

# OVERCOMING THE ATTACKS OF SATAN

## QUOTATIONS FROM ELLEN G. WHITE

- 1 I. Overcoming the Attacks of Satan
- 2 A. Satan is real
- 3 1. Rev. 12:9 “And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent,  
4 called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he  
5 was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”
- 6 2. John 8:44 “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your  
7 father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode  
8 not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a  
9 lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”
- 10 3. 1 Peter 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the  
11 devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may  
12 devour.”
- 13 A. Bible promises to claim
- 14 4. Luke 10: 19 “Behold, I give you the authority to trample on  
15 serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and  
16 nothing shall by any means hurt you.”
- 17 2Cor 10: 4,5 “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but  
18 mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down  
19 arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the  
20 knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the  
21 obedience of Christ”
- 22 James 4: 7 “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will  
23 flee from you.”
- 24 Col 2: 10, 15 “And you are complete in Him, who is the head of all  
25 principality and power.... Having disarmed principalities and  
26 powers, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them  
27 in it.”
- 28 Col 1: 13 “He has delivered us from the power of darkness, and  
29 conveyed us into the kingdom of His dear Son.”
- 30 1John 4: 4 “You are of God, little children, and have overcome  
31 them; because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the  
32 world.”
- 33 1John 3: 8 “For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that  
34 He might destroy the works of the devil.”
- 35 Rom 16: 20 “And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet  
36 shortly.”
- 37 Rev 12: 11: “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and  
38 by the word of their testimony.”
- 39 II. How should we respond to Satan’s attacks

- 40 A. Surrender to Christ!
- 41 1. When anyone surrenders to Christ, a new power takes  
42 possession of the heart. A change takes place that we can never  
43 accomplish for ourselves. The life that is yielded to Christ becomes  
44 His own fortress, which He holds in a world that has revolted, and  
45 He intends no authority to rule in it but His own. A life that heaven's  
46 agencies keep in this way cannot be conquered by Satan's assaults. {  
47 HH 145.5 }  
48 But unless we yield ourselves to the control of Christ, the wicked  
49 one will dominate us. It is not necessary to choose the kingdom of  
50 darkness deliberately in order to come under its rule. We can simply  
51 neglect to unite ourselves with the kingdom of light. If we do not  
52 cooperate with heavenly agencies, Satan will make the heart his  
53 home. The only defense against evil is to have Christ living in the  
54 heart through faith in His righteousness. If we are not vitally  
55 connected with God, we can never resist self-love and temptation to  
56 sin. We may leave off bad habits for a time, but without moment-by-  
57 moment surrender to Christ and a continual relationship with Him,  
58 we are at the mercy of the enemy and will do what he says in the  
59 end. { HH 145.6 }
- 60 B. Believe Jesus came to deliver us.
- 61 1. John 8:31-36 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him,  
62 "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you  
63 shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." They  
64 answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never  
65 been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, 'You will be made  
66 free?'" Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever  
67 commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the  
68 house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes  
69 you free, you shall be free indeed."
- 70 2. Acts 26:18 'to open their eyes, in order to turn them from  
71 darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may  
72 receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are  
73 sanctified by faith in Me.'
- 74 3. Col 1:13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and  
75 conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,
- 76 C. Recognize that Satan is a defeated foe and flees when we resist him.
- 77 1. Texts
- 78 a. James 4: 7 "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil, and he  
79 will flee from you."
- 80 b. 1John 4: 4 "You are of God, little children, and have overcome  
81 them; because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the  
82 world."
- 83 c. Rom 16: 20 "And the God of peace will crush Satan under your  
84 feet shortly."
- 85 2. Quotes

- 86 a. Satan trembles and flees before the weakest soul who finds refuge  
87 in that mighty name. { HP 256.4}
- 88 b. “Satan is well aware that the weakest soul who abides in Christ  
89 is more than a match for the hosts of darkness, and that, should he  
90 reveal himself openly, he would be met and resisted. Therefore he  
91 seeks to draw away the soldiers of the cross from their strong  
92 fortification, while he lies in ambush with his forces, ready to  
93 destroy all who venture upon his ground. Only in humble reliance  
94 upon God, and obedience to all His commandments, can we be  
95 secure.”—The Great Controversy, p. 530.1
- 96 c. The power and malice of Satan and his host might justly alarm us  
97 were it not that we may find shelter and deliverance in the  
98 superior power of our Redeemer. We carefully secure our houses  
99 with bolts and locks to protect our property and our lives from  
100 evil men; but we seldom think of the evil angels who are  
101 constantly seeking access to us, and against whose attacks we  
102 have, in our own strength, no method of defense. If permitted,  
103 they can distract our minds, disorder and torment our bodies,  
104 destroy our possessions and our lives. Their only delight is in  
105 misery and destruction. Fearful is the condition of those who  
106 resist the divine claims and yield to Satan’s temptations, until God  
107 gives them up to the control of evil spirits. But those who follow  
108 Christ are ever safe under His watchcare. Angels that excel in  
109 strength are sent from heaven to protect them. The wicked one  
110 cannot break through the guard which God has stationed about  
111 His people. { GC 517.2}
- 112 d. The people of God must be prepared to withstand the wily foe. It  
113 is this resistance that Satan dreads. He knows better than we do  
114 the limit of his power and how easily he can be overcome if we  
115 resist and face him. Through divine strength the weakest saint is  
116 more than a match for him and all his angels, and if brought to the  
117 test he [the weakest saint] would be able to prove his superior  
118 power. Therefore Satan’s step is noiseless, his movements  
119 stealthy, and his batteries masked.... { FLB 318.3}
- 120 e. In the closing period of earth’s history the Lord will work  
121 mightily in behalf of those who stand steadfastly for the right.... In  
122 the midst of the time of trouble—trouble such as has not been  
123 since there was a nation—His chosen ones will stand unmoved.  
124 Satan with all the hosts of evil cannot destroy the weakest of  
125 God’s saints. Angels that excel in strength will protect them, and  
126 in their behalf Jehovah will reveal Himself as a “God of gods,”  
127 able to save to the uttermost those who have put their trust in  
128 Him. { Mar 270.6}
- 129 f. Through the transforming power of the grace of Christ, men may  
130 prevail against the evil that strives for the victory. They need not  
131 become the servants of Satan, the dupes of his lies. They need not  
132 continue to be his willing captives. They may rise against the  
133 deceiver, whose wily tissue of lies cost our first parents their Eden

134 home. They may resist the attacks of Satan. God can give them  
135 power to distinguish between falsehood and error, between  
136 sincerity and truth. If they choose, they may stand on vantage  
137 ground. But they can continue to stand there only by placing their  
138 hand in the hand of Christ, and following where He leads the way.  
139 { SpTB02 8.2 }

140 D. Be preoccupied with the truth.

141 1. Ps. 119:11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might  
142 not sin against You.

143 2. Ps. 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law  
144 he meditates day and night.

145 3. “Satan attacks us at our weak points; but we need not be  
146 overcome. The assault may be severe and protracted, but God has  
147 promised help for us, and in His strength we may conquer. . . . The  
148 precepts and promises of God’s word will arm (us) with divine  
149 power to resist the enemy..... Satan will be baffled and defeated  
150 when he finds the heart preoccupied with the truth of God. We need  
151 also to be often found at the throne of grace. Earnest, persevering  
152 prayer, uniting our human weakness to Omnipotence, will give us  
153 the victory.” Ellen White, *Our High Calling*, p. 14.

154 4. The soul that loves God loves to draw strength from Him by  
155 constant communion with Him. When it becomes the habit of the  
156 soul to converse with God, the power of the evil one is broken, for  
157 Satan cannot abide near the soul that draws nigh unto God.... { TMK  
158 250.5 }

159 5. If we would not be misled by error and falsehood, the heart must  
160 be preoccupied with the truth. The Word of God will furnish the  
161 mind with weapons of divine power, to vanquish the enemy. Happy  
162 is the man, who, when tempted, finds his soul rich in the knowledge  
163 of the Scriptures, who finds shelter beneath the promises of God.  
164 “Thy word,” said the psalmist, “have I hid in mine heart, that I  
165 might not sin against thee.” { FLB 8.2 }

166 6. We can overcome only by believing in every word that  
167 proceedeth from the mouth of God. We must know what is written  
168 in order that we may not be defeated by the sophistry and  
169 enchantments of Satan.... If we have been ensnared by his  
170 enchanting power, let us in the name of Jesus rebuke his power, and  
171 break with Satan without delay.... { OHC 210.3 }

172 Those who cry unto God for deliverance from the terrible spell that  
173 Satan would weave about them, will set a high estimate upon the  
174 Scriptures. Our only safety is in receiving the whole Bible, not  
175 taking merely detached portions, but believing the whole truth. Your  
176 feet are upon sliding sand if you depreciate one word that is written.  
177 The Bible is a divine communication, and is as verily a message to  
178 the soul as though a voice from heaven were heard speaking to us.  
179 With what awe and reverence and humiliation should we come to  
180 the searching of the Scriptures, that we may learn of eternal

181 realities.... Let everyone study the Bible, knowing that the Word of  
182 God is as enduring as the eternal throne. If you come to the study of  
183 the Scriptures in humility, with earnest prayer for guidance, angels  
184 of God will open to you its living realities; and if you cherish the  
185 precepts of truth, they will be to you as a wall of fire against the  
186 temptations, delusions, and enchantments of Satan.... { OHC 210.4}

187 7. The word of God is our spirit and life. It is the weapon by which  
188 we are to resist the attacks of Satan. Those who are much with God  
189 in prayer and consent to wear, the yoke of Christ, will be meek and  
190 lowly in heart. They will be one with Christ. { LLM 203.1 }

#### 191 E. Claim God's promises

192 1. 2 Pet. 1:4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and  
193 precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the  
194 divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world  
195 through lust.

196 2. 2 Cor. 1:20 For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in  
197 Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

198 3. How I wish that we might all believe in the promises of God....  
199 We are not to look into our hearts for a joyful emotion as an  
200 evidence of our acceptance with Heaven, but we are to take God's  
201 promises and say, "They are mine. The Lord is letting His Holy  
202 Spirit rest upon me. I am receiving the light; for the promise is,  
203 'Believe that ye receive the things ye ask for, and ye shall have  
204 them.' By faith I reach within the veil and lay hold of Christ, my  
205 strength. I thank God that I have a Saviour." { FLB 9.3 }

#### 206 F. Pray much; fast if led to do so

207 1. Matt. 26:41 "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The  
208 spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

209 2. Luke 22:40 When He came to the place, He said to them, "Pray  
210 that you may not enter into temptation."

211 3. 1 Pet. 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; becausefn your adversary the  
212 devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

213 4. "The prayer of faith is the great strength of the Christian, and  
214 will assuredly prevail against Satan. This is why (Satan) insinuates  
215 that we have no need of prayer. The name of Jesus, our Advocate,  
216 he detests; and when we earnestly come to Him for help, Satan's  
217 host is alarmed. It serves his purpose well if we neglect the exercise  
218 of prayer, for then his lying wonders are more readily received."  
219 Ellen White, Testimonies, Vol 1, p. 296. (1862)

220 5. Another means by which Satan seeks to separate the soul from  
221 God is to make man believe that prayer is but a useless form. He  
222 well knows how needful are meditation and prayer; and by his  
223 devices he would divert the mind from these important exercises,  
224 that the soul may not lean for help upon the mighty One, and obtain  
225 strength to resist his attacks. The prayer of faith is the great strength  
226 of the Christian, and will assuredly prevail. This is why Satan

227 insinuates that we have no need of prayer. { ST November 6, 1884,  
228 par. 11 }

229 6. “Satan is ever ready to insinuate that prayer is a mere form, and  
230 avails us nothing. He cannot bear to have his powerful rival  
231 appealed to. At the sound of fervent prayer, the hosts of darkness  
232 tremble. Fearing that their captive may escape, they form a wall  
233 around him, that Heaven’s light may not reach his soul. But if in his  
234 distress and helplessness the sinner looks to Jesus, pleading the  
235 merits of his blood, our compassionate Redeemer listens to the  
236 earnest, persevering prayer of faith, and sends to his deliverance a  
237 re-enforcement of angels that excel in strength. And when these  
238 angels, all-powerful, clothed with the armor of Heaven, come to the  
239 help of the fainting, pursued soul, the angels of darkness fall back,  
240 well knowing that their battle is lost, and that one more soul is  
241 escaping from the power of their influence.” Ellen White, Signs of  
242 the Times, November 18, 1886.

