



The Reformation
Messenger
VOLUME 25, NUMBER 10, OCTOBER 2018

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The Reformation **Messenger**

Volume 25, Number 10

WE BELIEVE: The all-wise loving God created all things in the universe by His Son, Jesus Christ. He is the Owner and Sustainer. He met the challenge to His loving leadership and authority by reconciling the world to Himself through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, the Word made flesh. The Holy Spirit, Jesus' representative on earth convicts of sin, guides into truth, and gives strength to overcome all unrighteousness. The Bible is the record of God's dealings with mankind and the standard of all doctrine, the Ten Commandments are the transcript of His character and the foundation of all enduring reform. His people, in harmony with God's word and under the direction of the Holy Spirit call all men everywhere to be reconciled to God through faith in Jesus. Bible prophecy reveals that earth's history will soon close with the visible return of Jesus Christ as King to claim all who have accepted Him as the world's only Redeemer and their Lord.

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Depths of the Sea



"He will have compassion upon us; He will subdue our iniquities; and Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea." Micah 7:19

"Christ made satisfaction for the guilt of the whole world, and all who will come to God in faith, will receive the righteousness of Christ, 'who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed' (1 Peter 2:24). Our sin has been expiated, put away, cast into the depths of the sea. Through repentance and faith we are rid of sin, and look unto the Lord our righteousness. Jesus suffered, the just for the unjust." —*A New Life*, p. 23

"God has inspired no man to reproduce their mistakes, and to present their errors to a world that is lying in wickedness, and to a church composed of many who are weak in faith. The Lord has not laid the burden upon men to revive the mistakes and errors of the living or the dead. He would have his laborers present the truth for this time. Speak not of the errors of your brethren who are living, and be silent as to the mistakes of the dead. Let their mistakes and errors remain where God has put them,—cast into the depths of the sea. The less that is said by those who profess to believe present truth, in regard to the past mistakes and errors of the servants of God, the better it will be for their own souls, and for the souls of those whom Christ has purchased with His own blood." —*The Review and Herald*, November 30, 1897

"But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in Me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea." Matthew 18:6

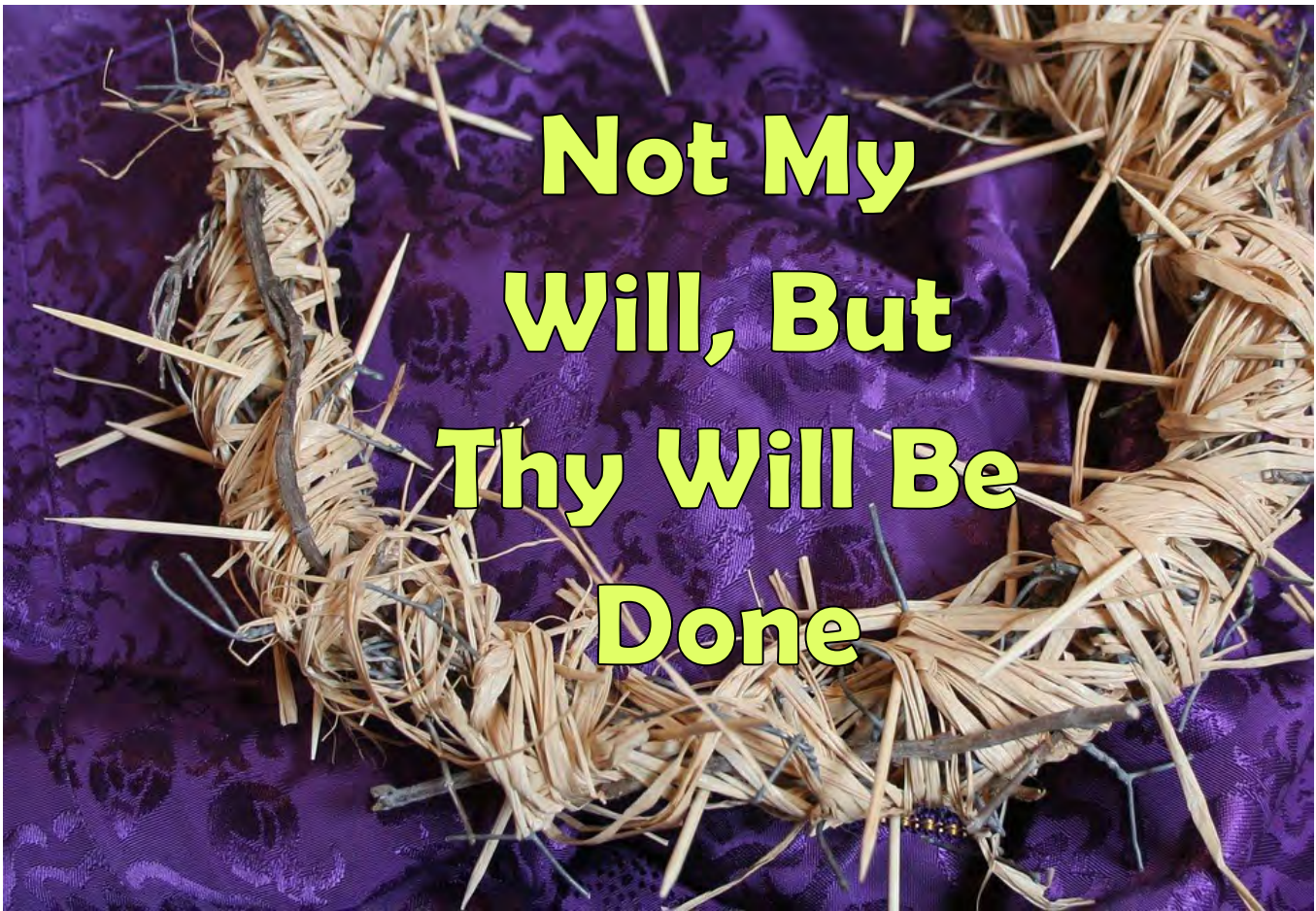
"It were better not to live than to exist day by day devoid of that love which Christ has revealed in His character,

and has enjoined upon His children. Said Christ, 'Love one another as I have loved you.' We live in a hard, unfeeling, uncharitable world. Satan and his confederacy are plying every art to seduce the souls for whom Christ has given His precious life. Every one who loves God in sincerity and truth, will love the souls for whom Christ has died. If we wish to do good to souls, our success with these souls will be in proportion to their belief in our belief in, and appreciation of, them. Respect shown to the struggling human soul is the sure means through Christ Jesus of the restoration of the self-respect the man has lost." —*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 280–281

