasures of
142 heaven are at our command—yet **to the repenting soul the**
143 **enemy will seek to represent God as stern and inexorable,**
144 **unwilling to pardon the transgressor.** At different times letters
145 have come to me from persons who were in despair over their
146 sins. One and another have written: **“I fear I am past all help.**
147 **Is there any hope for me?” To these poor souls the message**
148 **has been given: “Hope in God. The Father has bread enough**
149 **and to spare. Arise, and go to your Father. He will meet you**
150 **a great way off. He will give you his love and**
151 **compassion.”** {ST December 5, 1892, par. 9}

152 When the enemy comes in like a flood, and seeks to overwhelm
153 you with the thought of your sin, **tell him: “I know I am a**

154 **sinner. If I were not, I could not go to the Saviour; for he**
155 **says, ‘I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to**
156 **repentance’. And because I am a sinner I am entitled to come**
157 **to Christ.** I am sinful and polluted, but he suffered humiliation
158 and death, and exhausted the curse that belongs to me. I come. I
159 believe. I claim his sure promise, “Whosoever believeth in him
160 should not perish, but have eternal life’.” {ST December 5, 1892,
161 par. 10}

162 **Will such a plea made in contrition of soul be turned**
163 **away?—No, never. By the suffering and death of Christ is**
164 **proven his boundless love to man. He is willing and able to**
165 **save to the uttermost all that come unto God by him.** {ST
166 December 5, 1892, par. 11}

167 Then as a little child, come to God, presenting yourself as
168 suppliant at his feet; for we need not ascend into the heavens to
169 bring Jesus down; nor into the earth to bring him up; for he is
170 ever near us. He says, “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if
171 any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to
172 him, and will sup with him, and he with me.” **How willing is**
173 **Christ to take possession of the soul temple if we will let him!**
174 **He is represented as waiting and knocking at the door of the**
175 **heart. Then why does he not enter? It is because the love of**
176 **sin has closed the door of the heart. As soon as we consent to**
177 **give sin up, to acknowledge our guilt, the barrier is removed**
178 **between the soul and the Saviour.** {ST December 5, 1892, par.
179 12}

180

181

182 *Repentance and Confession*

183 December 12, 1892

184 The Way to Christ – B

185 **But in repenting of sin we need not go into a cell, as did**
186 **Luther**, imposing penances upon ourselves to expiate our
187 iniquity, thinking by so doing to gain the favor of God. The
188 question is asked: “Shall I give my firstborn for my
189 transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He
190 hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord
191 require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk
192 humbly with thy God?” The Psalmist says, “A broken and a

193 contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.” John writes, **“If we**
194 **confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.”**
195 The only reason that we have not remission of sin is that we have
196 not acknowledged to him whom we have wounded by our
197 transgressions, whom we have pierced by our sins, that we are at
198 fault, and in need of mercy. **The confession that is the**
199 **outpouring of the inmost soul will find its way to the heart of**
200 **infinite pity;** for the Lord is nigh unto him that is of a broken
201 heart, and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. {ST December
202 12, 1892, par. 1}

203 **How mistaken are those who imagine that confession of sin**
204 **will detract from their dignity, and lessen their influence**
205 **among their fellow-men. Clinging to this erroneous idea,**
206 **though seeing their faults, many fail to confess them, but**
207 **rather pass by the wrongs they have done others, so**
208 **embittering their own lives, and shadowing the lives of**
209 **others. It will not hurt your dignity to confess your sins.**
210 **Away with this false dignity. Fall on the Rock and be broken,**
211 **and Christ will give you the true and heavenly dignity. Let**
212 **not pride, self-esteem, or self-righteousness keep anyone**
213 **from confessing his sin, that he may claim the promise.** “He
214 that covereth his sins shall not prosper; but whoso confesseth
215 and forsaketh them shall have mercy.” **Keep nothing back from**
216 **God, and neglect not the confession of your faults to your**
217 **brethren.** “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for
218 another, that ye may be healed.” **Many a sin is left unconfessed**
219 **to confront the sinner in the day of final account; better far**
220 **to confront your sins now, to confess them and put them**
221 **away, while the atoning Sacrifice pleads in your behalf. Do**
222 **not fail to learn the will of God on this subject. The health of**
223 **your soul and the salvation of others depends upon the**
224 **course you pursue in this matter.** “Humble yourselves
225 therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in
226 due time; casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”
227 The humble and broken heart can appreciate something of the
228 love of God and the cross of Calvary. **Ample will be the**
229 **blessing experienced by him who meets the condition by**
230 **which he may become a partaker of the favor of God.** {ST
231 December 12, 1892, par. 2}