243 7. It is prayer to the Great Physician to heal the soul that will bring  
244 the blessing of God. Prayer unites us with one another and with  
245 God. Prayer brings Jesus to our side, and gives new strength and  
246 fresh grace to the fainting, perplexed soul to overcome the world,  
247 the flesh and the devil. Prayer turns aside the attacks of Satan. {  
248 SpM 67.2 }

249 8. The soul should be often uplifted to God in prayer, even while  
250 we are engaged in our business vocations. These silent prayers rise  
251 like precious incense before the throne of grace. Satan is baffled. He  
252 cannot overcome the Christian whose heart is thus stayed upon God.  
253 No hellish arts can destroy his peace. All the promises of God’s  
254 word, all the power of divine grace, all the resources of Jehovah, are  
255 pledged to secure his deliverance. { RH June 15, 1886, par. 7 }

256 9. Do not neglect secret prayer. “Enter into thy closet, and when  
257 thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy  
258 Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.” { ST  
259 November 18, 1903, par. 12 }

260 We are not to be so overwhelmed with the thought of our sins and  
261 errors that we shall cease to pray. Some realize their great weakness  
262 and sin, and become discouraged. Satan casts his dark shadow  
263 between them and the Lord Jesus, their atoning sacrifice. They say,  
264 It is useless for me to pray. My prayers are so mingled with evil  
265 thoughts that the Lord will not hear them. These suggestions are  
266 from Satan. In His humanity, Christ met and resisted this temptation,  
267 and He knows how to succor those who are thus tempted. In our  
268 behalf, He “offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying  
269 and tears.” { ST November 18, 1903, par. 13 }

270 Many, not understanding that their doubts come from Satan, become  
271 faint-hearted, and are defeated in the conflict. { ST November 18,  
272 1903, par. 14 }

273 Do not, because your thoughts are evil, cease to pray. If we could in  
274 our own wisdom and strength pray aright, we could also live aright,

275 and would need no atoning sacrifice. But imperfection is upon all  
276 humanity. Educate and train the mind that you may in simplicity tell  
277 the Lord what you need. As you offer your petitions to God, seeking  
278 for forgiveness for sin, a purer and holier atmosphere will surround  
279 your soul. { ST November 18, 1903, par. 15 }

280 10. We must work while the day lasts, and when Satan comes up  
281 with his power to oppress us we must have faith in God and beat  
282 him back, and if we could not get the victory we should fast and  
283 pray and we should surely get the victory and triumph over Satan. {  
284 6MR 250.4 }

285 G. Recognize the Satan is a tenacious and determined foe.

286 1. "I saw that the enemy will contend either for the usefulness or  
287 the life of the godly, and will try to mar their peace as long as they  
288 live in this world. But his power is limited. He may cause the  
289 furnace to be heated, but Jesus and angels will watch the trusting  
290 Christian, that nothing may be consumed but the dross. The fire  
291 kindled by Satan can have no power to destroy or hurt the true  
292 metal. It is important to close every door possible, against the  
293 entrance of Satan. It is the privilege of every family so to live that  
294 Satan can take no advantage of anything they may say or do, to tear  
295 one another down. Every member of the family should bear in mind  
296 that all have just as much as they can do to resist our wily foe, and  
297 with earnest prayers and unyielding faith each must rely upon the  
298 merits of the blood of Christ and claim His saving strength. {1T  
299 309.1}

300 The powers of darkness gather about the soul and shut Jesus from  
301 our sight, and at times we can only wait in sorrow and amazement  
302 until the cloud passes over. These seasons are sometimes terrible.  
303 Hope seems to fail, and despair seizes upon us. In these dreadful  
304 hours we must learn to trust, to depend solely upon the merits of the  
305 atonement, and in all our helpless unworthiness cast ourselves upon  
306 the merits of the crucified and risen Saviour. We shall never perish  
307 while we do this--never! When light shines on our pathway, it is no  
308 great thing to be strong in the strength of grace. But to wait patiently  
309 in hope when clouds envelop us and all is dark, requires faith and  
310 submission which causes our will to be swallowed up in the will of  
311 God. We are too quickly discouraged, and earnestly cry for the trial  
312 to be removed from us, when we should plead for patience to endure  
313 and grace to overcome." {1T 309.2}

314 2. Although he may be baffled again and again, yet he renews his  
315 attacks, working through those who profess to be humble and God-  
316 fearing, and who are apparently interested in, or believers of, present  
317 truth. The advocates of truth expect fierce and cruel opposition from  
318 their open enemies, but this is far less dangerous than the secret  
319 doubts expressed by those who feel at liberty to question and find  
320 fault with what God's servants are doing. These may appear to be  
321 humble men; but they are self-deceived, and they deceive others. In  
322 their hearts are envy and evil surmisings. They unsettle the faith of

323 the people in those in whom they should have confidence, those  
324 whom God has chosen to do His work; and when they are reproved  
325 for their course they take it as personal abuse. While professing to  
326 be doing God's work they are in reality aiding the enemy. { 5T  
327 273.3 }

328 3. Satan well knows that all whom he can lead to neglect prayer  
329 and the searching of the Scriptures, will be overcome by his attacks.  
330 Therefore he invents every possible device to engross the mind.  
331 There has ever been a class professing godliness, who, instead of  
332 following on to know the truth, make it their religion to seek some  
333 fault of character or error of faith in those with whom they do not  
334 agree. Such are Satan's right-hand helpers. Accusers of the brethren  
335 are not few, and they are always active when God is at work and His  
336 servants are rendering Him true homage. They will put a false  
337 coloring upon the words and acts of those who love and obey the  
338 truth. They will represent the most earnest, zealous, self-denying  
339 servants of Christ as deceived or deceivers. It is their work to  
340 misrepresent the motives of every true and noble deed, to circulate  
341 insinuations, and arouse suspicion in the minds of the inexperienced.  
342 In every conceivable manner they will seek to cause that which is  
343 pure and righteous to be regarded as foul and deceptive. { GC  
344 519.2 }

345 H. Be confident of God's victory.

346 1. 1 Cor. 15:57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory  
347 through our Lord Jesus Christ.

348 2. 1 John 5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world.  
349 And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

350 3. John 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you  
351 may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of  
352 good cheer, I have overcome the world."

353 4. Talk faith in Christ; talk hope, and rejoice in courage and be not  
354 intimidated with Satan's devices. Jesus Christ is all-sufficient.  
355 Rejoice in His love. "Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say,  
356 Rejoice.

357 5. In the midst of tumult we may have quietness and peace. We  
358 must believe in him, even though darkness envelop the soul; we  
359 must work from principle, rather than from feeling. By this  
360 continual, unwavering trust, Satan is baffled and disappointed. Says  
361 the psalmist, "Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser  
362 than mine enemies." "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light  
363 unto my path." { ST October 4, 1883, par. 2 }

364 6. No power can deliver the ensnared soul but the power of God in  
365 answer to the earnest prayers of His faithful followers."—Ellen  
366 White, Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 1, p. 299.1

367 7. The only hope for these men of iron will and hearts of stone is to  
368 fall on the Rock and be broken. Contact with Christ brings currents  
369 of divine power into the soul, so that the old cherished, natural



370 tendencies, habits, and practises, are changed by the Spirit of God.  
371 What they need is a genuine conversion. When they have this  
372 experience, these weak, tempted souls will look unto Jesus, and say,  
373 “I can do all things through Christ which strengthen me.” They need  
374 to appreciate every ray of light that comes from the throne of God  
375 into their pathway. They need to catch the Spirit and principle of the  
376 holy law of God, and conform their life to the character of Christ. A  
377 new power takes possession of the new heart. Man can never work  
378 out this change for himself. It is a supernatural work, bringing  
379 supernatural element into weak and wicked human nature. This  
380 power will cast out the devils that possessed the mind and will, and  
381 whose power has been revealed even in the words and works of  
382 those who claim to be the children of God. { PC 418.1 }

383 8. The world’s Redeemer would not have man in ignorance of  
384 Satan’s devices. The vast confederacy of evil is arrayed against  
385 those who would overcome; but Christ would have us look to the  
386 things that are not seen, to the armies of heaven that encamp round  
387 about those who love God, to deliver them. The angels of heaven are  
388 interested in behalf of men. The power of Omnipotence is at the  
389 service of those who trust in God. The Father accepts the  
390 righteousness of Christ in behalf of his followers, and they are  
391 surrounded with light and holiness which Satan cannot penetrate.  
392 The voice of the Captain of our salvation speaks to his followers,  
393 saying, “Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.’ I am your  
394 defense; advance to victory.” { RH July 1, 1890, par. 9 }

395 9. “Bring Us Not into Temptation, but Deliver Us From the Evil  
396 One” This prayer is itself a promise. If we commit ourselves to God,  
397 we have the assurance, He “will not suffer you to be tempted above  
398 that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to  
399 escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” Christ will never abandon the  
400 soul for whom He has died. The soul may leave Him, and be  
401 overwhelmed with temptation, but Christ can never turn from one  
402 for whom He has paid the ransom of His own life. Could our  
403 spiritual vision be quickened, we should see souls bowed under  
404 oppression and burdened with grief, pressed as a cart beneath  
405 sheaves, and ready to die in discouragement. We should see angels  
406 flying swiftly to aid these tempted ones, who are standing as on the  
407 brink of a precipice. The angels from heaven force back the hosts of  
408 evil that encompass these souls, and guide them to plant their feet on  
409 the sure foundation. The battles waging between the two armies are  
410 as real as those fought by the armies of this world, and on the issue  
411 of the spiritual conflict eternal destinies depend. Live in contact with  
412 the living Christ, and He will hold you firmly by a hand that will  
413 never let go. Know and believe the love that God has to us, and you  
414 are secure; that love is a fortress impregnable to all the delusions  
415 and assaults of Satan. “The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the  
416 righteous runneth into it, and is safe.” { ST November 4, 1903, par.  
417 4 }

418 10. This is intended as a warning to the people of God living in the  
419 last days. If they follow after righteousness and true holiness, if they  
420 keep all the commandments of God, Satan and his agents will not be  
421 permitted to overcome them. All the opposition of their bitterest foes  
422 will prove powerless to destroy or uproot the vine of God's own  
423 planting. Satan understands what Balaam learned by sad experience,  
424 that there is no enchantment against Jacob, neither divination against  
425 Israel, while iniquity is not cherished among them; therefore his  
426 power and influence will ever be employed to mar their unity and  
427 defile the purity of their characters. His snares are laid in a thousand  
428 ways to weaken their power for good. { 2TT 240.2 }

429 I. Know that Satan cannot control your mind or force you to sin

430 1. This very place, this very assembly, is the scene of a hostile  
431 meeting of evil angels and the heavenly host. There is not an  
432 individual who does not furnish a field in his own heart for this strife  
433 between invisible powers. As the message of God comes to you, and  
434 sets before you your sins, and pleads for you to cease the  
435 transgression of the law of God, and points you to the provision  
436 made for your salvation by a sin-pardoning Saviour, and urges you  
437 to accept the truth, the words which God designs should reach the  
438 heart are the very weapons the evil angels love to seize, that they  
439 may, through their suggestions, blunt and throw away the very  
440 words of life, hope, and pardon; while the good angels are seeking  
441 to soften the soil of the heart, that the seed of truth may be planted in  
442 the understanding, and bring forth fruit to the glory of God. We are  
443 individually responsible for the result of this conflict. Neither good  
444 nor evil angels can reach their end successfully except they have the  
445 cooperation and the determined effort of the individual. { RH July  
446 19, 1887, par. 10 }

447 2. I was shown that Satan cannot control minds unless they are  
448 yielded to his control. Those who depart from the right are in serious  
449 danger now. They separate themselves from God and from the  
450 watchcare of His angels, and Satan, ever upon the watch to destroy  
451 souls, begins to present to them his deceptions. Such are in the  
452 utmost peril; and if they see and try to resist the powers of darkness  
453 and to free themselves from Satan's snare, it is not an easy matter.  
454 They have ventured on Satan's ground, and he claims them. He will  
455 not hesitate to engage all his energies and call to his aid all his evil  
456 host to wrest a single human being from the hand of Christ. Those  
457 who have tempted the devil to tempt them will have to make  
458 desperate efforts to free themselves from his power. But when they  
459 begin to work for themselves, then angels of God whom they have  
460 grieved will come to their rescue. Satan and his angels are unwilling  
461 to lose their prey. They contend and battle with the holy angels, and  
462 the conflict is severe. But if those who have erred continue to plead,  
463 and in deep humility confess their wrongs, angels who excel in  
464 strength will prevail and wrench them from the power of the evil  
465 angels.—Ellen White, Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 1, p. 301.2