"A Christlike nature is not selfish, unsympathetic, cold. It enters into the feelings of those who are tempted and helps the one who has fallen to make the trial a stepping-stone to higher things. The Christian teacher will pray for and with an erring student, but he will not get angry with him. He will not speak sharply to the wrongdoer, thus discouraging a soul who is struggling with the powers of darkness. He will let his heart ascend to God for help, and angels will come to his side to help him in lifting up the standard against the enemy; thus instead of cutting off the erring one from help, he will be enabled to gain a soul for Christ." —*Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students*, p. 266

"Not in this life shall we comprehend the depths of God's love in giving Jesus to be the propitiation for our sin. The work of our Redeemer on this earth is, and ever will be, a subject that will put to the stretch our highest imagination. Man may strain every mental muscle and sinew in the endeavor to solve this mystery, but his mind will become faint and weary. The most diligent searcher will see before him a boundless, shoreless sea." —*The Signs of the Times*, June 16, 1898

Ellen G. White



Not My Will, But Thy Will Be Done

Jesus was in agony, praying to God, "Saying, Father, if Thou be willing, remove this cup from Me: nevertheless not My will, but Thine, be done." Luke 22:42. The will of Jesus was to not drink this cup of the suffering and death upon the cross. But yet He added, not My will, but Thy will be done.

Satan was very successful in heaven, deceiving a third part of the angels, offering to them the freedom of will. No more God's will, but their own will be done. And this same great deception he is using in this world today. Satan has established thousands of churches, offering heaven and eternal life to their members, and also freedom of will. These churches are popular, some of them growing into millions of members, because people love to do their own will. How many have gone their own way, doing their own will? "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Isaiah 53:6

We should tremble at the thought that our will would be done. To do our own will is selfishness; it is a sin. With everything we do, we must ask the Lord, "Is this Thy will?"

"But Brother S is weak in many things. If God required him to expose and condemn a neighbor, to prove and

correct a brother, or to resist and destroy his enemies, it would be to him a comparatively natural and easy work. But a warfare against self, subduing the desires and affections of his own heart, and searching out and controlling the secret motives of the heart, is a more difficult warfare. How unwilling is he to be faithful in such a contest as this! The warfare against self is the greatest battle that was ever fought. The yielding of self, surrendering all to the will of God and being clothed with humility, possessing that love that is pure, peaceable, and easy to be entreated, full of gentleness and good fruits, is not an easy attainment. And yet it is his privilege and his duty to be a perfect overcomer here." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 106–107

People do not like constant self-denying, and cross bearing. "They said unto Him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on Thy right hand, and the other on Thy left hand, in Thy glory. But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" Mark 10:37–38

We are in a war against ourselves, against our desires, our appetites, passions, and our love of comforts. "Wrongs cannot be righted, nor can reformations in character be made, by a few feeble, intermittent efforts. Sanctification is the work, not of a day, or of a

year, but of a lifetime. The struggle for conquest over self, for holiness and heaven, is a lifelong struggle. Without continual effort and constant activity there can be no advancement in the divine life, no attainment of the victor's crown.

"The strongest evidence of man's fall from a higher state is the fact that it costs so much to return. The way of return can be gained only by hard fighting, inch by inch, every hour. By a momentary act of will, one may place himself in the power of evil; but it requires more than a momentary act of will to break these fetters and attain to a higher, holier life. The purpose may be formed, the work begun; but its accomplishment will require toil, time, and perseverance, patience and sacrifice.

"Beset with temptations without number, we must resist firmly or be conquered. Should we come to the close of life with our work undone, it would be an eternal loss." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 312–313

The Christian life is a battle and a march. In this warfare there is no release, the effort must be continuous and persevering. "Yet this battle must be fought by every heart that is truly converted. We must war against temptations without and within. We must gain the victory over self, crucify the affections and lusts; and then begins the union of the soul with Christ." —*Ibid.*, vol. 5, p. 47

After conversion Satan becomes angry with us, and doubles his temptations towards us. Yet all can overcome in this battle if they put all their body, mind, and soul into it. Jesus said, "And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell." Matthew 5:29–30

So important is our salvation that any sacrifice should be done for it. Christian martyrs sacrificed even their lives. Then it is not important anymore what I want, what I desire—our desires and wants have been crucified. They are dead. God's will is the only important thing then for us. This is the victory; then we are overcomers, submitting ourselves completely to His leading, and to His will, in the same way as Jesus did.

Many Christian parents lose their children to the world,

because they neglected to control and discipline them when they were babes in their arms. Small children need to submit their will to the parent's will. If the first manifestation of temper is not subdued, the children grow stubborn. As they grow older, they think that they must have their own way, and that their parents must submit to their wishes and will. The false sympathy and blind love of parents causes them to excuse the faults of their children, and pass them by without correction. Their children are lost as a consequence and the blood of their souls will rest upon the unfaithful parents.

The first great lesson that children are to learn is to know and understand the will of God. We should reinforce this concept every day of life. We are to teach them and help them to gain this knowledge. The will of God is the law of heaven. Children who learn to obey the will of God are far happier than the children who are left to follow their own will.