232 We are to surrender our hearts to God, that he may renew and
233 sanctify us, and fit us for his heavenly court. **We are not to wait**

234 **for some special time, but today we are to give ourselves to**
235 **him, refusing to be the servants of sin. Do you imagine you**
236 **can leave off sin a little at a time? Oh, leave the accursed**
237 **thing at once! Hate the things that Christ hates, love the**
238 **things that Christ loves.** Has he not by his death and suffering
239 made provision for your cleansing from sin? **When we begin to**
240 **realize that we are sinners, and fall on the rock to be broken,**
241 **the everlasting arms are placed about us, and we are brought**
242 **close to the heart of Jesus. Then we shall be charmed with his**
243 **loveliness, and disgusted with our own righteousness.** We
244 need to come close to the foot of the cross. **The more we**
245 **humble ourselves there, the more exalted will God's love**
246 **appear.** The grace and righteousness of Christ will not avail for
247 him who feels whole, for him who thinks he is reasonably good,
248 who is contented with his own condition. **There is no room for**
249 **Christ in the heart of him who does not realize his need of**
250 **divine light and aid.** {ST December 12, 1892, par. 3}

251 Jesus says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the
252 kingdom of heaven." **There is fullness of grace in God, and we**
253 **may have his spirit and power in large measure.** Do not feed
254 on the husks of self-righteousness, but go to the Lord. He has the
255 best robe to put upon you, and his arms are open to receive.
256 Christ will say, "Take away the filthy garments from him, and
257 clothe him with a change of raiment." {ST December 12, 1892,
258 par. 4}

259 **But shall we wait till we feel that we are cleansed?—No;**
260 **Christ has promised that "if we confess our sins, he is**
261 **faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from**
262 **all unrighteousness."** You are proved of God through the word
263 of God. **You are not to wait for wonderful emotions before**
264 **you believe that God has heard you; feeling is not to be your**
265 **criterion, for emotions are as changeable as the clouds.** You
266 must have something solid for the foundation of your faith. The
267 word of the Lord is a word of infinite power, upon which you
268 may rely, and he has said, "Ask, and ye shall receive." Look to
269 Calvary. Has not Jesus said that he is your advocate? Has he not
270 said that if you ask anything in his name you shall receive? You
271 are not to depend on your own goodness or good works. You are
272 to come depending upon the Sun of Righteousness, believing
273 that Christ has taken away your sins and imputed to you his
274 righteousness. {ST December 12, 1892, par. 5}

275 **You are to come to God as a repenting sinner, through the**
276 **name of Jesus, the divine Advocate, to a merciful, forgiving**
277 **Father, believing that he will do just as he has promised. Let**
278 **those who desire the blessing of God knock, and wait at the**
279 **throne of mercy, with firm assurance, saying, “For thou, O**
280 **Lord, hast said, For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he**
281 **that seeketh findeth, and to him that knocketh it shall be**
282 **opened.”** The Lord longs to have those who seek after God
283 believe in him who is able to do all things. The Lord has sought
284 to show us how ready is God to hear and answer our request by
285 the use of a most familiar and commonplace occurrence. He
286 said: “What man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will
287 he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he give him a
288 serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto
289 your children, how much more shall your Father which is in
290 heaven give good things to them that ask him?” Christ made an
291 appeal to us concerning the willingness of God to help, arguing
292 from the natural love of the parent to his offspring. What father
293 could turn from his son who asks bread? Should anyone
294 dishonor God by imagining that he will not respond to the call of
295 his children? Would we think a parent capable of trifling with his
296 child, and tantalizing him by raising his expectation only to
297 disappoint him? Will a father promise to give good and
298 nourishing food to his child and then give him a stone? If ye
299 then, being human and evil, give good gifts to your children,
300 how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good
301 things to them that ask him? The Lord assures those that ask him
302 that he will give them the Holy Spirit. {ST December 12, 1892,
303 par. 6}