- 466 3. "The tempter can never compel us to do evil. He cannot control  
467 minds unless they are yielded to his control. The will must consent,  
468 faith must let go its hold upon Christ, before Satan can exercise his  
469 power upon us. But every sinful desire we cherish affords him a  
470 foothold. Every point in which we fail of meeting the divine  
471 standard is an open door by which he can enter to tempt and destroy  
472 us. And every failure or defeat on our part gives occasion for him to  
473 reproach Christ."—Ellen White, *Desire of Ages*, 125.2
- 474 4. "God has given us the power of choice; it is ours to exercise. We  
475 cannot change our hearts, we cannot control our thoughts, our  
476 impulses, our affections. We cannot make ourselves pure, fit for  
477 God's service. But we can choose to serve God, we can give Him  
478 our will; then He will work in us to will and to do according to His  
479 good pleasure. Thus our whole nature will be brought under the  
480 control of Christ".—Ellen White, *Ministry of Healing*, 176 (1905).
- 481 5. "It is not God's purpose to coerce the will. Man was created a  
482 free moral agent. Like the inhabitants of all other worlds, he must be  
483 subjected to the test of obedience; but he is never brought into such  
484 a position that yielding to evil becomes a matter of necessity. No  
485 temptation or trial is permitted to come to him which he is unable to  
486 resist. God made such ample provision that man need never have  
487 been defeated in the conflict with Satan."—Ellen White, *Patriarchs  
488 and Prophets*, 331, 332 (1890)
- 489 6. From the days of Adam to our own time, our great enemy has  
490 been exercising his power to oppress and destroy. He is now  
491 preparing for his last campaign against the church. All who seek to  
492 follow Jesus will be brought into conflict with this relentless foe.  
493 The more nearly the Christian imitates the divine Pattern, the more  
494 surely will he make himself a mark for the attacks of Satan. All who  
495 are actively engaged in the cause of God, seeking to unveil the  
496 deceptions of the evil one and to present Christ before the people,  
497 will be able to join in the testimony of Paul, in which he speaks of  
498 serving the Lord with all humility of mind, with many tears and  
499 temptations. { GC 510.2}  
500 Satan assailed Christ with his fiercest and most subtle temptations,  
501 but he was repulsed in every conflict. Those battles were fought in  
502 our behalf; those victories make it possible for us to conquer. Christ  
503 will give strength to all who seek it. No man without his own  
504 consent can be overcome by Satan. The tempter has no power to  
505 control the will or to force the soul to sin. He may distress, but he  
506 cannot contaminate. He can cause agony, but not defilement. The  
507 fact that Christ has conquered should inspire His followers with  
508 courage to fight manfully the battle against sin and Satan. { GC  
509 510.3}
- 510 7. Multitudes today are as truly under the power of evil spirits as  
511 was the demoniac of Capernaum. All who willfully depart from  
512 God's commandments are placing themselves under the control of  
513 Satan. Many tamper with evil, thinking that they can break away

514 whenever they please, but they are lured on and on until they find  
515 themselves controlled by a will stronger than their own. They cannot  
516 escape its mysterious power. Secret sin or master passion may hold  
517 them captive as helpless as was the demoniac of Capernaum. {  
518 MHH 42.2 }

519 Yet their condition is not hopeless. God does not control our minds  
520 without our consent, but all are free to choose what power they want  
521 to rule over them. None have fallen so low, none are so vile, but that  
522 they may find deliverance in Christ. The demoniac, in place of  
523 prayer, could utter only the words of Satan, yet the heart's unspoken  
524 appeal was heard. No cry from a soul in need, though it fail of  
525 utterance in words, will be unheeded. Those who consent to enter  
526 into covenant with God are not left to the power of Satan or to the  
527 infirmity of their own nature. { MHH 42.3 }

528 "Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the captives of the  
529 righteous be delivered? ... Thus says the Lord: 'Even the captives of  
530 the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible be  
531 delivered; for I will contend with him who contends with you, and I  
532 will save your children.'" Isaiah 49:24, 25. { MHH 42.4 }

533 Marvelous will be the transformation made in anyone who by faith  
534 opens the door of the heart to the Savior. { MHH 42.5 }

535 8. It is true that Satan is the great originator of sin; yet this does not  
536 excuse any man for sinning; for he cannot force men to do evil. He  
537 tempts them to it, and makes sin look enticing and pleasant; but he  
538 has to leave it to their own wills whether they will do it or not. He  
539 does not force men to become intoxicated, neither does he force  
540 them to remain away from religious meetings; but he presents  
541 temptations in a manner to allure to evil, and man is a free moral  
542 agent to accept or refuse. { 2T 294.1 }

543 J. Speak of victory

544 1. Rev 12: 11: "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb  
545 and by the word of their testimony."

546 2. "It is a law of nature that our thoughts and feelings are  
547 encouraged and strengthened as we give them utterance. While  
548 words express thoughts, it is also true that thoughts follow words. If  
549 we would give more expression to our faith, rejoice more in the  
550 blessings that we know we have—the great mercy and love of  
551 God—we should have more faith and greater joy. No tongue can  
552 express, no finite mind can conceive, the blessing that results from  
553 appreciating the goodness and love of God. Even on earth we may  
554 have joy as a wellspring, never failing, because fed by the streams  
555 that flow from the throne of God."—Ellen White, *Ministry of*  
556 *Healing*, 251-253

557 3. "If we worship in spirit and in truth and in the beauty of  
558 holiness, it will be to us the very gate of heaven. As lessons of the  
559 wondrous works of God are repeated, and as the heart's gratitude is  
560 expressed in prayer and song, angels from heaven take up the strain

- 561 and unite in praise and thanksgiving to God. These exercises drive  
 562 back the power of Satan. They expel murmurings and  
 563 complainings, and Satan loses ground.”—Ellen White, Review and  
 564 Herald, Oct 24, 1899
- 565 4. "Then let us educate our hearts and lips to speak the praise of  
 566 God for His matchless love. Let us educate our souls to be hopeful  
 567 and to abide in the light shining from the cross of Calvary. Never  
 568 should we forget that we are children of the heavenly King, sons and  
 569 daughters of the Lord of hosts. It is our privilege to maintain a calm  
 570 repose in God."—Ellen White, *Ministry of Healing*, p. 253.1
- 571 5. "If we would give more expression to our faith, rejoice more in  
 572 the blessings that we know we have,—the great mercy and love of  
 573 God,—we should have more faith and greater joy. No tongue can  
 574 express, no finite mind can conceive, the blessing that results from  
 575 appreciating the goodness and love of God. Even on earth we may  
 576 have joy as a wellspring, never failing, because fed by the streams  
 577 that flow from the throne of God."—Ellen White, *Sons and*  
 578 *Daughters of God*, p. 122.4
- 579 6. "Bear in mind that you are God's by creation, and you are His  
 580 by redemption. The same Son of the only living God who created  
 581 you has declared, "A new heart will I give you." If you will  
 582 surrender to Him, his grace will make of you a vessel unto honor,  
 583 and will carry you forward step by step in the progress of Christian  
 584 perfection, until you shall see the King in His beauty. Day by day  
 585 He will work great changes in you. He who hath begun a good work  
 586 in you will through His grace perform it unto the day of Christ's  
 587 appearing. The honor of Christ is not less concerned in the  
 588 perfection of your individual character than is your own honor. You  
 589 are a member of His body, a part of Himself. He has passed through  
 590 great suffering, even unto the most cruel death, that you might have  
 591 probationary time in which to form a character through His  
 592 sufficiency, that His glory should become your glory, that when you  
 593 shall appear among the angels of heaven, the just made perfect, you  
 594 may appear unto the praise and glory of His power."—Ellen White,  
 595 Letter 85-1897, October 21, 1897, par. 8,9
- 596 K. Don't speak of Satan's power
- 597 1. Php 4:8 "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true,  
 598 whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever  
 599 things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are  
 600 of good report; if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on  
 601 these things."
- 602 2. "We must not talk and think and magnify the power of Satan,  
 603 but talk of the confidence we have in Jesus Christ. Let the love, the  
 604 inexpressible love, of Jesus so be presented in our own minds and  
 605 cherished that we can communicate it to the other minds, and clear  
 606 away all their distrust, and lay hold of the riches of the grace of  
 607 Christ, for we "are complete in Him." He has arisen, and over the

- 608           rent sepulchre of Joseph He proclaims, “I am the resurrection and  
609           the life.”— Ellen White, *Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 18, p. 54.2
- 610       3.     The more your mind is educated and trained to think of Jesus, to  
611       talk of Jesus, the less power will Satan have over your mind. He  
612       cannot bear to belong in the company of those who will meditate  
613       upon the love of God and Jesus Christ. To dwell upon the beauty,  
614       goodness, mercy, and love of Jesus is strengthening to the mental  
615       and moral powers, and while the mind is kept trained to do the  
616       works of Christ, to be obedient children, you will habitually inquire,  
617       Is this the way of the Lord? Will Jesus be pleased to have me do  
618       this? Will this course be to please myself or to please Jesus?—Ellen  
619       White, *Letter 43-1892*, September 18, 1892, par. 17
- 620       4.     “When someone asks how you are feeling, do not try to think of  
621       something mournful to tell in order to gain sympathy. Do not talk of  
622       your lack of faith and your sorrows and sufferings. The tempter  
623       delights to hear such words. When talking on gloomy subjects, you  
624       are glorifying him. We are not to dwell on the great power of Satan  
625       to overcome us. *Often we give ourselves into his hands by talking of*  
626       *his power.* Let us talk instead of the great power of God to bind up  
627       all our interests with His own. Tell of the matchless power of Christ,  
628       and speak of His glory.”—Ellen White, *Ministry of Health and*  
629       *Healing*, p. 139.1 }
- 630       5.     “Satan would have your soul; shall he have it? Say, No, never; it  
631       is Christ’s property. Satan says, “Curse God and die.” Will you do  
632       it? He curses God for you, that you may repeat his wicked  
633       blasphemy. Will you do it? No, for Jesus has died; He has purchased  
634       your life. Your soul is His property, and He will take you by the  
635       hand; He will draw you away from perdition; He will make you, as  
636       John, His beloved disciple, to win the crown of eternal life. He bids  
637       you, through me, His humble servant, “Look and live.” He opens  
638       His loving heart to you that you may hide in the cleft of the Rock.  
639       *Say not, “There is no hope for me.” Satan triumphs every time you*  
640       *say it.* Let these thoughts be in your heart, “Thou, O Lord, hast  
641       created me for Thyself.” He has permitted you to live that you might  
642       become acquainted with Jesus and be willing to follow Him.—  
643       Letter 85, 1891. (Written to J. A. Starr, September 22, 1891, from  
644       Healdsburg, California.)”—Ellen White, *Manuscript Releases*, Vol.  
645       13, 151.3
- 646       6.     We must not talk and think and magnify the power of Satan , but  
647       talk of the confidence we have in Jesus Christ. Let the love, the  
648       inexpressible love, of Jesus so be presented in our own minds and  
649       cherished that we can communicate it to the other minds, and clear  
650       away all their distrust, and lay hold of the riches of the grace of  
651       Christ, for we “are complete in Him.” He has arisen, and over the  
652       rent sepulchre of Joseph He proclaims, “I am the resurrection and  
653       the life.” {18MR 54.2} ... Light, light! We will talk light and not  
654       darkness any more. If you talk darkness, you will have darkness; if  
655       you talk light, you will have light.—Ellen White, *Manuscript*

656 *Releases*, Vol. 18, p. 54.3}  
657 "Every day it is our privilege to be working in the interest of the  
658 great firm, because we are in co-partnership with Christ. The  
659 uncertainties we have here are to be overcome by faith. We are not  
660 to talk of the great power of Satan to overcome us, but of the great  
661 power of God to bind up all our interests with his own. We are to  
662 talk the language of Christ, to echo His words, nor let any impatient  
663 speech come from us. Then we will be a savor of life unto life to all  
664 who come in connection with us. And we will obtain an experience  
665 that will enable us to comprehend with all saints what is the length  
666 and depth and breadth and height, and to know the love of God that  
667 passeth knowledge."—Ellen White, *Letter 85-1897*, October 21,  
668 1897 par. 8

669 7. We need not fear that the adversary shall be stronger than the  
670 mighty God of Jacob, who gave him special victories when he  
671 wrestled with God. We are not to talk of Satan's large power, not to  
672 dwell upon this phase, but talk of the greatness and mightiness of  
673 God's power. Steadfastly looking unto Jesus, who is the Author and  
674 Finisher of our faith, we shall increase in faith. We shall take the  
675 image of the divine likeness. {Ms78-1893 (March 30, 1893) par.  
676 28}

677 8. When Satan casts his hellish shadow athwart my pathway, I do  
678 not look at it or talk of it, and glorify the devil by talking of him and  
679 his power and what a hard time I am having. No, I cleave right  
680 through the shadow and by faith take hold of Jesus Christ. By  
681 beholding we "are changed into the same image from glory to  
682 glory." Talk faith. Every doubt you express is a seed sown, and that  
683 seed will take root in some heart. We do not want to speak one word  
684 of doubt and thus praise the devil for his wonderful power to keep  
685 [us] in subjection. No, Christ has purchased me and redeemed me.  
686 Satan has no power over me. I am free in Christ Jesus because I  
687 believe in Him. {Ms16-1894 (February 25, 1894) par. 40}

688 9. We need to praise God more than we do. We should offer Him  
689 more thanksgiving. As we show that we are glad in the Lord, the  
690 heavenly universe will recognize our offering and will rejoice over  
691 us with singing. How often we hedge up our own way and give  
692 ourselves into the hands of the enemy by talking of his power. Let  
693 us talk instead of the power of the Almighty. Do not honor Satan by  
694 speaking of his greatness. God is infinitely greater than Satan. His  
695 righteousness goes before His believing ones, and His glory is their  
696 rearward. {Ms39-1901 (May 1901) par. 10}

697 10. "It is Satan's plan to talk about that which concerns himself. He  
698 is delighted to have human beings talk of his power, of his working  
699 thru the children of men, but by indulgence in such conversation the  
700 mind becomes gloomy and sour and disagreeable. We may become  
701 channels of communication for Satan thru which words bring no  
702 sunshine to the heart. But let us decide that this shall not be. Let us  
703 decide not to be channels thru which Satan shall send gloomy