The only hope for us to overcome sin is to unite our will to the will of God. Until this happens the transforming grace of God cannot be manifest in us.

The will of God is revealed to us in the Holy Scriptures. Another way His will is revealed to us is through the appeals of the Holy Spirit. He is making impressions upon our hearts, convincing us of the will of God, and of Satan's deceptions.

"Jesus says, 'What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.' Mark 11:24. There is a condition to this promise—that we pray according to the will of God. But it is the will of God to cleanse us from sin, to make us His children, and to enable us to live a holy life. So we may ask for these blessings, and believe that we receive them, and thank God that we *have* received them. It is our privilege to go to Jesus and be cleansed, and to stand before the law without shame or remorse. 'There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.' Romans 8:1." —*Steps to Christ*, p. 51

Let us study the will of God daily, and put it into practice, and see what wonderful change happens in our lives. Angels in heaven obey the will of God, and if we do the same, one day we will unite with them in harmony. Let this be the most important purpose of your life. AMEN.

Timo Martin





Our Besetting Sins

“Besetting sins must be battled with, and overcome. Objectionable traits of character, whether hereditary or cultivated, should be taken up separately, and compared with the great rule of righteousness; and in the light reflected from the word of God, they should be firmly resisted and overcome, through the strength of Christ. ‘Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.’ Hebrews 12:14.” – *Christian Education*, p. 113

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.” Hebrews 12:1

“The secret of Satan’s power over God’s professed people lies in the deceitfulness of the human heart. Their constant stumbling and falling reveal that they have not maintained a stern conflict with their besetting sins. They have not depended wholly upon Christ, because they have not realized that they are in peril of being overcome by these sins. It is the sin which appears small and unworthy of our notice against which we should be on our guard. If we could understand how deeply we injure our own souls and cause unhappiness to those around us by giving loose rein to unsanctified thoughts and unholy actions, we would strive to put them away. We would cooperate with God in working out our own salvation.” – *The Signs of the Times*, December 13, 1899

WHAT ARE YOUR BESETTING SINS?

“These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto Him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.” Proverbs 6:16–19

“The love of money is the besetting sin of many. Men and women who profess to worship the true God become so deceived in their pursuit after riches that they suppose gain to be godliness. The apostle Paul declares: ‘Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil; which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called.’” – *The Signs of the Times*, December 13, 1899



“I saw that Satan carries out his plans well. As the servants of God appoint meetings, Satan with his angels is on the ground to hinder the work. He is constantly putting suggestions into the minds of God’s people. He leads some in one way, and some in another, always taking advantage of evil traits in the brethren and sisters, exciting and stirring up their natural besetments. If they are disposed to be selfish and covetous, Satan takes his stand by their side, and with all his power seeks to lead them to indulge their besetting sins. The grace of God and the light of truth may melt away their covetous, selfish feeling for a little, but if they do not obtain entire victory, Satan comes in when they are not under a saving influence, and withers every noble, generous principle, and they think that too much is required of them. They become weary of well-doing, and forget the great sacrifice which Jesus made to redeem them from the power of

Satan and from hopeless misery." —*Christian Experience and Teachings of Ellen G. White*, p.172

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Galatians 5:19–21

"We are accountable only for the light that shines upon us. The commandments of God and the faith of Jesus are testing us. If we are faithful and obedient, God will delight in us, and bless us as His own chosen, peculiar people. When perfect faith and perfect love and obedience abound, working in the hearts of those who are Christ's followers, they will have a powerful influence. Light will emanate from them, dispelling the darkness around them, refining and elevating all who come within a sphere of their influence, and bringing to a knowledge of the truth all who are willing to be enlightened, and to follow in the humble path of obedience." —*The Review and Herald*, July 13, 1897

"Christ is our example. He gave His life as a sacrifice for us, and He asks us to give our lives as a sacrifice for others. Thus we may cast out the selfishness which Satan is constantly striving to implant in our hearts. This selfishness is death to all piety, and can be overcome only by manifesting love to God and to our fellow men. Christ will not permit one selfish person to enter the courts of heaven. No covetous person can pass through the pearly gates; for all covetousness is idolatry." —*Ibid.*, July 11, 1899

Balaam's One Sin, Covetousness—"Here is a solemn warning for the people of God today, to allow no unchristian trait to live in their hearts. A sin which is fostered becomes habitual; and, strengthened by repetition, it soon exerts a controlling influence, bringing into subjection all the nobler powers. Balaam loved the reward of unrighteousness. The sin of covetousness, which God ranks with idolatry, he did not resist and overcome. Satan obtained entire control of him through this one fault, which deteriorated his character, and made him a time-server. He called God his master; but he did not serve Him; he did not work the works of God." —*The Signs of the Times*, November 18, 1880

"It is the inclination to excuse our moral defects that leads to the cultivation of sin. We must never forget that God ascribes sin to the one who transgresses; it is not registered against Satan, but against the sinner. God nev-

er accepts the agency of Satan as an excuse for the committal of one sin. When there is any excuse for a seemingly wrong act, it is not sin. Satan triumphs when he hears the professed follower of Christ offering excuses for his defects of character. Sin unrepented of, unconfessed, can never be blotted from the books of God's record. Through faithful, thorough confession of sin, the heart is cleansed from its moral impurity. There must be a forsaking of the sins the Lord has reprovved, before the soul can stand acquitted before God, humbled and repentant, realizing that he has served Satan, pleased him, glorified him, and dishonored his Lord." —*Ibid.*, December 13, 1899

"Satan commissions his angels to be vigilant and overthrow all they can; to find out the waywardness and besetting sins of those who profess the truth, and throw darkness around them, that they may cease to be watchful, take a course that will dishonor the cause they profess to love, and bring sorrow upon the church. The souls of these misguided, unwatchful ones grow darker, and the light of heaven fades from them. They cannot discover their besetting sins, and Satan weaves his net about them, and they are taken in his snare." —*Early Writings*, p. 105