304 **With the confession of the repenting, believing sinner, Christ**
305 **mingles his own righteousness, that the prayer of fallen man**
306 **may go up as fragrant incense before the Father, and the**
307 **grace of God be imparted to the believing soul.** Jesus says, to
308 the trembling, repenting soul: “**Let him take hold of my**
309 **strength that he may make peace with me; and he shall make**
310 **peace with me.**” “Come now, and let us reason together, saith
311 the Lord; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as
312 snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”
313 Will you let him reason with you? Will you commit to him the
314 keeping of your soul as unto a faithful Creator? Come then, and
315 let us live in the light of his countenance, and pray, as did David,

316 “Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I
317 shall be whiter than snow.” **By faith apply the blood of Christ**
318 **to your heart, for that alone can make you whiter than snow.**
319 **But you say, “This surrender of all my idols will break my**
320 **heart.” This giving up of all for God is represented by your**
321 **falling upon the Rock and being broken. Then give up all for**
322 **him; for unless you are broken, you are worthless.** When you
323 turn away from the broken cisterns that can hold no water, and in
324 **the name of Jesus your Advocate come directly to God,**
325 **asking for the things you need, the righteousness of Christ**
326 **will be revealed as your righteousness, the virtue of Christ as**
327 **your virtue.** You will then understand that justification will
328 come alone through faith in Christ; for in Jesus is revealed the
329 perfection of the character of God; in his life is manifested the
330 outworking of the principles of holiness. Through the atoning
331 blood of Christ the sinner is set free from bondage and
332 condemnation; through the perfection of the sinless Substitute
333 and Surety, he may run in the race of humble obedience to all
334 God’s commandments. Without Christ he is under the
335 condemnation of the law, always a sinner, but through faith in
336 Christ he is made just before God. {ST December 12, 1892, par.
337 7}

338

339

340

Saving Faith

341 December 19, 1892

342 The Way to Christ – C

343 It is impossible for man to save himself. He may deceive himself
344 in regard to this matter, but he cannot save himself. Christ’s
345 righteousness alone can avail for his salvation, and this is the gift
346 of God. This is the wedding garment in which you may appear as
347 [a] welcome guest at the marriage supper of the Lamb. Let faith
348 take hold of Christ without delay, and you will be a new creature
349 in Jesus, a light to the world. {ST December 19, 1892, par. 1}

350 **Christ is called “the Lord our righteousness,” and through**

351 **faith each one should say, “The Lord my righteousness.”**

352 **When faith lays hold upon this gift of God, the praise of God**

353 **will be upon our lips, and we shall be able to say to others,**

354 **“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the**

355 **world.**” We shall then be able to tell the lost concerning the plan
356 of salvation,—that while the world was lying under the curse of
357 sin, the Lord presented terms of mercy to the fallen and hopeless
358 sinner, and revealed the value and meaning of his grace. **Grace**
359 **is unmerited favor.** The angels, who know nothing of sin, do
360 not understand what it is to have grace exercised toward them;
361 but our sinfulness calls for the exercise of grace from a merciful
362 God. It was grace that sent our Saviour to seek us as wanderers
363 and bring us back to the fold. {ST December 19, 1892, par. 2}

364 Have you a sense of want in your soul? **Do you hunger and**
365 **thirst after righteousness? Then this is an evidence that**
366 **Christ has wrought upon your heart, and created this sense**
367 **of need, in order that he may be sought after to do those**
368 **things for you through the endowment of his Holy Spirit**
369 **which it is impossible for you to do for yourself.** The Lord
370 specifies no conditions except that you hunger for his mercy,
371 desiring his counsel, and long for his love. **“Ask!” The asking**
372 **makes it manifest that you realize your necessity, and if you**
373 **ask in faith, you will receive.** The Lord has pledged his word,
374 and it cannot fail. **That you feel and know that you are a**
375 **sinner is sufficient argument in asking for his mercy and**
376 **compassion. The condition upon which you may come to God**
377 **is not that you shall be holy, but that you shall ask God to**
378 **cleanse you from all sin and purify you from all iniquity.**
379 Then why wait longer? Why not take God at his word, and
380 say:— {ST December 19, 1892, par. 3}