704 disagreeable thoughts. Let our words be not a savor of death unto  
705 death, but of life unto life, in the words we speak to the people and  
706 in the prayers we offer. God desires us to give unmistakable  
707 evidences that we have a spiritual life. We do not enjoy the fulness  
708 of the blessing which the Lord has prepared for us because we do  
709 not ask in faith. If we would exercise faith in the word of the living  
710 God, we should have the richest blessings. We dishonor God by our  
711 lack of faith; therefore we can not impart life to others unless we  
712 ourselves bear a living, uplifting testimony. We cannot give that  
713 which we do not possess. If we will walk humbly with God, if we  
714 will walk in the spirit of Christ, none of us will carry heavy burdens.  
715 We shall lay them on the great burden-bearer. Then we may expect  
716 triumphs in the presence of God, in the communion of His love.  
717 Every campmeeting may be a love feast from the beginning to the  
718 end because God's presence is with His people. All heaven is  
719 interested in our salvation. The angels of God, thousands upon  
720 thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand are commissioned  
721 ministers to those who shall be heirs of salvation. They guard us  
722 against evil and press back the powers of darkness that are seeking  
723 our destruction. Have we not reason to be thankful every moment;  
724 thankful even when there are apparent difficulties in our pathway.  
725 The Lord Himself is our Helper."—Ellen White, *Loma Linda*  
726 *Messages*

727 11. All this is harming your own soul; for every word of doubt you  
728 utter is inviting Satan's temptations; it is strengthening in you the  
729 tendency to doubt, and it is grieving from you the ministering  
730 angels. When Satan tempts you, breathe not a word of doubt or  
731 darkness. If you choose to open the door to his suggestions, your  
732 mind will be filled with distrust and rebellious questioning. If you  
733 talk out your feelings, every doubt you express not only reacts upon  
734 yourself, but it is a seed that will germinate and bear fruit in the life  
735 of others, and it may be impossible to counteract the influence of  
736 your words. You yourself may be able to recover from the season of  
737 temptation and from the snare of Satan, but others who have been  
738 swayed by your influence may not be able to escape from the  
739 unbelief you have suggested. How important that we speak only  
740 those things that will give spiritual strength and life! { SC 119.1 }

741 L. Ignore Satan's accusations

742 1. Their only hope is in the mercy of God; their only defense will  
743 be prayer. As Joshua was pleading before the Angel, so the remnant  
744 church, with brokenness of heart and earnest faith, will plead for  
745 pardon and deliverance through Jesus their Advocate. They are fully  
746 conscious of the sinfulness of their lives, they see their weakness  
747 and unworthiness, and as they look upon themselves they are ready  
748 to despair. The tempter stands by to accuse them, as he stood by to  
749 resist Joshua. He points to their filthy garments, their defective  
750 characters. He presents their weakness and folly, their sins of  
751 ingratitude, their unlikeness to Christ, which has dishonored their



752 Redeemer. He endeavors to affright the soul with the thought that  
 753 their case is hopeless, that the stain of their defilement will never be  
 754 washed away. He hopes to so destroy their faith that they will yield  
 755 to his temptations, turn from their allegiance to God, and receive the  
 756 mark of the beast. Satan urges before God his accusations against  
 757 them, declaring that they have by their sins forfeited the divine  
 758 protection, and claiming the right to destroy them as transgressors.  
 759 He pronounces them just as deserving as himself of exclusion from  
 760 the favor of God. "Are these," he says, "the people who are to take  
 761 my place in heaven and the place of the angels who united with me?  
 762 While they profess to obey the law of God, have they kept its  
 763 precepts? Have they not been lovers of self more than of God? Have  
 764 they not placed their own interests above His service? Have they not  
 765 loved the things of the world? Look at the sins which have marked  
 766 their lives. Behold their selfishness, their malice, their hatred toward  
 767 one another." { CCh 352.3}

768 The people of God have been in many respects very faulty. Satan  
 769 has an accurate knowledge of the sins which he has tempted them to  
 770 commit, and he presents these in the most exaggerated light,  
 771 declaring: "Will God banish me and my angels from His presence,  
 772 and yet reward those who have been guilty of the same sins? Thou  
 773 canst not do this, O Lord, in justice. Thy throne will not stand in  
 774 righteousness and judgment. Justice demands that sentence be  
 775 pronounced against them." { CCh 353.1}

776 But while the followers of Christ have sinned, they have not given  
 777 themselves to the control of evil. They have put away their sins, and  
 778 have sought the Lord in humility and contrition, and the divine  
 779 Advocate pleads in their behalf. He who has been most abused by  
 780 their ingratitude, who knows their sin, and also their repentance,  
 781 declares: "'The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan.' I gave My life for these  
 782 souls. They are graven upon the palms of My hands." { CCh 353.2}

783 2. Every manifestation of God's power for His people arouses the  
 784 enmity of Satan. Every time God works in their behalf, Satan with  
 785 his angels works with renewed vigor to compass their ruin. He is  
 786 jealous of all who make Christ their strength. His object is to  
 787 instigate evil, and when he has succeeded, throw all the blame upon  
 788 the tempted ones. He points to their filthy garments, their defective  
 789 characters. He presents their weakness and folly, their sins of  
 790 ingratitude, their unlikeness to Christ, which have dishonored their  
 791 Redeemer. All this he urges as an argument proving his right to  
 792 work his will in their destruction. He endeavors to affright their  
 793 souls with the thought that their case is hopeless, that the stain of  
 794 their defilement can never be washed away. He hopes so to destroy  
 795 their faith that they will yield fully to his temptations, and turn from  
 796 their allegiance to God. { COL 168.1}

797 The Lord's people cannot of themselves answer the charges of  
 798 Satan. As they look to themselves they are ready to despair. But they  
 799 appeal to the divine Advocate. They plead the merits of the

800 Redeemer. God can be “just, and the justifier of him which believeth  
801 in Jesus.” Romans 3:26. With confidence the Lord’s children cry  
802 unto Him to silence the accusations of Satan, and bring to naught his  
803 devices. “Do me justice of mine adversary,” they pray; and with the  
804 mighty argument of the cross, Christ silences the bold accuser. {  
805 COL 168.2}

806 “The Lord said unto Satan, The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan, even the  
807 Lord that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand  
808 plucked out of the fire?” When Satan seeks to cover the people of  
809 God with blackness, and ruin them, Christ interposes. Although they  
810 have sinned, Christ has taken the guilt of their sins upon His own  
811 soul. He has snatched the race as a brand from the fire. By His  
812 human nature He is linked with man, while through His divine  
813 nature He is one with the infinite God. Help is brought within the  
814 reach of perishing souls. The adversary is rebuked. { COL 169.1}

815 3. Never is one received from the family of Satan into the family of  
816 God without exciting the determined resistance of the wicked one.  
817 Satan’s accusations against those who seek the Lord are not  
818 prompted by displeasure at their sins. He exults in their defective  
819 characters. Only through their transgression of God’s law can he  
820 obtain power over them. His accusations arise solely from his  
821 enmity to Christ. Through the plan of salvation, Jesus is breaking  
822 Satan’s hold upon the human family and rescuing souls from his  
823 power. All the hatred and malignity of the archrebel is stirred as he  
824 beholds the evidence of Christ’s supremacy, and with fiendish  
825 power and cunning he works to wrest from Him the remnant of the  
826 children of men who have accepted His salvation. { CCh 350.4}

827 M. Don’t let Satan take advantage of anything out of order in your  
828 life.

829 1. The adversary of souls is not permitted to read the thoughts of  
830 men; but he is a keen observer, and he marks the s; he takes account  
831 of actions, and skillfully adapts his temptations to meet the cases of  
832 those who place themselves in his power. If we would labor to  
833 repress sinful thoughts and feelings, giving them no expression in  
834 words or actions, Satan would be defeated; for he could not prepare  
835 his specious temptations to meet the case. But how often do  
836 professed Christians, by their lack of self-control, open the door to  
837 the adversary of souls! Divisions, and even bitter dissensions which  
838 would disgrace any worldly community, are common in the  
839 churches, because there is so little effort to control wrong feelings,  
840 and to repress every word that Satan can take advantage of. As soon  
841 as an alienation of feeling arises, the matter is spread before Satan  
842 for his inspection, and the opportunity given for him to use his  
843 serpent-like wisdom and skill in dividing and destroying the church.  
844 There is great loss in every dissension. Personal friends of both  
845 parties take sides with their respective favorites, and thus the breach  
846 is widened. A house divided against itself cannot stand.  
847 Criminations and recriminations are engendered and multiplied.

848 Satan and his angels are actively at work to secure a harvest from  
849 seed thus sown. Worldlings look on, and jeeringly exclaim, “Behold  
850 how these Christians hate one another! If this is religion, we do not  
851 want it.” And they look upon themselves and their irreligious  
852 characters with great satisfaction. Thus they are confirmed in their  
853 impenitence, and Satan exults at his success. { RH March 22, 1887,  
854 par. 5 }

855 2. When we are tempted to murmur or complain at something some  
856 one has done, praise something in that person. Say, “Satan, I have  
857 defeated your temptations this time.” Cultivate the habit of  
858 thankfulness. Praise God over and over again for His wonderful love  
859 in giving Christ to die for us. It never pays to think of old  
860 grievances. God calls upon us to cultivate His mercy and His  
861 matchless love, that we may be inspired with praise. { BTS October  
862 1, 1908, par. 7 }

863 3. Many today stand where Peter stood, when in self-confidence he  
864 declared that he would not deny his Lord. And because of their self-  
865 sufficiency, they fall an easy prey to Satan’s devices. Those who  
866 realize their weakness trust in a power higher than self. And, while  
867 they look to God, Satan has no power against them. But those who  
868 trust in self are easily defeated. Let us remember that, if we do not  
869 heed the cautions that God gives us, a fall is before us. Christ will  
870 not save from wounds the one who places himself unbidden on the  
871 enemy’s ground. He lets the self-sufficient one, who acts as if he  
872 knew more than his Lord, go on in his supposed strength. Then  
873 comes suffering and a crippled life, or perhaps defeat and death. {  
874 TDG 259.4}

875 In the warfare, the enemy takes advantage of the weakest points in  
876 the defence of those he is attacking. Here he makes his fiercest  
877 assaults. The Christian should have no weak points in his defence.  
878 He should be barricaded by the support that the Scriptures give to  
879 the one who is doing God’s will. The tempted soul will bear away  
880 the victory, if he follows the example of Him who met the tempter  
881 with the word, “It is written.” He can stand securely in the  
882 protection of a “Thus saith the Lord.” ... { TDG 259.5}

883 4. Those who are continually learning in the school of Christ will  
884 be able to pursue the even tenor of their way, and Satan’s efforts to  
885 throw them off their balance will be signally defeated. Temptation is  
886 not sin. Jesus was holy and pure, yet He was tempted in all points as  
887 we are, but with a strength and power that man will never be called  
888 upon to endure. In His successful resistance He has left us a bright  
889 example, that we should follow His steps. If we are self-confident or  
890 self-righteous we shall be left to fall under the power of temptation;  
891 but if we look to Jesus and trust in Him we call to our aid a power  
892 that has conquered the foe on the field of battle, and with every  
893 temptation He will make a way of escape. When Satan comes in like  
894 a flood, we must meet his temptations with the sword of the Spirit,

895 and Jesus will be our helper and will lift up for us a standard against  
896 him. { ML 48.3 }

897 5. God knows how Satan is working, and sends his angels to watch  
898 over his children, to protect them from the Devil’s power. And the  
899 battle is constantly going on between the angels of God, and the  
900 Devil’s angels. The angels of God are clothed with a complete  
901 armor, the panoply of heaven, and, although surrounded with deadly  
902 foes, fear nothing, for they are doing the will of their loved  
903 Commander. They enter the darkest places to rescue the children of  
904 God from the snares of Satan, and their presence causes the evil  
905 angels to fall back. And as the evil angels are defeated, they utter  
906 terrible imprecations against the injustice of God, and against his  
907 angels. { 2SG 277.2 }

908 I saw that the angels of God are not to force or bend the will of the  
909 individual they watch over. They are to gently chide, warn and  
910 guard. Satan can never force back these holy angels from their  
911 charge. None can do this but the individuals that they are watching  
912 over. If these individuals continue to grieve these tender, holy  
913 angels; if they go astray from their counsel and warnings, and  
914 choose an independent course of their own, they will drive these  
915 angels from them. If the will is submitted to them, they will bend it  
916 in the heavenly channel, and they will ever be on the watch for their  
917 interests, leading them from a thousand dangers, preventing their  
918 lives being taken by Satan, and, if they are inclined to go a wrong  
919 course, stand in the path before them to prevent their ruin. { 2SG  
920 277.3 }

921 But if individuals continue to retain their own will, choose their own  
922 course, and have their own way, the angels leave them in sadness.  
923 Then Satan comes in to control the will, and bend the mind, and  
924 smiles in hellish triumph at his success. { 2SG 278.1 }

925 6. Those who would not be overcome by Satan’s schemes must  
926 carefully guard the ways into their soul—they must avoid reading,  
927 seeing, or hearing anything that will suggest impure thoughts. This  
928 will require earnest prayer and always being carefully alert. We  
929 must be helped by the abiding influence of the Holy Spirit, which  
930 will attract the mind higher to think on pure and holy things. “How  
931 can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to  
932 Your word.” “Your word,” says the psalmist, “I have hidden in my  
933 heart, that I might not sin against You” ( Psalm 119:9, 11). { BOE  
934 228.1 }