THE PERIL OF NEGLECTING SALVATION

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth to life, and few there be that find it." Matthew 7:13–14



"Let none now venture to tamper with sin, the source of every misery that has come upon our world. No longer remain in a state of lethargy and stupid indifference. Let not the destiny of your soul hang upon an uncertainty. Know for yourselves that you are fully on the Lord's side. Let the inquiry go forth from sincere hearts and trembling lips, Who shall be able to stand? Have you, in the precious hours of probation mercifully granted you, been putting the best material into your character building? Have you been purifying your souls from every stain? Have you followed the light? Have your works corresponded to your profession of faith?" —*The Home Missionary*, November 1, 1893

"This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth." 1 John 1:5–6

"God has revealed His character in the goodness, the mercy, compassion, and love manifested to save a race of guilty rebels. What could be done that has not been done in the provisions of the plan of salvation? If the sinner remains indifferent to the manifestation of the goodness of God, if he neglects so great a salvation, rejects the overtures of divine mercy, refuses the gift of life purchased by the precious blood of Christ, what could be done to touch his hard heart? If the wonderful achievement wrought out by our Creator and Redeemer, into which He threw all His power and love, does not move the proud human heart, when man sees that his soul was thought of such value that the Son of the infinite God, the Majesty of heaven, was willing to lay down His life in order that we might be saved, then there is nothing that will move him." –*The Review and Herald*, March 10, 1891

"And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. He came unto His own, and His own received him not." John 1:5, 9–11

"It is possible to be a formal, partial believer, and yet be found wanting, and lose eternal life. It is possible to practice some of the Bible injunctions, and be regarded as a Christian, and yet perish because you are lacking in essential qualifications that constitute Christian character. If the warnings which God has given are neglected or regarded with indifference, if you cherish or excuse sin, you are sealing your soul's destiny; you will be weighed in the balances and found wanting. Grace, peace, and pardon will be withdrawn forever; Jesus will have passed by, never again to come within the reach of your prayers and entreaties. While mercy still lingers, while Jesus is making intercession for us, let us make thorough work for eternity." –*The Home Missionary*, November 1, 1893

"But the way of life is narrow, and the entrance straight. If you cling to any besetting sin, you will find the gateway too narrow for you to enter. Your own ways, your own will, your wrong habits and unchristlike practises, must be given up if you would keep the way of the Lord. He who would follow Christ can not follow the world's opinions or meet the world's standard. Heaven's path is too narrow for rank and riches to ride in state, too narrow for the plan of self-centered ambition, too steep and rugged for lovers of ease to climb." –*The Signs of the Times*, June 22,

1904

"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Proverbs 16:25

"God is testing and proving His children to see if He can trust them with eternal riches. Are you living for Him? Have you placed all you have at His disposal? Are you day by day revealing the unselfishness of the Redeemer? Life is uncertain. One may count on years of worldly pleasure, but accident or disease may suddenly cut him off. Are you ready for death?" –*The Youth's Instructor*, March 6, 1902

WE ARE TO OVERCOME OUR BESETTING SINS

"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain." 1 Corinthians 9:24

"Our besetting sins must be laid aside. There is no room to walk in the narrow way, and at the same time cherish evil surmisings, doubts, criticisms, envy, unkindness. To enter the strait gate and travel the narrow way demands firmness of purpose, perseverance, steadfastness; for on every hand there are voices inviting the soul into forbidden paths. It demands that we give the future life our first attention. We are to cut away from our lives everything that would hinder our progress. Every inclination to evil must be denied, every habit not in harmony with the word of God must be overcome. We are to be one with Christ. We are to refuse to turn into the path of transgression, even tho natural inclination would lead us to take a course in opposition to God's will. Those who thus strive to follow Christ will hear His voice saying to them, 'He that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.'" –*The Signs of the Times*, September 17, 1902

"Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide Himself from them." John 12:35–36

Secret of Overcoming Sin—"We become overcomers by helping others to overcome. We overcome by the blood of the Lamb, and the word of our testimony. The keeping of the commandments of God will yield in us an obedient spirit, and the service that is the offspring of such a spirit, God can accept." –*The Review and Herald*, February 25, 1909

"God is our strength. We must look to Him for wisdom and guidance, and keeping in view His glory, the good of the church, and the salvation of our own souls, we must

overcome our besetting sins. We should individually seek to obtain new victory every day. We must learn to stand alone and depend wholly upon God. The sooner we learn this the better. Let each one find out where he fails, and then faithfully watch that his sins do not overcome him, but that he gets the victory over them. Then can we have confidence toward God, and great trouble will be saved the church.” –*Early Writings*, p. 105

Dear reader, the Lord wants us to overcome all our sinful traits of character. “All who will can be overcomers. Let us strive earnestly to reach the standard set before us. Christ knows our weakness, and to Him we can go daily for help. It is not necessary for us to gain strength a month ahead. We are to conquer from day to day.” –*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 3, p. 107

“Whatever may be man’s besetting sin, whatever bitter or baleful passions struggle for the mastery, he may conquer, if he will watch and war against them in the name and strength of Israel’s Helper. The children of God should cultivate a keen sensitiveness to sin. Here, as well as elsewhere, we should not despise the day of small things. It is one of Satan’s most successful devices, to lead men to the commission of little sins, to blind the mind to the danger of little indulgences, little digressions from the plainly stated requirements of God. Many who would shrink with horror from some great transgression, are led to look upon sin in little matters as of trifling consequence. But these little sins eat out the life of godliness in the soul. The feet which enter upon a path diverging from the right way are tending toward the broad road that ends in death. When once a retrograde movement begins, no one can tell where it may end.” –*Seventh-Day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, p. 1017

“Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:12–14

“Mammon is the idol of many. Its golden chain binds them to Satan. Reputation and worldly honor are worshiped by another class. The life of selfish ease and freedom from responsibility is the idol of others. These are Satan’s snares, set for unwary feet. But these slavish bands must be broken; the flesh must be crucified with the affections and lusts. We cannot be half the Lord’s and half the world’s. We are not God’s people unless we are such entirely. Every weight, every besetting sin, must be laid aside. God’s watchmen will not cry, ‘Peace, peace,’

when God has not spoken peace. The voice of the faithful watchmen will be heard: ‘Go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord.’” –*Testimonies for the Church*, p. 83

“We are the Israel that God is leading out of the errors of the world in these last days to live by every word that proceedeth out of His mouth. The truth for this time will not fail to sanctify the soul that receives the love of it and obeys it from the heart. It will enable us to overcome every besetting sin, and to surmount every difficulty in our onward march. We can run and not be weary, walk and not faint.” –*The Signs of the Times*, January 6, 1888

“Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.” Philippians 3:6–8

“There are many in the broad way who are not fully satisfied with the path in which they walk. They long to break from the slavery of sin, and seek to make a stand against their sinful practices in their own strength. They hear the warning call to repentance. They hear that the only hope of the sinner is found in Christ. They look toward the narrow way and strait gate; but selfish pleasure, love of the world, unsanctified ambition and pride, place a barrier between them and the Saviour. They realize that all their idols must be expelled from the soul, that every sinful indulgence must be given up, all worldly encumbrances must be laid aside, in order to enter the strait gate. Jesus says, ‘If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.’” –*The Signs of the Times*, July 11, 1892

“Finally, my brethren, Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.” Ephesians 6:10–11, 13

If we are to be overcomers at last, there are battles for us to fight. May God bless each soul who is striving to conquer self that we may become victorious people at last in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Jenifer Akello, Uganda



Discipleship

A follower that does not follow?



What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus? You need to examine your heart and make sure you are a true disciple.

The reality is that not all who claim to be Christians, are genuine. Some are not true disciples. Many people are false. They are deceivers and are also deceived themselves. We cannot safely assume that everyone who goes to church, and even some of the leaders, are true Christians. Many are not, and it is your personal responsibility to prayerfully avoid coming under their influence. In time, Jesus will identify all false people. Then they will be publicly rejected by Him.

We live in an age when many Christians have forgotten what discipleship is and do not like to talk about duty, self-sacrifice or hardship. The word “disciple” is used in all parts of the world. However, most Christians do not believe there is a price to pay for being a disciple of Jesus. In many denominations today, the people are not taught to expect any affliction, pressure or testing. Instead, the general teaching is that the Christian life is meant to be non-challenging, uncontroversial, moderate, and that we should fit in nicely with the unbelieving world around us. Some leaders go even further and preach what has come to be known as a “*prosperity gospel*”.

The prosperity gospel is the idea that Christians *should expect* to prosper financially and that they should pray for wealth, property and prestige in this life. If these prayers are not answered as expected, it is taught that the person lacks faith, or is not living right, or not pleasing God. The bottom line they say is that if we live in accordance with God’s will, developing the fruit of the Holy Spirit, and putting biblical principles into practice, then we will prosper. This includes financial success and promotion in one’s career (Deuteronomy 28:1–15).

WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

What does it mean to be a true disciple of Jesus Christ? The answer is fairly simple, but it will change your life completely.

The word *disciple* comes from the Greek word *mathetes*, meaning “learner,” “apprentice,” or “adherent.” It describes a person whose mind is set on a purpose. “An apprentice or pupil attached to a teacher or movement; one

whose allegiance is to the instruction and commitments of the teacher or movement.”—Paul J. Achtemeier, ed., *Harper’s Bible Dictionary* (New York: Harper San Francisco, 1985), p. 222. A disciple, then, is a person who is attached to a master or teacher for the purpose of receiving instruction. There can be no disciple without a teacher.

Disciples in Jesus’ day would follow their rabbi (which means teacher) wherever he went, learning from the rabbi’s teaching and being trained to do as the rabbi did. Basically, a disciple is a follower. Becoming a disciple of Jesus is as simple as obeying His call to follow.

In the New Testament the word *disciple* is used primarily with Jesus’ disciples. When Jesus called His first disciples, they may not have understood where He would take them or what impact it would have on their lives, but they knew what it meant to follow. They took Jesus’ call literally and began going everywhere He went and doing everything He did. It is impossible to be a disciple or a follower of someone and not end up like that person. Jesus said, “The disciple is not above his teacher: but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher” (Luke 6:40 WEB). That is the whole point of being a disciple of Jesus: we imitate Him, carry on His ministry, and become like Him in the process. Yet, somehow, many believe that a person can be a “Christian” without being like Christ—a “follower”. This does not make sense. Many people in the churches have decided to take on the name of Christian with no corresponding works that would indicate they are following their Leader. This would be like Jesus walking up to those first disciples and saying, “Please come and follow me but do not worry, I do not expect you to do the works I do, or change your lifestyle. I’m just looking for people who are willing to say they believe in Me and call themselves Christians.” It is very clear that this is not what it means to be a Christian. But today, many who call

themselves Christian live this way. It appears that they have lost sight of what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

COUNT THE COST

Being a disciple involves a deep commitment to Jesus Christ and a determination to follow and obey Him for the rest of your life. That includes your possessions, ambitions, relationships, and even your own bodies.