381 *Here, Lord, I give myself to thee,*
382 *'Tis all that I can do?* {ST December 19, 1892, par. 4}

383 If Satan comes to cast his shadow between you and God,
384 accusing you of sin, tempting you to distrust God and doubt his
385 mercy, **say: I cannot allow my weakness to come between me**
386 **and God; for he is my strength. My sins, which are many, are**
387 **laid upon Jesus, my divine Substitute and Sacrifice.** {ST
388 December 19, 1892, par. 5}

389 *“Nothing in my hand I bring.*
390 *Simply to thy cross I cling.”* {ST December 19, 1892, par. 6}

391 **No man can look within himself and find anything in his**
392 **character that will recommend him to God, or make his**
393 **acceptance sure. It is only through Jesus, whom the Father**
394 **gave for the life of the world, that the sinner may find access**

395 **to God.** Jesus alone is our Redeemer, our Advocate and
396 Mediator; in him is our only hope for pardon, peace, and
397 righteousness. It is by virtue of the blood of Christ that the sin-
398 stricken soul can be restored to soundness. Christ is the
399 fragrance, the holy incense which makes your petition acceptable
400 to the Father. Then can you not say:— {ST December 19, 1892,
401 par. 7}

402 *Just as I am, without one plea,*
403 *But that thy blood was shed for me,*
404 *And that thou bid'st me come to Thee,*
405 *O Lamb of God, I come.* {ST December 19, 1892, par. 8}

406 **Coming to Christ does not require severe mental effort and**
407 **agony; it is simply accepting the terms of salvation that God**
408 **has made plain in his word. The blessing is free to all.** The
409 invitation is, “Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters,
410 and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come,
411 buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore
412 do you spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour
413 for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat
414 ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in
415 fatness.” {ST December 19, 1892, par. 9}

416 **Then come, and seek, and find. The reservoir of power is**
417 **open, is full and free. Come with humble hearts, not thinking**
418 **that you must do some good work to merit the favor of God,**
419 **or that you must make yourself better before you can come**
420 **to Christ. You are powerless to do good, and cannot better**
421 **your condition.** Apart from Christ we have no merit, no
422 righteousness. **Our sinfulness, our weakness, our human**
423 **imperfection make it impossible that we should appear**
424 **before God unless we are clothed in Christ's spotless**
425 **righteousness.** We are to be found in him not having our own
426 righteousness, but the righteousness which is in Christ. Then in
427 the name that is above every name, the only name given among
428 men whereby men can be saved, **claim the promise of God,**
429 **saying, “Lord, forgive my sin; I put my hands into thy hand**
430 **for help, and I must have it, or perish. I now believe.”** The
431 Saviour says to the repenting sinner, “No man cometh unto the
432 Father but by me, and him that cometh to me I will in no wise
433 cast out.” “I am thy salvation.” {ST December 19, 1892, par. 10}

434 **When you respond to the drawing of Christ, and join**
435 **yourself to him, you manifest saving faith. To talk of**

436 **religious things in a casual way, to pray for spiritual**
437 **blessings without real soul hunger and living faith, avails**
438 **little. The wondering crowd that pressed close about Jesus**
439 **realized no accession of vital power from the contact.** But
440 when the poor, suffering woman, who for twelve years had been
441 an invalid, in her great need put forth her hand and touched the
442 hem of his garment, she felt the healing virtue. Hers was the
443 touch of faith, and Christ recognized that touch. He knew that
444 virtue had gone out from him, and turning about in the throng, he
445 asked, “Who touched me?” Surprised at such a question, the
446 disciples answered, “Master, the multitude throng thee, and
447 sayest thou, Who touched me? And Jesus said, Somebody hath
448 touched me; for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me. And
449 when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling,
450 and falling down before him, she declared unto him before all
451 the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was
452 healed immediately; and he said unto her, Daughter, be of good
453 comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.” **The faith**
454 **which avails to bring us in vital contact with Christ expresses**
455 **on our part supreme preference, perfect reliance, entire**
456 **consecration.** This faith works by love and purifies the soul. It
457 works in the life of the follower of Christ true obedience to
458 God’s commandments; for love to God and love to man will be
459 the result of vital connection with Christ. “If any man have not
460 the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” {ST December 19, 1892,
461 par. 11}