935 N. Join others in confronting Satan

936 1. “[N]ever should one man be sent forth alone to combat with a  
937 spiritualist. If the cause of God really demands that we confront  
938 Satan and his host as represented by a spiritual medium, if enough is  
939 at stake to call for such a discussion, then several should go forth  
940 together that with prayer and faith the host of darkness may be  
941 driven back and the speaker shielded by angels that excel in  
942 strength. { 1T 428.2 }

- 943 III. Curses
- 944 A. Introduction
- 945 1. Many are afraid of being "cursed."
- 946 a. There are many people in this world who live in fear and dread of
- 947 another person placing an immobilizing curse upon their lives.
- 948 b. There are others who believe they have been cursed, and feel
- 949 they have no choice but to languish in whatever cursed situation
- 950 they find themselves in, or endure whatever "cursed" debility that
- 951 was brought upon them by another person.
- 952 2. Is it possible for a non-believer to bring a curse on one of God's
- 953 children?
- 954 a. I don't believe so
- 955 3. Why does Satan use "curses"?
- 956 a. Fear keeps many people in bondage.
- 957 b. The supposed "curse" keeps people from achieving their full
- 958 potential.
- 959 c. The supposed "curse" gives power to unseemly characters and
- 960 allow that individual to hold entire communities in bondage.
- 961 d. Such "curses" allow the poor to be preyed upon by individuals
- 962 who are looking to take their money.
- 963 e. "Curses" also give individuals something to point to as the reason
- 964 for their failures and deficiencies instead of taking personal
- 965 responsibility for them.
- 966 B. What brings curses upon us?
- 967 1. What brought curses according to the Old Testament?
- 968 a. Deut. 27: 11-26 lists curses given by Moses from Mt. Ebal.
- 969 i. Idol (15)
- 970 ii. Treating parents with contempt (16)
- 971 iii. Moving neighbors landmark (17)
- 972 iv. Causing blind to wander off the road (18)
- 973 v. Perverts justice to stranger, fatherless or widow (19)
- 974 vi. Unsanctioned sexual relationships (20-23)
- 975 vii. Attacks neighbor secretly (24)
- 976 viii. Takes a bribe to slay innocent person (25)
- 977 ix. Failure to confirm all words of "this" law (26)
- 978 b. Deut. 28:15-68 curses for disobedience
- 979 c. Ps. 119:21 pride and disobedience
- 980 i. Ps. 119:21 You rebuke the proud—the cursed,
- 981 Who stray from Your commandments.
- 982 d. Jer. 48:10 those that do work of God deceitfully

983                   i Jer. 48:10 Cursed is he who does the work of the Lord  
 984                   deceitfully,  
 985                   And cursed is he who keeps back his sword from blood.  
 986 e. Mal. 1:14 who brings defective sacrifice  
 987                   i Mal. 1:14 “But cursed be the deceiver  
 988                   Who has in his flock a male,  
 989                   And takes a vow,  
 990                   But sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished—  
 991                   For I am a great King,”  
 992                   Says the Lord of hosts,  
 993                   “And My name is to be feared among the nations.  
 994 f. Mal. 2:1-2 who refuse to listen to God  
 995                   i Mal. 2:1 “And now, O priests, this commandment is for you.  
 996                   2 If you will not hear,  
 997                   And if you will not take it to heart,  
 998                   To give glory to My name,”  
 999                   Says the Lord of hosts,  
 1000                   “I will send a curse upon you,  
 1001                   And I will curse your blessings.  
 1002                   Yes, I have cursed them already,  
 1003                   Because you do not take it to heart.  
 1004 g. Mal. 3:9  
 1005                   i Mal. 3:9 You are cursed with a curse,  
 1006                   For you have robbed Me,  
 1007                   Even this whole nation.  
 1008 2. Sin  
 1009 a. While all the world is under the care of God, and angels are  
 1010 commissioned to do service in all parts of it, yet the church is the  
 1011 special object of God’s love and care. In the church, he is making  
 1012 experiments of mercy and love, and drawing men to himself.  
 1013 Through the grace of Christ an amazing transformation is taking  
 1014 place in the corrupt hearts of men. The work wrought in the  
 1015 characters of sinners through the grace of Christ, is a greater work  
 1016 than to perform a miracle upon the bodies of men. The old, carnal  
 1017 nature dies, and a new creature appears after the likeness of  
 1018 Christ. At this mighty work, angels look and rejoice. *They see that*  
 1019 *upon this sin- cursed earth, Christ has his training-schools.* He  
 1020 takes the ignorant children of darkness and of wrath, and brings  
 1021 them as willing subjects to his feet to learn of him, that they may  
 1022 become laborers together with God; that they may wear Christ’s  
 1023 yoke and bear his burden, and identify their interests with the  
 1024 interests and delights of heaven. He has in prospect a well-trained,  
 1025 well- disciplined army of workers, with whom he can deposit his  
 1026 goods, and trust them to bring back his talents improved, and  
 1027 multiplied by being put out to the exchangers; to whom he can  
 1028 say at last, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.... Enter  
 1029 thou into the joy of the Lord.” – {RH December 19, 1893 Par. 11}

- 1030 3. Failure to pay tithe
- 1031 a. Let the neglected tithes be now brought in. Let the new year (shall
- 1032 we not say a quarter?) open upon you as men honest in their deal
- 1033 with God. Let those who have withheld their tithes, send them in
- 1034 before the year 1904 shall close, that they may be right with God,
- 1035 and never, never again run any risk of being cursed by God. –
- 1036 {Banner February 1, 1905 Par. 8}
- 1037 b. The curse of God will surely come upon those who rob him in
- 1038 tithes and offerings. “Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed
- 1039 me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and
- 1040 offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me,
- 1041 even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse,
- 1042 that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now
- 1043 herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the
- 1044 windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing that there shall
- 1045 not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer
- 1046 for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground;
- 1047 neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field,
- 1048 saith the Lord of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for
- 1049 ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the Lord of hosts.” – {RH
- 1050 April 20, 1905 Par. 19}
- 1051 c. All are required to have an unselfish interest in the work of God,
- 1052 to labor for its advancement, and to give of their means for its
- 1053 support. Anciently the covetousness of some led them to make
- 1054 stinted offerings, and to withhold that which the Lord required.
- 1055 This was recorded against them in Heaven, and they were cursed
- 1056 in their harvests and their flocks just in proportion as they had
- 1057 withheld from the cause of God. Some were visited with affliction
- 1058 in their families. God would not accept a stinted offering nor one
- 1059 that was lame. It must be without blemish, the best of their flocks,
- 1060 and the best fruits of their fields. And it must be a free-will
- 1061 offering, if they would have the blessing of the Lord rest upon
- 1062 their families and their possessions. – {ST September 2, 1886 Par.
- 1063 7}
- 1064 Hearts will be tested and proved by the calls for means. This is a
- 1065 constant, living test, and one that it will be hard for the naturally
- 1066 selfish and covetous to bear. It is a test that enables each one to
- 1067 understand his own heart, to see whether the love of the truth or
- 1068 the love of the world predominates. – {ST September 2, 1886 Par.
- 1069 8}
- 1070 d. We are assured if we give to the Lord’s treasury, we shall
- 1071 receive of him again; but if we withhold of our means, he will
- 1072 withhold his blessing from us, and send a curse upon the
- 1073 unfaithful. – {SpTA07 23.1}
- 1074 4. By leaving money for children that should have been used for
- 1075 God’s work.

1076 a. The love of money lies at the root of nearly all the crimes  
1077 committed in the world. Fathers who selfishly retain their means  
1078 to enrich their children, and do not see the wants of the cause of  
1079 God and relieve them, make a terrible mistake. The children  
1080 whom they think to bless with their means are cursed with it. –  
1081 {PH159 156.2}  
1082 Money left to children frequently becomes a root of bitterness.  
1083 They often quarrel over the property left them, and seldom are all  
1084 satisfied with the disposition made by the father, in case of a will.  
1085 And instead of the means left exciting gratitude and reverence for  
1086 his memory, it is dissatisfaction, murmuring, envy, and disrespect.  
1087 – {PH159 157.1}  
1088 Brothers and sisters who were at peace with one another are  
1089 sometimes made at variance, and family dissensions are often the  
1090 result of inherited means. Riches are desirable only as a means of  
1091 supplying present wants and of doing good to others. But  
1092 inherited riches oftener become a snare to the possessor than a  
1093 blessing. Parents should not seek to have their children encounter  
1094 the temptations to which they expose them in leaving them means  
1095 which they made no effort to earn themselves. – {PH159 157.2}  
1096 I was shown that some children professing to believe the truth  
1097 would in an indirect manner influence the father to keep his  
1098 means for his children instead of appropriating it, while he was  
1099 alive, to the cause of God. Those who have influenced the father  
1100 to shift his stewardship upon them, little know what they are  
1101 doing. They are gathering upon themselves double responsibility,  
1102 that of balancing the father's mind, that he did not fulfill the  
1103 purpose of God in the disposition of the means lent him of God,  
1104 to be used to his glory, and the additional responsibility of  
1105 becoming stewards of means that should have been put out to the  
1106 exchangers by the father, that the Master could have received his  
1107 own with usury. – {PH159 157.3}  
1108 Many parents make a great mistake in placing their property out  
1109 of their hands into the hands of their children while they are  
1110 themselves responsible for the use or abuse of the talents lent  
1111 them of God. Neither parents nor children are made happier by  
1112 this transfer of property. And the parents, if they live a few years  
1113 even, generally regret this action on their part. Parental love in  
1114 their children is not increased by this course. The children do not  
1115 feel increased gratitude and obligation to their parents for their  
1116 liberality. A curse seems to lay at the root of the matter, which  
1117 only crops out in selfishness on the part of the children, and  
1118 unhappiness and miserable feelings of cramped dependence on  
1119 the part of the parents. – {PH159 158.1}  
1120 5. Failure to let others know about Christ  
1121 a. One class were registered as cumberers of the ground. As the  
1122 piercing eye of the Judge rested upon these, their sins of neglect  
1123 were distinctly revealed. With pale and quivering lips they



1124 acknowledged that they had been traitors to their holy trust. They  
1125 had had warnings and privileges, but they had not heeded nor  
1126 improved them. They now see that they presumed too much upon  
1127 the mercy of God. True, they had not such confessions to make as  
1128 had the vile and basely corrupt; but like the fig-tree they were  
1129 cursed because they bore no fruit, because they had not put to use  
1130 the talents intrusted to them. – {PH043 4.1}

1131 This class had made themselves supreme, laboring only for selfish  
1132 interests. They were not rich toward God, not having responded to  
1133 his claims upon them. Although professing to be servants of Jesus  
1134 Christ, they brought no souls to him. {PH043 4.2}

1135 6. Cursed in leading others into sin

1136 a. Satan’s instrument, the serpent, was cursed. And all who today  
1137 allow themselves to be used by Satan as his instruments in leading  
1138 others to disregard the commands of heaven, are under the curse  
1139 of God. Man’s safety lies in whole-hearted belief in a “Thus saith  
1140 the Lord.” This is the declaration of truth. Those who from any  
1141 motive are led away from the truth, to venture into a path of their  
1142 own choosing, are following a path which will lead them to  
1143 destruction. – {ST May 29, 1901 Par. 10}

1144 7. Bringing defective sacrifices

1145 a. Continuing, the prophet asserted: “Ye said also, Behold, what a  
1146 weariness is it! and ye have snuffed at it, saith the Lord of hosts;  
1147 and ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick;  
1148 thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand?  
1149 saith the Lord. But cursed be the deceiver, which hath in his flock  
1150 a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt thing;  
1151 for I am a great King, saith the Lord of hosts, and my name is  
1152 dreadful among the heathen. – {SW January 17, 1905 Par. 3}

1153 “And now, O ye priests, this commandment is for you. If ye will  
1154 not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my  
1155 name, saith the Lord of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you,  
1156 and I will curse your blessings; yea, I have cursed them already,  
1157 because ye do not lay it to heart.” – {SW January 17, 1905 Par. 4}

1158 In our day, workers who have been following a wrong course  
1159 must make a decided reformation, else the blessings they have  
1160 received will be turned into a curse. And this reformation can be  
1161 made only by untiring perseverance. Wrongs are not righted, nor  
1162 is character transformed, by a few feeble, intermittent efforts.  
1163 Sanctification is not the work of a day or a year, but of a life-time.  
1164 Without continual efforts and constant endeavor, there can be no  
1165 real advancement in the divine life, no attainment of the victor’s  
1166 crown. – {SW January 17, 1905 Par. 5}

1167 8. Cursed by ambition

1168 a. The Jewish nation followed their own standard, and, walking in  
1169 the sparks of their own kindling, they perished in their delusion.  
1170 They did not respond to the wonderful works of Christ, or

1171 appreciate the words of him who spake as never man spake. They  
1172 followed the imagination of their own hearts, and they were given  
1173 up to be cursed by their own ambition, and to be destroyed with  
1174 the falsehoods and delusions upon which they had built. Like  
1175 many who reject the truth today, they presumed to appropriate to  
1176 themselves all that is promised to those who have a character that  
1177 is cleansed, refined, elevated, and ennobled by the practice of  
1178 virtue and righteousness. They assumed superiority over all the  
1179 nations of the world as a nation that practiced righteousness, when  
1180 for a thousand years, through their wicked works, they had been  
1181 loading the cloud of vengeance, which broke upon them at last in  
1182 merciless fury. – {SSW January 1, 1895 Par. 1}