The spirit of prophecy states: "Public opinion favors a profession of Christianity. Little self-denial or self-sacrifice is required in order to put on a form of godliness and to have one's name enrolled upon the church book. Hence many join the church without first becoming united to Christ. In this Satan triumphs. Such converts are his most efficient agents. They serve as decoys to other souls. They are false lights, luring the unwary to perdition. *It is in vain that men seek to make the Christian's path broad and pleasant for worldlings. God has not smoothed or widened the rugged, narrow way. If we would enter into life, we must follow the same path which Jesus and His disciples trod—the path of humility, self-denial, and sacrifice.*" – *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 172 (emphasis mine)

Too many think that a Christian is simply someone who believes in God, or perhaps someone who goes to church. Unfortunately, this is an erroneous teaching and many are being deceived by it. Becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ is a path of self-denial. It requires a change in a person's life—a renouncing of sin and the world. It involves handing over your whole life to Him and agreeing to follow and obey Him, whatever the cost may be. Once we surrender our life to Jesus, He has promised us blessings and happiness and, in the end, eternal life.

BEING A DISCIPLE INVOLVES:

A Complete Surrender

To be a true disciple requires a surrender of your own will to His will, doing what He asks of you, even if it clashes with what you want to do. It may mean facing suffering, or even death, for His sake. A true Christian must be willing to surrender everything, body, soul and spirit, regardless of the outcome.

"The church of God, hated and persecuted by the world, are educated and disciplined in the school of Christ. They walk in narrow paths on earth; they are purified in the furnace of affliction. They follow Christ through sore conflicts; they endure self-denial, and experience bitter disappointments; but their painful experience teaches them

the guilt and woe of sin, and they look upon it with abhorrence. Being partakers of Christ's sufferings, they are destined to be partakers of His glory. In holy vision the prophet saw the triumph of the people of God." – *Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 74

Joining the Army

Life as a Christian can be compared to someone joining the army. When you become a soldier you give up all of your freedom and independence. You agree to go wherever you are sent and do whatever is required of you, however hard it may be, even if it means going to your death.

It is true that very few of us have taken part in any military service. Therefore, the very concept of giving absolute obedience to someone else's orders is unfamiliar, but we need to have an understanding of this. Otherwise we will not have a true idea of what is involved in being Jesus' disciple.

God expects you to view yourself as a soldier in that spiritual warfare and to fight actively on His side. He also expects you to be alert and armed, spiritually, not militarily. We are instructed to wear the "armour" that God provides (Ephesians 6).

As a true disciple of Christ, the Apostle Paul declared : "I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

Romans 8:18

The war between good and evil has been going on ever since Satan rebelled against God and led astray one third of the angels in Heaven. The battle grew larger after Adam fell into sin. From then on many human beings also became God's enemies, alongside the demons. This is why every Christian is part of that war and is expected to fight in it. Regrettably, this fact is not widely

understood. Many may have heard of it, but do not take it seriously.

Even if we do know there is a war, many see themselves as non-combatants, or even as neutral. Those who think like this have no intention of fighting in any war or getting caught up in it. Whether you want to or not, you are already caught up in the war, if you claim to be a true Christian. It is then that Satan and his demons will regard you as a target. It is not a war against human beings, involving physical weapons. It is, nonetheless, a very real conflict, which is fought on many different fronts and in every part of your life.

The Narrow Gate

Another analogy which the Bible uses to describe the life of a true disciple is the idea of going through a narrow gate. The narrow gates leads to salvation. The path on the

other side of the gate is a narrow and difficult way. A true disciple will face trials in their life.

It is not easy to make the decision to deny one's own self and to do the duty outlined in the Word of God.

By contrast, the broad path, on which all unbelievers and false, compromised churchgoers travel, is very easy. On this path people can do whatever they want and life can seem easy.

The narrow gate means believing the true gospel, as set out in the Bible, rather than the lukewarm, compromising, counterfeit gospel which many so-called Christian Churches teach. Their man-made gospel is deliberately designed to be easy. The basic teaching is: "*Jesus loves you and wants you to love Him.*" There is little or no emphasis on sin, repentance, or God's judgment, His law, Sabbath-keeping, His righteousness, etc. Neither do they focus on the cost and hardship involved in the life of true discipleship. Accurate Bible doctrine is not popular, therefore, a worldly church leader will not preach it. He fears being criticized for the things he says or he fears offending people and losing members. The real truth is that many fear losing their financial support (their job).

No willful disobedient person can be a true disciple of Jesus

A Life-long Commitment

The word "*disciple*" is rarely even used in most of the churches today.

"We can not follow Christ without wearing His yoke, without lifting the cross and bearing it after Him. If our will is not in accord with the divine requirements, we are to deny our inclinations, give up our darling desires, and step in Christ's footsteps." —*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 69

Most Christians settle for a life which is far less challenging or productive than what God intends. He wants us all to aim high and seek to become the best disciple that we can possibly be. If we aim high, He will provide the strength for us to reach the goal.

Regarding the disciples of Christ, their response to the call implied a total surrender and commitment. They left their jobs, their families, and their possessions to follow Jesus, and they heeded the call to love these things less than they loved the Master. Being a true disciple does not necessarily mean that we have to as they did right now, but we should be willing to do so, if needed.

Teaching Others

It is a simple command that Jesus gave us, yet some find it extremely difficult. True Christ centred discipleship pro-

duces a complete personal transformation in our own hearts and in the hearts of the people we are teaching. Sometimes this can cause personal conflict in a person's life when the human nature comes into conflict with the divine nature. The primary purpose in life for every disciple of Jesus is to teach others to be disciples of Christ.