462 **Jesus says, “I am the vine, ye are the branches.” Can we**
463 **conceive of a more intimate relation than this implies? The**
464 **fibers of the branch are identical with those of the vine. The**
465 **communication of life, strength, and nourishment from the**
466 **trunk to the branches is unobstructed and constant.** The root
467 sends its nourishment through the branches. **Such is the**
468 **believer’s relation to Christ, if he abides in Christ and draws**
469 **his nourishment from Him. But this spiritual relation**
470 **between Christ and the soul can be established only through**
471 **the exercise of personal faith.** “Without faith it is impossible to
472 please him;” for it is faith that connects us with the power of
473 **heaven, and brings us strength for coping with the powers of**
474 **darkness.** “This is the victory that overcometh the world, even
475 our faith.” **Faith familiarizes the soul with the existence and**
476 **presence of God, and, living with an eye single to the glory of**

477 **God, more and more we discern the beauty of his character,**
478 **the excellence of his grace.** Our souls become strong in spiritual
479 power; for we are breathing the atmosphere of heaven, and
480 realizing that God is at our right hand, that we shall not be
481 moved. We are rising above the world, beholding him who is the
482 chief among ten thousand, the one altogether lovely, and by
483 beholding we are to become changed into his image. {ST
484 December 19, 1892, par. 12}

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486

487

Transformation

488 December 26, 1892

489 The Way to Christ – D

490 “If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are
491 passed away; behold, all things are become new.” **Nothing but**
492 **divine power can regenerate the human heart and imbue**
493 **souls with the love of Christ, which will ever manifest itself**
494 **with love for those for whom he died.** The fruit of the Spirit is
495 love, joy, peace, long-suffering, goodness, faith, meekness,
496 temperance. **When a man is converted to God, a new moral**
497 **taste is supplied, a new motive power is given, and he loves**
498 **the things that God loves;** for his life is bound up by the golden
499 chain of the immutable promises to the life of Jesus. Love, joy,
500 peace, and inexpressible gratitude will pervade the soul, and the
501 language of him who is blessed will be, “Thy gentleness hath
502 made me great.” {ST December 26, 1892, par. 1}

503 **But those who are waiting to behold a magical change in**
504 **their characters without determined effort on their part to**
505 **overcome sin, will be disappointed. We have no reason to**
506 **fear while looking to Jesus, no reason to doubt but that he is**
507 **able to save to the uttermost all that come unto him; but we**
508 **may constantly fear lest our old nature will again obtain the**
509 **supremacy, that the enemy shall devise some snare whereby**
510 **we shall again become his captives.** We are to work out our
511 own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God that worketh
512 in you to will and to do of his good pleasure. **With our limited**
513 **powers we are to be as holy in our sphere as God is holy in**
514 **his sphere.** To the extent of our ability, we are to make manifest
515 the truth and love and excellence of the divine character. **As wax**

516 **takes the impression of the seal, so the soul is to take the**
517 **impression of the Spirit of God and retain the image of**
518 **Christ.** {ST December 26, 1892, par. 2}

519 We are to grow daily in spiritual loveliness. **We shall fail often**
520 **in our efforts to copy the divine pattern. We shall often have**
521 **to bow down to weep at the feet of Jesus, because of our**
522 **shortcomings and mistakes; but we are not to be**
523 **discouraged; we are to pray more fervently, believe more**
524 **fully, and try again with more steadfastness to grow into the**
525 **likeness of our Lord.** As we distrust our own power, we shall
526 trust the power of our Redeemer, and render praise to God, who
527 is the health of our countenance, and our God. {ST December
528 26, 1892, par. 3}