1183 b. Pride and ambition similar to that which cursed ancient Israel,  
1184 exists in the church of God today. They are unwilling to be a  
1185 peculiar people, distinct and separate from the world. To reach the  
1186 Bible standard requires self-denial, a crucifixion of the affections  
1187 and lusts. The unsanctified heart reaches out for forbidden things,  
1188 but these very objects of desire will prove now, as anciently, a  
1189 source of weakness and corruption. Christ “gave himself for us,  
1190 that he might cleanse us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself  
1191 a peculiar people, zealous of good works.” Those who seek the  
1192 honor which comes from men are ever ready to adopt the customs  
1193 and practices of the world. They gain their position by the  
1194 exercise of traits of character which should lie dormant. If only  
1195 those were exalted who had gained their position by fidelity to  
1196 God and to man, the standard of morality and religion among the  
1197 people would be elevated. The sin of which we are guilty in  
1198 acting contrary to God’s expressed will is as much greater than  
1199 was that of ancient Israel, as our light and privileges have been  
1200 greater than theirs. – {ST August 4, 1881 Par. 11}

1201 9. Cursed due to lack of interest in the people around us

1202 a. Special instructions were given to the children of Israel in  
1203 reference to these things:—“Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbor,  
1204 neither rob him; the wages of him that is hired shall not abide  
1205 with thee all night until the morning. Thou shalt not curse the  
1206 deaf, nor put a stumbling-block before the blind, but shall fear thy  
1207 God; I am the Lord. Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment;  
1208 thou shalt not respect the person of the poor; nor honor the person  
1209 of the mighty; but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbor.”  
1210 “Cursed be he that removeth his neighbor’s landmark; and all the  
1211 people shall say, Amen. Cursed be he that maketh the blind to  
1212 wander out of the way; and all the people shall say, Amen. Cursed  
1213 be he that perverteth the judgment of the stranger, fatherless, and  
1214 widow; and all the people shall say, Amen.” – {ST August 3,  
1215 1876 Par. 4}

1216 Professed Christians often disregard the plain, positive teachings  
1217 of the word of God, and feel no compunctions of conscience. In  
1218 order to save such, God frequently brings them under the rod of

- 1219 affliction, and places them in similar positions to those who were  
1220 in need of their help and sympathy, but who did not receive it at  
1221 their hands. – {ST August 3, 1876 Par. 5}
- 1222 10. Cursed by using the wrong things for healing
- 1223 a. At the time that Ellen White was writing, drugs and the manner in  
1224 which patients were being treated, caused many to die. According  
1225 she warned of the danger, and used the word "curse" to describe  
1226 the problem. However, not everything promoted today is for our  
1227 good, and in many cases a better lifestyle and the proper use of  
1228 natural remedies would bring healing.
- 1229 b. The violation of God's law lies at the foundation of all the  
1230 misery that flesh is heir to. It is intemperance, transgression of the  
1231 laws of life and health, that has shortened the years of men, and  
1232 made these few years full of sorrow and pain. In consequence of  
1233 sinful habits, the world has become a vast lazarus. And while  
1234 Satan exults at the success of his devices, society is demoralized,  
1235 the church is cursed, and God is dishonored. { BEcho March 1,  
1236 1887, par. 2 }
- 1237 c. Drugs and Their Effects – {RH September 5, 1899}
- 1238 More deaths have been caused by drug-taking than from all other  
1239 causes combined. If there was in the land one physician in the  
1240 place of thousands, a vast amount of premature mortality would  
1241 be prevented. Multitudes of physicians, and multitudes of drugs,  
1242 have cursed the inhabitants of the earth, and have carried  
1243 thousands and tens of thousands to untimely graves. – {RH  
1244 September 5, 1899 Par. 1}
- 1245 11. Cursed by dabbling in spiritualism
- 1246 a. We are not to attend their circles, neither are our ministers to  
1247 engage in controversy with them. They are of that class specified  
1248 whom we should not invite into our houses, or bid them God  
1249 speed. We have to compare their teachings with the revealed will  
1250 of God. We are not to engage in an investigation of spiritualism.  
1251 God has investigated this for us, and told us definitely that a class  
1252 would arise in the last days who would deny Christ who has  
1253 purchased them with his own blood. The character of spiritualists  
1254 is so plainly described that we need not be deceived by them. If  
1255 we obey the divine injunction, we shall have no sympathy with  
1256 spiritualists, however smooth and fair may be their words. – {RH  
1257 April 15, 1875 Par. 7}
- 1258 b. Angels of God will preserve his people while they walk in the  
1259 path of duty; but there is no assurance of such protection for those  
1260 who deliberately venture upon Satan's ground. An agent of the  
1261 great deceiver will say and do anything to gain his object. It  
1262 matters little whether he calls himself a spiritualist, an "electric  
1263 physician," or a "magnetic healer." By specious pretenses he wins  
1264 the confidence of the unwary. He pretends to read the life-history  
1265 and to understand all the difficulties and afflictions of those who

1266 resort to him. Disguising himself as an angel of light, while the  
 1267 blackness of the pit is in his heart, he manifests great interest in  
 1268 women who seek his counsel. He tells them that all their troubles  
 1269 are due to an unhappy marriage. This may be too true, but such a  
 1270 counselor does not better their condition. He tells them that they  
 1271 need love and sympathy. Pretending great interest in their welfare,  
 1272 he casts a spell over his unsuspecting victims, charming them as  
 1273 the serpent charms the trembling bird. Soon they are completely  
 1274 in his power, and sin, disgrace, and ruin are the terrible sequel. –  
 1275 {RH June 27, 1882 Par. 24}  
 1276 These workers of iniquity are not few. Their path is marked by  
 1277 desolated homes, blasted reputations, and broken hearts. But of all  
 1278 this the world knows little; still they go on making fresh victims,  
 1279 and Satan exults in the ruin he has wrought. – {RH June 27, 1882  
 1280 Par. 25}  
 1281 c. A spiritualist experience  
 1282 There was a man in Ohio who held sittings with the Spiritualists.  
 1283 He had communicated with them. But there came a time when the  
 1284 truth of God reached him and he commenced to break away. For  
 1285 some time he was with us in the truth. We had been holding tent  
 1286 meetings, but I think the power of the enemy came in through  
 1287 temptations in the night. – {2SAT 64.4}  
 1288 ...  
 1289 Well, that night we had a praying season, and the next morning  
 1290 we had a meeting a few miles distant. This man harnessed up our  
 1291 horse, and he said that after we started he would come on. But we  
 1292 did not see him all day, and we did not know what it meant. But  
 1293 finally, the next day he came. We had had a most powerful  
 1294 meeting that day. – {2SAT 65.1}  
 1295 He told us his experience, and said: “I went out to harness my  
 1296 horse, and as I would take the bit to put it in the horse’s mouth, a  
 1297 hand would take it and throw it across the barn; and when I would  
 1298 get the bridle and try it again, the hand would again snatch the  
 1299 bridle and throw it again across the barn. I worked the whole  
 1300 forenoon with all my might and main to get those bits into the  
 1301 horse’s mouth, but I could not do it; and finally, becoming  
 1302 exhausted, I had to give it up.” – {2SAT 65.2}  
 1303 What power was that? The very same power that made those  
 1304 persons go downtown to those sorcerers. Oh, what a scene it was  
 1305 to see men rolling on the floor and pretending to pick  
 1306 strawberries, and all these things. – {2SAT 65.3}  
 1307 How could you feel that the universe of heaven could look  
 1308 approvingly upon you who have heard the truth here from  
 1309 Sabbath to Sabbath? How, I ask you again, could they look upon  
 1310 us who united with such gross darkness? – {2SAT 65.4}  
 1311 Brethren and sisters, let us keep from all such influences, let us  
 1312 show that our rebuke is upon them. Let us by our efforts show  
 1313 that we disapprove of whatever things of like character come in

1314 here to engage the attention of the young. And don't let it be said  
1315 that they get the greatest patronage from this end of town. –  
1316 {2SAT 65.5}

1317 d. Some poor souls who have been fascinated with the eloquent  
1318 words of the teachers of spiritualism, and have yielded to its  
1319 influence, afterward find out its deadly character, and would  
1320 renounce and flee from it, but cannot. Satan holds them by his  
1321 power, and is not willing to let them go free.  
1322 He knows that they are surely his while he has them under his  
1323 special control, but that if they once free themselves from his  
1324 power, he can never bring them again to believe in spiritualism,  
1325 and to place themselves so directly under his control. { 1TT  
1326 118.3}

1327 The only way for such poor souls to overcome Satan, is to discern  
1328 between pure Bible truths and fables. As they acknowledge the  
1329 claims of truth, they place themselves where they can be helped.  
1330 They should entreat those who have had a religious experience,  
1331 and who have faith in the promises of God, to plead with the  
1332 mighty Deliverer in their behalf. It will be a close conflict. Satan  
1333 will reinforce his evil angels who have controlled these persons;  
1334 but if the saints of God with deep humility fast and pray, their s  
1335 will prevail. Jesus will commission holy angels to resist Satan,  
1336 and he will be driven back and his power broken from off the  
1337 afflicted ones. ( Mark 9:29): “And He said unto them, This kind  
1338 can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.” { 1TT  
1339 119.1}

1340 12. Pretending to walk with God

1341 a. The church is not now the separate and peculiar people she was  
1342 when the fires of persecution were kindled against her. How is the  
1343 gold become dim! how is the most fine gold changed! I saw that if  
1344 the church had always retained her peculiar, holy character, the  
1345 power of the Holy Spirit which was imparted to the disciples  
1346 would still be with her. The sick would be healed, devils would be  
1347 rebuked and cast out, and she would be mighty and a terror to her  
1348 enemies. { EW 227.1}

1349 I saw a very large company professing the name of Christ, but  
1350 God did not recognize them as His. He had no pleasure in them.  
1351 Satan seemed to assume a religious character and was very  
1352 willing that the people should think they were Christians. He was  
1353 even anxious that they should believe in Jesus, His crucifixion,  
1354 and His resurrection. Satan and his angels fully believe all this  
1355 themselves, and tremble. But if this faith does not provoke to  
1356 good works, and lead those who profess it to imitate the self-  
1357 denying life of Christ, Satan is not disturbed; for they merely  
1358 assume the Christian name, while their hearts are still carnal, and  
1359 he can use them in his service even better than if they made no  
1360 profession. Hiding their deformity under the name of Christian,  
1361 they pass along with their unsanctified natures, and their evil

1362 passions unsubdued. This gives occasion for the unbeliever to  
1363 reproach Christ with their imperfections, and causes those who do  
1364 possess pure and undefiled religion to be brought into disrepute. {  
1365 EW 227.2}

1366 13. Pretending that people have devils and casting out their Spirits  
1367 a.I was shown that it was not the Spirit of the Lord that was  
1368 inspiring Brother and Sister L, but the same spirit of fanaticism  
1369 that is ever seeking entrance into the remnant church. Their  
1370 application of Scripture of their peculiar exercises is Scripture  
1371 misapplied. The work of declaring persons possessed of the devil,  
1372 and then praying with them and pretending to cast out the evil  
1373 spirits, is fanaticism which will bring into disrepute any church  
1374 which sanctions such work. { 2SM 46.2}

1375 14. Believing that we have been given mission to cast out demons  
1376 a.Recently, in visions of the night, there were opened before me  
1377 some matters that I must communicate to you. I have been shown  
1378 that you are making some sad mistakes. In your study of the  
1379 Scriptures and of the Testimonies you have come to wrong  
1380 conclusions. The Lord's work would be greatly misunderstood if  
1381 you should continue to labor as you have begun. You place a false  
1382 interpretation upon the word of God and upon the printed  
1383 Testimonies; and then you seek to carry on a strange work in  
1384 accordance with your conception of their meaning. You have  
1385 even supposed that power is given you to cast out devils. Through  
1386 your influence over the human mind men and women are led to  
1387 believe that they are possessed of devils, and that the Lord has  
1388 appointed you as His agents for casting out these evil spirits. {  
1389 2SM 44.5}

1390 Your wife, in speech, in song, and in strange exhibitions that are  
1391 not in accordance with the genuine work of the Holy Spirit, is  
1392 helping to bring in a phase of fanaticism that would do great  
1393 injury to the cause of God, if allowed any place in our churches. {  
1394 2SM 45.1}

1395 My brother and sister, I have a message for you: you are starting  
1396 on a false supposition. There is much of self woven into your  
1397 exhibitions. Satan will come in with bewitching power through  
1398 these exhibitions. It is high time that you call a halt. If God had  
1399 given you a special message for His people, you would walk and  
1400 work in all humility—not as if you were on the stage of a theater,  
1401 but in the meekness of a follower of the lowly Jesus of Nazareth.  
1402 You would carry an influence altogether different from that which  
1403 you have been carrying.... { 2SM 45.2}