We should all have people in our lives who are teaching us, and we should all be looking for other people we can teach. This is not only the duty of the pastors or Bible workers. "Every true disciple is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary. He who drinks of the living water becomes a fountain of life. The receiver becomes a giver. The grace of Christ in the soul is like a spring in the desert, welling up to refresh all, and making those who are ready to perish eager to drink of the water of life." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 195

"In every church the members should be so trained that they will devote time to the winning of souls to Christ. How can it be said of the church, 'Ye are the light of the world,' unless the members of the church are actually imparting light? Let those who have charge of the flock of Christ awake to their duty and set many souls to work." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 436

"We are to lift the cross, and follow the steps of Christ. Those who lift the cross will find that as they do this, the cross lifts them, giving them fortitude and courage, and pointing them to the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world." —*The Review and Herald*, July 13, 1905

True discipleship can be summarized as:

- *A supreme and unrivaled love for Jesus, a denial of self*
- *A firm decision to choose the way of the cross*
- *A daily surrendering to Jesus*
- *A genuine fervent love for all people, desiring to teach them the way of salvation*
- *A forsaking all to follow Him*

"No mere theory of truth or profession of discipleship will save any soul. We do not belong to Christ unless we are His wholly. It is by halfheartedness in the Christian life that men become feeble in purpose and changeable in desire." —*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 50

"Matthew 'left all, rose up, and followed Him.' There was no hesitation, no questioning, no thought of the lucrative business to be exchanged for poverty and hardship. . . .

"So it was with the disciples previously called. When Je-

Jesus bade Peter and his companions follow Him, immediately they left their boats and nets. Some of these disciples had friends dependent on them for support; but when they received the Saviour's invitation, they did not hesitate, and inquire, How shall I live, and sustain my family? They were obedient to the call." –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 273

CONSIDER YOUR WAYS

Ask your self if Jesus is your Lord, Master, and Owner. If we want to develop into a strong disciple we must then remain on the straight and narrow road and not give in to the temptation to leave it in favour of the easier and broader path which leads to destruction. It is our responsibility to find out whether we are on the narrow road; and, if we are, then to stay on it and not turn away onto the broad road. This responsibility is ours; no one else's.

"Many come to us with the inquiry, Shall I do this? Shall I engage in that enterprise? Or, in regard to dress, Shall I wear this or that article? I answer them, You profess to be disciples of Christ. Study your Bibles. Read carefully and prayerfully the life of our dear Saviour when He dwelt among men upon the earth. Imitate His life, and you will not be found straying from the narrow path. We utterly refuse to be conscience for you. If we tell you just what to do, you will look to us to guide you, instead of going directly to Jesus for yourselves." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 118

When Jesus calls us, we must choose today to follow Him or to walk away. A genuine disciple will follow Jesus regardless of obstacles. Let us unconditionally surrender and follow Him courageously, honorably, and faithfully. We must begin now and continue each day for the rest of our lives.

Too many people want an easy life avoiding inconveniences, hard work, and discomfort. In taking the easy road, we are not experiencing the things that God wants us to face and overcome, and we are missing out on many blessings. In particular, we would miss out on some or all of the rewards that Jesus will one day give to those who have served Him faithfully when He returns to this earth.

"Be not discouraged; be not fainthearted. Although you may have temptations, although you may be beset by the wily foe, yet if you have the fear of God before you, angels that excel in strength will be sent to your help, and you can be more than a match for the powers of darkness. Jesus lives. He died to make a way of escape for the fallen race, and He lives

today to make intercession for us, that we may be exalted to His own right hand. Hope in God. The world is traveling the broad way; and as you travel in the narrow way, and have to contend with principalities and powers, and to meet the opposition of foes, remember that provision has been made for you. Help has been laid upon One that is mighty, and through Him you can conquer." –*Ibid.*, vol. 2, p. 591

REWARD OF FAITHFUL TRUE DISCIPLES

One day Peter asked Jesus, "Behold, we have forsaken all and followed Thee; what shall we have therefore? And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of His glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life." Matthew 19:27–29

Before receiving the crown of eternal life, we have to bear the cross in this life. "There are homes for the pilgrims of earth. There are robes for the righteous, with crowns of glory and palms of victory. All that has perplexed us in the providences of God will in the world to come be made plain. The things hard to be understood will then find explanation. The mysteries of grace will unfold before us. Where our finite minds discovered only confusion and broken promises, we shall see the most perfect and beautiful harmony. We shall know that infinite love ordered the experiences that seemed most trying. As we realize the tender care of Him who makes all things work together for our good, we shall rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory." –*Ibid.*, vol. 9, p. 286

Victor Shumbusho, DR Congo



Love of Approbation



What is approbation? Some of the meanings of approbation are, “approval; commendation, sanction, praise. It is synonymous with, admiration, esteem, favour, recognition, and high regard.

There are people that their whole life purpose is to try to receive some sort of approbation from other people, especially people in prominent positions in society. Some cannot function well without this type of approbation; they cannot function without constant praise and approval from others. They fear rejection or disapproval. Therefore they follow the popular opinions and crowds, in order to be recognized as receiving high honours, and sometimes even go against their conscience in order to receive this approval. The approval and approbation from fellow human beings can be more coveted than righteousness by some people.

It all began many years ago. Lucifer was the first one who sought approbation. He was given high honours in heaven, but this was not enough. “Lucifer's disposition to serve himself instead of his Creator aroused a feeling of apprehension when observed by those who considered that the glory of God should be supreme.” —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 35–36. He did not like Jesus as being supreme. He was dissatisfied with his own position as inferior to Jesus. “Sin originated with him who, next to Christ, had been most honored of God and was highest in power and glory among the inhabitants of heaven.” —*Ibid.* p. 35. But this was not enough for him. He wanted the approbation of being on top.