529 Wherever there is union with Christ there is love. Whatever
530 other fruits we may bear, if love be missing, they profit nothing.
531 Love to God and our neighbor is the very essence of our religion.
532 No one can love Christ and not love his children. **When we are**
533 **united to Christ, we have the mind of Christ. Purity and love**
534 **shine forth in the character, meekness and truth control the**
535 **life. The very expression of the countenance is changed.**
536 **Christ abiding in the soul exerts a transforming power, and**
537 **the outward aspect bears witness to the peace and joy that**
538 **reign within.** We drink in the love of Christ, as the branch draws
539 nourishment from the vine. If we are grafted in Christ, if fiber by
540 fiber we have been united with the Living Vine, we shall give
541 evidence of the fact by bearing rich clusters of living fruit. If we
542 are connected with the Light, we shall be channels of light, and
543 in our words and works we shall reflect light to the world. Those
544 who are truly Christians are bound with the chain of love which
545 links earth to heaven, which binds finite man to the infinite God.
546 The light that shines in the face of Jesus Christ shines in the
547 hearts of his followers, to the glory of God. {ST December 26,
548 1892, par. 4}

549 **By beholding we are to become changed; and as we meditate**
550 **upon the perfections of the divine Model, we shall desire to**
551 **become wholly transformed, and renewed in the image of his**
552 **purity.** It is by faith in the Son of God that transformation takes
553 place in the character, and the child of wrath becomes the child
554 of God. He passes from death unto life; he becomes spiritual and
555 discerns spiritual things. **The wisdom of God enlightens his**
556 **mind, and he beholds wondrous things out of his law. As a**

557 **man is converted by the truth, the work of transformation of**
558 **character goes on. He has an increased measure of**
559 **understanding. In becoming a man of obedience to God, he**
560 **has the mind of Christ, and the will of God becomes his**
561 **will.** {ST December 26, 1892, par. 5}

562 He who places himself unreservedly under the guidance of the
563 Spirit of God, will find that **his mind expands and develops.** He
564 obtains an education in the service of God which is not one-sided
565 and deficient, developing a one-sided character, but one which
566 results in symmetry and completeness. **Weaknesses that have**
567 **been manifested in a vacillating will and powerless character,**
568 **are overcome, for continual devotion and piety bring the**
569 **man in such close relation to Christ that he has the mind of**
570 **Christ. He is one with Christ, having soundness and strength**
571 **of principle.** His perception is clear, and he manifests that
572 wisdom which comes from God. Says James, "Who is a wise
573 man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out
574 of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom."
575 "The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable,
576 gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits,
577 without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of
578 righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace." This
579 will be the wisdom manifested by him who takes the cup of
580 salvation and calls upon the name of the Lord. This salvation,
581 which offers pardon to the transgressor, presents to him the
582 righteousness that will bear the scrutiny of the omniscient One,
583 gives victory over the powerful enemy of God and man, provides
584 eternal life and joy for its receiver, and may well be a theme of
585 rejoicing to the humble, who hear thereof and are glad. {ST
586 December 26, 1892, par. 6}

587 The beautiful parable that Christ gave of the one lost sheep, of
588 the shepherd that left the ninety and nine to go in search of that
589 which was lost, illustrates the work of Christ, the sinner's
590 condition, and the rejoicing of the universe over the salvation of
591 the soul. The shepherd did not look carelessly over the sheep,
592 and say, "I have ninety and nine, and it will cost me too much
593 trouble to go in search of the straying one, let him come back,
594 and I will open the door of the sheepfold that he may come in;
595 but I cannot go after him." **No; no sooner does the sheep go**
596 **astray than the countenance of the shepherd is filled with**
597 **grief and anxiety. He counts and recounts the flock, and**

598 **when he is certain that one sheep is lost, he slumbers not. He**
599 **leaves the ninety and nine within the fold, and, however dark**
600 **and tempestuous the night, however perilous and unpleasant**
601 **the way, however long and tedious the service, he does not**
602 **weary, he does not falter, until the lost is found.** And when it
603 is found, he lays the weary, exhausted sheep on his shoulder,
604 and, with cheerful gratitude that his search has not been in vain,
605 he bears back the wanderer to the fold. His gratitude finds
606 expression in the melodious songs of rejoicing, and he calls upon
607 his friends and neighbors, saying unto them, “Rejoice with me;
608 for I have found my sheep which was lost.” So when a wanderer
609 is found by the great Shepherd of the sheep, heavenly angels
610 respond to the Shepherd’s note of joy. When the lost is found,
611 heaven and earth unite in thanksgiving and rejoicing. “Joy shall
612 be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over
613 ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.” {ST
614 December 26, 1892, par. 7}

Notes

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