1404 15. Inherited tendencies passed down to future generation.  
1405 a.[Inherited tendencies can be passed down to future generations,  
1406 but this isn't a curse that someone has arbitrarily placed upon  
1407 someone else. It rather comes out of a weakness of will power

1408 that develops, and environmental factors, that combine to bring  
1409 about the challenging weaknesses.—editor]

1410 b. Society is composed of families. And heads of families are  
1411 responsible for the molding of society. If those who choose to  
1412 enter the marriage relation without due consideration were alone  
1413 to be the sufferers, then the evil would not be as great, and their  
1414 sin would be comparatively small. But the misery arising from  
1415 unhappy marriages is felt by the offspring of such unions. They  
1416 have entailed upon them a life of living misery; and though  
1417 innocent, suffer the consequences of their parents' inconsiderate  
1418 course. Men and women have no right to follow impulse, or blind  
1419 passion, in their marriage relation, and then bring innocent  
1420 children into the world to realize from various causes that life has  
1421 but little joy, but little happiness, and is therefore a burden. –  
1422 {2SM 421.2}

1423 Children generally inherit the peculiar traits of character which  
1424 the parents possess, and in addition to all this, many come up  
1425 without any redeeming influence around them. They are too  
1426 frequently huddled together in poverty and filth. With such  
1427 surroundings and examples, what can be expected of the children  
1428 when they come upon the stage of action, but that they will sink  
1429 lower in the scale of moral worth than their parents, and their  
1430 deficiencies in every respect be more apparent than theirs? Thus  
1431 has this class perpetuated their deficiencies, and cursed their  
1432 posterity with poverty, imbecility, and degradation. These should  
1433 not have married. At least, they should not have brought innocent  
1434 children into existence to share their misery, and hand down their  
1435 own deficiencies, with accumulating wretchedness, from  
1436 generation to generation, which is one great cause of the  
1437 degeneracy of the race. – {2SM 421.3}

1438 c. Parents who freely use wine and liquor leave to their children the  
1439 legacy of a feeble constitution, mental, and moral debility,  
1440 unnatural appetites, irritable temper, and an inclination to vice.  
1441 Parents should feel that they are responsible to God, and to  
1442 society, to bring into existence beings whose physical, mental and  
1443 moral characters shall enable them to make a proper use of life, be  
1444 a blessing to the world, and an honor to their Creator. The  
1445 indulgence of perverted appetite is the great cause of the  
1446 deterioration of the human race. The child of the drunkard or the  
1447 tobacco inebriate usually has the depraved appetites and passions  
1448 of the father intensified, and at the same time inherits less of his  
1449 self-control, and strength of mind. Men who are naturally calm  
1450 and strong-minded not infrequently lose control of themselves  
1451 while under the influence of liquor, and, though they may not  
1452 commit crime, still have an inclination to do so, which might  
1453 result in the act if a fair opportunity offered. Continued  
1454 dissipation makes these propensities a second nature. Their  
1455 children often receive this stamp of character before their birth;

1456 for the appetites of the parents are often intensified in the  
1457 children. Thus unborn generations are afflicted by the use of  
1458 tobacco and liquor. Intellectual decay is entailed upon them, and  
1459 their moral perceptions are blunted. Thus the world is being filled  
1460 with paupers, lunatics, thieves, and murderers. Disease,  
1461 imbecility, and crime, with private and public corruptions of  
1462 every sort, are making the world a second Sodom. – {HR August  
1463 1, 1878 Par. 9}G

1464 C. But what about the people who are tormented.

1465 1. [Satan is real and can cause very real mischief and is looking for  
1466 people to hurt.—editor]

1467 a.1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the  
1468 devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may  
1469 devour:

1470 2. Those who place themselves on Satan’s “ground” are vulnerable  
1471 to his attacks, particularly those who get involved in spiritualistic  
1472 activities as noted below.

1473 3. Satan can also come when there are books and other items in our  
1474 keeping that are from his kingdom.

1475 4. Satan can also regain power through deception bringing fear.

1476 a. John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your  
1477 father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and  
1478 abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he  
1479 speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the  
1480 father of it.

1481 5. But, Satan can be resisted!

1482 a. Eph. 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to  
1483 stand against the wiles of the devil.

1484 i This armor includes the “belt of truth” about Satan... that he is  
1485 a defeated foe.

1486 b. James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil,  
1487 and he will flee from you.

1488 c. Acts 19:19 Many of them also which used curious arts brought  
1489 their books together, and burned them before all men: and they  
1490 counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of  
1491 silver.

1492 d. Quotes

1493 i You will have trials, for Satan is not dead; but if you have on  
1494 the whole armor of God, Satan’s thrusts will prove harmless.  
1495 We have vast resources from which to draw; you may receive  
1496 moral power to do righteousness under all circumstances. We  
1497 shall be in every way gainers, becoming better and abler  
1498 workers through every encounter with difficulties, and every  
1499 blast of adversity. For this is God’s chosen means to test and



1500 discipline us. Trial is one of his appointed conditions of  
1501 success. { 1888 1467.1 }

1502 ii If brethren would meet together once or twice a week, and with  
1503 humble minds, feeling their weakness and realizing their  
1504 defects, would then ask the Lord to enlighten their  
1505 understanding and fill their hearts with His love, examining not  
1506 one another, but the Scriptures, Satan would be defeated. Many  
1507 imaginary difficulties, mere molehills that have been magnified  
1508 into mountains and have made barriers between brethren,  
1509 would vanish, and love, compassion, and respect would take  
1510 the place of jangling and accusation. When you begin to judge  
1511 your brethren, you are doing a work God has not given you to  
1512 do. You are not working with Christ. God did not place you  
1513 upon the judgment seat to measure and pronounce sentence  
1514 upon your brethren. { 1888 1087.2 }

1515 Satan is an accuser of the brethren, and when he can set the  
1516 leaven of dissatisfaction to work in human hearts, he is  
1517 exultant. When he can divide brethren, he has a hellish jubilee.  
1518 I think if our brethren could see, as I have seen, how much  
1519 wrong is done in speaking evil of our brethren, there would be  
1520 an entire change in the way we treat one another. You do not  
1521 understand yourselves, you misinterpret words and deeds, and  
1522 you measure them from your own finite standpoint. Your  
1523 imagination leads you astray. Your feelings, your tongues,  
1524 which are not sanctified, are employed in a service and work  
1525 that is anything but holy and Christlike. { 1888 1087.3 }

1526 IV. Magic and Sorcery

1527 A. Introduction

1528 1. What is magic

1529 a. It is something which seems to have "supernatural" power; gives  
1530 power to those who lead these practices over others.

1531 i Paul saw that "a great door and effectual" was opening before  
1532 him, although there were "many adversaries." 1 Corinthians  
1533 16:9. Ephesus was not only the most magnificent, but the most  
1534 corrupt, of the cities of Asia. Superstition and sensual pleasure  
1535 held sway over her teeming population. Under the shadow of  
1536 her temples, criminals of every grade found shelter, and the  
1537 most degrading vices flourished. – {AA 286.1}

1538 Ephesus was a popular center for the worship of Diana. The  
1539 fame of the magnificent temple of "Diana of the Ephesians"  
1540 extended throughout all Asia and the world. Its surpassing  
1541 splendor made it the pride, not only of the city, but of the  
1542 nation. The idol within the temple was declared by tradition to  
1543 have fallen from the sky. Upon it were inscribed symbolic  
1544 characters, which were believed to possess great power. Books  
1545 had been written by the Ephesians to explain the meaning and  
1546 use of these symbols. – {AA 286.2}

1547                    Among those who gave close study to these costly books were  
1548                    many magicians, who wielded a powerful influence over the  
1549                    minds of the superstitious worshipers of the image within the  
1550                    temple. – {AA 286.3}

1551                    2.    Believers sometimes continue to believe in magic even after  
1552                    conversion—superstitious fears die hard!

1553                    a. In accepting Christianity, some of the believers had not fully  
1554                    renounced their superstitions. To some extent they still continued  
1555                    the practice of magic. { AA 288.2}

1556                    3.    Magic is one of Satan's most successful means to hurt souls

1557                    a. Magical books” were not confined to the apostolic age, or to  
1558                    nations that are called heathen. The sorcerers of our time are  
1559                    taking advantage of the freedom of the press to spread abroad  
1560                    their baleful literature. Could all the productions of modern  
1561                    Spiritualism be treated as were the magical books of the  
1562                    Ephesians, one of Satan’s most successful avenues to destroy the  
1563                    souls of men would be cut off. { ST May 18, 1882, par. 8 }

1564                    B. How is the power of magic overcome?

1565                    1.    Magic is addressed by renouncing any belief in it, and burning  
1566                    or destroying in some other way, anything that pertains to it.

1567                    a. Facts which had previously been concealed were now brought to  
1568                    light. In accepting Christianity, some of the believers had not  
1569                    fully renounced their superstitions. To some extent they still  
1570                    continued the practice of magic. Now, convinced of their error,  
1571                    “many that believed came, and confessed, and showed their  
1572                    deeds.” Even to some of the sorcerers themselves the good work  
1573                    extended; and “many of them also which used curious arts  
1574                    brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and  
1575                    they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces  
1576                    of silver. So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.” –  
1577                    {AA 288.2}

1578                    By burning their books on magic, the Ephesian converts showed  
1579                    that the things in which they had once delighted they now  
1580                    abhorred. It was by and through magic that they had especially  
1581                    offended God and imperiled their souls; and it was against magic  
1582                    that they showed such indignation. Thus they gave evidence of  
1583                    true conversion. – {AA 288.3}

1584                    b. These treatises on divination contained rules and forms of  
1585                    communication with evil spirits. They were the regulations of the  
1586                    worship of Satan—directions for soliciting his help and obtaining  
1587                    information from him. By retaining these books the disciples  
1588                    would have exposed themselves to temptation; by selling them  
1589                    they would have placed temptation in the way of others. They had  
1590                    renounced the kingdom of darkness, and to destroy its power they  
1591                    did not hesitate at any sacrifice. Thus truth triumphed over men’s  
1592                    prejudices and their love of money. – {AA 288.4}

- 1593 c. If we would indeed become children of God, we must renounce at  
1594 once and forever, every sinful indulgence. We must close every  
1595 avenue through which Satan may gain control of our thoughts or  
1596 our affections. Many persons manifest determined hatred of some  
1597 sins denounced in the word of God, while they at the same time  
1598 indulge their favorite sin. Not so did the Ephesian converts. Their  
1599 particular sin was magic. By this means Satan held them in his  
1600 power. They might have been earnest and vigilant to correct other  
1601 evils, but had they spared this one sin, they would ere long have  
1602 yielded their faith. But they laid the axe to the root of the tree;  
1603 they renounced the hidden things of darkness and destroyed that  
1604 which had led them into sin. – {ST May 18, 1882 Par. 19}
- 1605 d. When the truth, presented to the understanding, exerts its  
1606 sanctifying power upon the heart, the sins which were once  
1607 cherished will be put away, that Jesus may occupy the soul-  
1608 temple. If covetousness has been indulged, it will be given up. If  
1609 the love of the world has captivated the senses, a higher attraction  
1610 will break its power. Deceit, falsehood, impurity, will be cleansed  
1611 from the heart. He who maintains his allegiance to Christ, can  
1612 render no service to Christ's bitterest foe. – {ST May 18, 1882  
1613 Par. 22}
- 1614 e. Have the disciples of Christ burned the magical books? Have they  
1615 made a decided change in their principles and habits of life? Have  
1616 they separated themselves from the enchantments of the world?  
1617 Those who, knowing their danger, will yet venture into places of  
1618 worldly, demoralizing amusement, or who will poison the mind  
1619 with the literary productions of the skeptic, or the sensualist, are  
1620 guilty of presumption. God does not give his angels charge to  
1621 keep those who choose to walk in forbidden paths. – {ST May 18,  
1622 1882 Par. 30}
- 1623 When in the way of duty we are brought into trial, as was Daniel  
1624 in the king's court, we may be assured that God will preserve us.  
1625 But if, through stubbornness, hardihood, or bravado, we place  
1626 ourselves under the power of temptation, we shall fall, sooner or  
1627 later. – {ST May 18, 1882 Par. 31}
- 1628 f. Oh, what an infinite sacrifice was paid for our redemption! Look  
1629 at the long fast of Jesus Christ in the wilderness of temptation.  
1630 Look at all He endured, the agony of the cross, in order to save  
1631 man; and then, I ask you, What shall we do on our part? God help  
1632 us that we may come under the influence, the special influence, of  
1633 the Spirit of God. Then He will let it come upon us with power.  
1634 He will communicate light to us from heaven, and we will walk in  
1635 the light, and live in the light as He is in the light. – {2SAT 68.3}
- 1636 Burn the magical books; burn every last one of them; burn  
1637 everything—yes, consume it—that will suffer a connection  
1638 between you and the powers of darkness. “Come out from among  
1639 them, and be separate, and touch not the unclean thing, and I will  
1640 receive you” [2 Corinthians 6:17]. This is what we should want to

1641 do. We want to bow in reverence to the God of heaven. – {2SAT  
1642 68.4}

1643 C. Does magic still exist today?

1644 1. Magic continues to exist today

1645 a. It is fondly supposed that heathen superstitions have disappeared  
1646 before the civilization of the twentieth century. But the word of  
1647 God and the stern testimony of facts declare that sorcery is  
1648 practiced in this age as verily as in the days of the old-time  
1649 magicians. The ancient system of magic is, in reality, the same as  
1650 what is now known as modern spiritualism. Satan is finding  
1651 access to thousands of minds by presenting himself under the  
1652 guise of departed friends. The Scriptures declare that “the dead  
1653 know not anything.” Ecclesiastes 9:5. Their thoughts, their love,  
1654 their hatred, have perished. The dead do not hold communion  
1655 with the living. But true to his early cunning, Satan employs this  
1656 device in order to gain control of minds. – {AA 289.2}

1657 Through spiritualism many of the sick, the bereaved, the curious,  
1658 are communicating with evil spirits. All who venture to do this  
1659 are on dangerous ground. The word of truth declares how God  
1660 regards them. In ancient times He pronounced a stern judgment  
1661 on a king who had sent for counsel to a heathen oracle: “Is it not  
1662 because there is not a God in Israel, that ye go to inquire of Baal-  
1663 zebub the god of Ekron? Now therefore thus saith the Lord, Thou  
1664 shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but  
1665 shalt surely die.” 2 Kings 1:3, 4. – {AA 290.1}

1666 The magicians of heathen times have their counterpart in the  
1667 spiritualistic mediums, the clairvoyants, and the fortune-tellers of  
1668 today. The mystic voices that spoke at Endor and at Ephesus are  
1669 still by their lying words misleading the children of men. Could  
1670 the veil be lifted from before our eyes, we should see evil angels  
1671 employing all their arts to deceive and to destroy. Wherever an  
1672 influence is exerted to cause men to forget God, there Satan is  
1673 exercising his bewitching power. When men yield to his  
1674 influence, ere they are aware the mind is bewildered and the soul  
1675 polluted. The apostle’s admonition to the Ephesian church should  
1676 be heeded by the people of God today: “Have no fellowship with  
1677 the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”  
1678 Ephesians 5:11. – {AA 290.2}

1679 b. We have been pained as we have had brought to our notice  
1680 papers, advertisers of sorcery and witchcraft, the work of  
1681 magicians and all this sort of thing, going on in Battle Creek.  
1682 Who of you who profess to be children of the living God were  
1683 presumptuous enough to place yourself anywhere near these  
1684 powers of darkness? There is in these the manifestation of a  
1685 power that is above human power. And where is it? It is not all  
1686 sleight of hand. No, indeed. It is the power of Satan; and just as  
1687 soon as you begin to bring yourselves in connection with these

1688 sorcerers, and give them the least license, you dishonor the God  
1689 of heaven, and imperil your own souls. – {2SAT 59.7}

1690 2. What are examples of magic today

1691 a. Mediums

1692 b. Fortune tellers

1693 c. Books (i.e. Harry Potter)

1694 d. Other destructive books

1695 i Books teaching how to serve Satan

1696 (1) The press is now sending out books in great numbers, that  
1697 teach the ignorant and unsuspecting how they may serve  
1698 Satan. There are works breathing the poison of skepticism  
1699 and infidelity. There are treatises on money-making, that fill  
1700 thousands of minds with fancies and follies, that fire  
1701 thousands with an insane desire to amass wealth. There are  
1702 fascinating volumes, that portray with all the power of  
1703 human eloquence the lives of those who have made fame  
1704 their god. And outnumbering all other productions of the  
1705 press, like the swarms of locusts that darkened the whole  
1706 land, comes the flood of novels and romances, to cultivate in  
1707 the youth a love-sick sentimentalism, to teach them that  
1708 courtship and marriage are the great object of their existence,  
1709 and to unfit them for the practical duties of a useful life. –  
1710 {ST May 18, 1882 Par. 25}

1711 ii Skeptical books

1712 (1) What about the magical books? What have you been  
1713 reading? How have you been employing your time? Have  
1714 you been seeking to study the sacred oracles in order that  
1715 you may hear the voice of God speaking to you out of His  
1716 word? The world is deluged with books which sow the seeds  
1717 of skepticism, infidelity, and atheism, and to a larger or less  
1718 degree you have been learning your lessons from these  
1719 books, and they are magical books. They put God out of the  
1720 mind, and separate the soul from the true Shepherd. – {MYP  
1721 276.1}

1722 (2) Satan is seeking by every means he can devise, to suggest  
1723 doubts concerning the truth of God’s word. Those who are  
1724 naturally inclined to skepticism should, above all others,  
1725 avoid everything that would strengthen this dangerous  
1726 tendency. On the contrary, many read with avidity skeptical  
1727 writings which exert such a deceptive, bewitching power that  
1728 the reader seeks in vain to free the mind or purify the heart  
1729 from the unholy spell. Evil angels, having once gained  
1730 access, suggest doubts that human reasoning is powerless to  
1731 remove. When God speaks to the soul, those who would be  
1732 free will cut every tie that holds them under Satan’s power.  
1733 They will destroy that which so nearly proved their ruin, lest

1734 it prove the ruin of others. – {ST May 18, 1882 Par. 26}  
1735 Many a work is highly prized for its wealth and beauty of  
1736 language, when these are but a fair garment to conceal  
1737 principles that in their native deformity would shock the  
1738 reader. Those principles have led the author step by step  
1739 away from God, from hope, and Heaven. Will they not exert  
1740 the same influence upon the reader? The course of the  
1741 Ephesians was the only safe course for them; it is the only  
1742 safe course for you. Destroy these agencies of Satan. Put  
1743 beyond your reach that which has power to seduce you. –  
1744 {ST May 18, 1882 Par. 27}

1745 e. Places of ungodly amusements

1746 i Many place themselves on the enchanted ground by  
1747 frequenting scenes of amusement where fallen spirits  
1748 congregate. Professing Christian, when you resort to the  
1749 theater, remember that Satan is there, conducting the play as  
1750 the master-actor. He is there to excite passion and glorify vice.  
1751 The very atmosphere is permeated with licentiousness. Satan  
1752 presides, also, at the masquerade and the dance; he throws  
1753 around the card-table its bewitching power. Wherever an  
1754 influence is exerted to cause men to forget their Creator, there  
1755 Satan is at work, it matters not how innocent the guise under  
1756 which he conceals his purpose. – {ST May 18, 1882 Par. 23}

1757 f. False science

1758 i Many who cannot be attracted by the allurements of pleasure,  
1759 are ensnared by the teachings of “science falsely so-called.”  
1760 These are led to extol human reason, above divine revelation;  
1761 to exalt nature, and forget the God of nature. Is there no magic,  
1762 no sorcery, going on around us? – {ST May 18, 1882 Par. 24}

1763 3. Clinging to known sin can unwittingly bring us under the power  
1764 of sorcery.

1765 a. Every unconverted man is fascinated, bewildered, by the  
1766 bewitching power of the great deceiver. Paul wrote to the  
1767 Galatians, “Who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the  
1768 truth?” Every person who cherishes a known error, in faith or  
1769 practice, is under the power of sorcery, and is practicing sorcery  
1770 upon others. Satan employs him to mislead other souls.

1771 V. God will win the victory!

1772 A. Texts

1773 1. Rom. 8:37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors  
1774 through Him who loved us.

1775 2. 1 Cor. 15:57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory  
1776 through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1777 3. 2 Cor. 2:14 Now thanks be to God who always leads us in  
1778 triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His  
1779 knowledge in every place.

- 1780 4. 1 John 5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world.  
 1781 And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.
- 1782 B.Quotes
- 1783 1. Jesus did not yield up his life till he had accomplished the work  
 1784 which he came to do, and exclaimed with his departing breath, “It is  
 1785 finished.” Satan then was defeated. He knew that his kingdom was  
 1786 lost. Angels rejoiced as the words were uttered, “It is finished.” The  
 1787 great plan of redemption, which was dependent on the death of  
 1788 Christ, had been thus far carried out. And there was joy in Heaven  
 1789 that the sons of Adam could, through a life of obedience, be finally  
 1790 exalted to the throne of God. Oh, what love! What amazing love!  
 1791 that brought the Son of God to earth to be made sin for us, that we  
 1792 might be reconciled to God, and elevated to a life with him in his  
 1793 mansions in glory. Oh! What is man, that such a price should be  
 1794 paid for his redemption! { PH169 12.1
- 1795 2. When Christ bowed His head and died, He bore the pillars of  
 1796 Satan’s kingdom with Him to the earth. He vanquished Satan in our  
 1797 human nature. The nature by which the enemy was overcome is the  
 1798 same nature over which in Eden he obtained an easy victory. He  
 1799 sustained a humiliating defeat. He was overcome by the human  
 1800 nature of Christ. The power of the Saviour’s Godhead was hidden.  
 1801 He must overcome in human nature, relying upon God for His  
 1802 power. This is the privilege of all who accept Jesus Christ. In  
 1803 proportion to their faith will be their victory. { 12MR 410.3 }
- 1804 3. Jesus holds His hand beneath you. Jesus will not suffer the  
 1805 enemy to overcome you. Jesus will give you the victory. He has the  
 1806 virtue; He has the righteousness.... It is yours by faith because you  
 1807 love God and keep His commandments. Do not listen to Satan’s lies,  
 1808 but recount God’s promises. Gather the roses and the lilies and the  
 1809 pinks. Talk of the promises of God. Talk faith. Trust in God, for He  
 1810 is your only hope. He is my only hope. I have tremendous battles  
 1811 with Satan’s temptations to discouragements, but I will not yield an  
 1812 inch. I will not give Satan an advantage over my body or my mind.  
 1813 If you look to yourself, you will see only weakness. There is no  
 1814 Saviour there. You will find Jesus away from yourself. You must  
 1815 look to Him who became sin for us that we might be cleansed from  
 1816 sin and receive of Christ’s righteousness.... { 4MR 178.3 }
- 1817 Talk of His love, talk of His goodness, talk of His power, for He will  
 1818 not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able to bear. In  
 1819 Christ is our righteousness. Jesus makes up our deficiencies because  
 1820 He sees we cannot do it ourselves. While in for you I see a soft  
 1821 light encompassing a hand stretched out to save you. God’s words  
 1822 are our credentials. We stand upon them. We love the truth. We love  
 1823 Jesus. Feelings are no evidence of God’s displeasure. { 4MR 179.1 }
- 1824 Your life is precious in the sight of God. He has a work for you to  
 1825 do. It is not unfolded to you now, but just walk on trustingly without  
 1826 a single word of doubt, because this would grieve the dear Jesus and  
 1827 show that you were afraid to trust Him. Lay your hand in His.... Oh,

1828 what love, what tender love has Jesus manifested in our behalf! The  
1829 Bible promises are the pinks and the roses and the lilies in the  
1830 garden of the Lord. Oh, how many walk a dark path, looking to the  
1831 objectionable, unlovely things on either side of them, when a step  
1832 higher are the flowers! They think they have no right to say they are  
1833 children of God and to lay hold on the promises set before them in  
1834 the gospel, because they do not have the evidence of their  
1835 acceptance with God. They go through painful struggles, afflicting  
1836 their souls as did Martin Luther before he learned to cast himself  
1837 upon Christ's righteousness. { 4MR 179.2 }

1838 There are many who think they can come to Jesus only in the way  
1839 the child did who was possessed of the demon that threw him down  
1840 and tore him as he was being led to the Saviour. You are not of the  
1841 kind that should have any such  
1842 conflicts and trials.... There is no requirement for you to take on a  
1843 burden for yourself, for you are Christ's property. He has you in His  
1844 hand. His everlasting arms are about you. Your life has not been a  
1845 life of sinfulness in the common acceptance of the term. You have a  
1846 conscientious fear to do wrong, a principle in your heart to choose  
1847 the right, and now you want to turn your face away from the briars  
1848 and thorns to flowers. { 4MR 179.3 }

1849 Let the eye be fixed on the Son of Righteousness. Do not make your  
1850 dear, loving, heavenly Father a tyrant; but see His tenderness, His  
1851 pity, His large, broad love and His great compassion. His love  
1852 exceeds that of a mother for her child. The mother may forget, "yet  
1853 will I not forget thee, saith the Lord." Oh, my dear, Jesus wants you  
1854 to trust Him. May His blessing rest upon you in a rich measure, is  
1855 my earnest prayer. { 4MR 180.1 }

1856 4. Christ's example shows us that our only hope of victory is in  
1857 continual resistance of Satan's attacks. He who triumphed over the  
1858 adversary of souls in the conflict with temptation understands  
1859 Satan's power over the race, and has conquered in our behalf. As an  
1860 overcomer, he has given us the advantage of his victory, that in our  
1861 efforts to resist the temptations of Satan, we may unite our weakness  
1862 to his strength, our worthlessness to his merits. And, sustained by  
1863 his enduring might, under strong temptation, we may resist in his  
1864 all-powerful name, and overcome as he overcame. { ST May 27,  
1865 1897, par. 14 }

1866 5. The bulwarks of Satan will never triumph. Victory will attend  
1867 the third angel's message. As the Captain of the Lord's host tore  
1868 down the walls of Jericho, so will the Lord's commandment-keeping  
1869 people triumph, and all opposing elements be defeated.—  
1870 Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, 410 (1898). { LDE  
1871 52.3 }

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