“Little by little Lucifer came to indulge the desire for self-exaltation. The Scripture says, ‘Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness.’ Ezekiel 28:17. ‘Thou hast said in thine heart, . . . I will exalt my throne above the stars of God. . . . I will be like the Most High.’ Isaiah 14:13, 14. Though all his glory was from God, this mighty angel came to regard it as pertaining to himself. Not content with his position, though honored above the heavenly host, he

ventured to covet homage due alone to the Creator. Instead of seeking to make God supreme in the affections and allegiance of all created beings, it was his endeavor to secure their service and loyalty to himself. And coveting the glory with which the infinite Father had invested His Son, this prince of angels aspired to power that was the prerogative of Christ alone.” —*Ibid.*, p. 35

“He gloried in his brightness and exaltation and aspired to be equal with God. He was beloved and revered by the heavenly host, angels delighted to execute his commands, and he was clothed with wisdom and glory above them all. Yet the Son of God was exalted above him, as one in power and authority with the Father. He shared the Father's counsels, while Lucifer did not thus enter into the purposes of God. ‘Why,’ questioned this mighty angel, ‘should Christ have the supremacy? Why is He honored above Lucifer?’” —*Ibid.*, p. 36

Having a love of approbation, when Lucifer did not get the approbation he so desired, it led him to ask, “Why not me?” He was not content to be honoured above all the angelic host. He wanted more—to be equal with, and to enter into counsel with, God. This privilege was denied him. He was therefore, not content with any words of counsel from the other angels, or even from God the Father and the Son, thus he was led to create a rebellion in heaven and has continued his work on this earth. This was the result of his strong love and desire for approbation of being in the top position.

KING SAUL

King Saul is a classic example of one who fell into Satan's snare of the love of approbation from human beings on this earth. In his early life, he was humble. When he was presented before the nation as their new king, he hid himself; thought himself unworthy (1 Samuel 10:21–23). However, as the years went by, he came to love the approbation of his fellow men.

“When Saul and David were returning from battle with the

Philistines, 'the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of music.' One company sang, 'Saul hath slain his thousands,' while another company took up the strain, and responded, 'And David his ten thousands.' The demon of jealousy entered the heart of the king. He was angry because David was exalted above himself in the song of the women of Israel. In place of subduing these envious feelings, he displayed the weakness of his character, and exclaimed. 'They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom?'

"One great defect in the character of Saul was his love of approbation. This trait had had a controlling influence over his actions and thoughts; everything was marked by his desire for praise and self-exaltation." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 650

The next statement is key. Read it carefully. See how his thinking became perverse due to his love of approbation from fellow human beings. May God help us not to fall into this trap. "His standard of right and wrong was the low standard of popular applause. No man is safe who lives that he may please men, and does not seek first for the approbation of God. It was the ambition of Saul to be first in the estimation of men." —*Ibid*. He could not handle being in second place in the minds of the people, and thus he spent much time and energy to try to eliminate this one who was exalted above himself in the minds of the people.

Read further: "Saul opened his heart to the spirit of jealousy by which his soul was poisoned. . . . Saul had not learned, while ruling the kingdom of Israel, that he should rule his own spirit. He allowed his impulses to control his judgment, until he was plunged into a fury of passion. He had paroxysms of rage, when he was ready to take the life of any who dared oppose his will." —*Ibid*

All from the love of approbation from sinful human beings—basically it boils down to a love of self.

JUDAS

Judas had a high opinion of himself. He had convinced the disciples also of his superiority. Jesus was not convinced though and often gave gentle and subtle rebukes in love.

Jesus, knowing his character, did not call him to be a follower. It was the disciples who were, "anxious that Judas should become one of their number. He was of commanding appearance, a man of keen discernment and executive ability, and they commended him to Jesus as one who would greatly assist Him in His work. They were surprised that Jesus received him so coolly." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 294

"Judas had a high opinion of his own executive ability. As a financier he thought himself greatly superior to his fellow disciples, and he had led them to regard him in the same light. He had gained their confidence, and had a strong influence over them." —*Ibid*, p.559. Judas influenced the disciples to believe he was the best man for the job and no one else could do it as well as he; he was indispensable.

"At the ordination of the Twelve the disciples had greatly desired that Judas should become one of their number, and they had counted his accession an event of much promise to the apostolic band. He had come more into contact with the world than they, he was a man of good address, of discernment and executive ability, and, having a high estimate of his own qualifications, he had led the disciples to hold him in the same regard. But the methods he desired to introduce into Christ's work were based upon worldly principles and were controlled by worldly policy. They looked to the securing of worldly recognition and honor—to the obtaining of the kingdom of this world." —*Education*, p. 93. He desired praise and approbation from other people.

"Judas . . . had not been striving to overcome his natural traits of character in accordance with the light that was constantly shining upon him. . . . Constantly he strove to exalt himself, and by his business ability he had gained the confidence of the eleven." —*The Review and Herald*, August 7, 1900. Now comes the "but" . . . "But he had a narrow, avaricious spirit. For the slight services that he performed for Christ he paid himself from the money in the bag. He took from the store committed to his care, thus narrowing down their resources to a meager pittance." —*Ibid*

Judas had such a terrible love of approbation from fellow human beings that it led him to betray Christ. In this betrayal he was seeking their approbation and exaltation. "Judas reasoned that if Jesus was to be crucified, the event must come to pass. His own act in betraying the Saviour would not change the result. If Jesus was not to die, it would only force Him to deliver Himself. At all events, Judas would gain something by his treachery. He counted that he had made a sharp bargain in betraying his Lord.

"In betraying Him, it was his purpose to teach Him a lesson. He intended to play a part that would make the Saviour careful thenceforth to treat him with due respect. . .

"Judas decided to put the matter to the test. If Jesus really was the Messiah, the people, for whom He had done so much, would rally about Him, and would proclaim Him king. This would forever settle many minds that were now in uncertainty. Judas would have the credit of having

placed the king on David's throne. And this act would secure to him the first position, next to Christ, in the new kingdom." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 720–721. The end of Judas' life shows the sad result of having a lustful desire for human approbation.

THE NINE DISCIPLES

When Jesus went up to the mount of transfiguration with Peter, James and John, leaving the nine behind, the nine did not take it very well. "The selection of the three disciples to accompany Jesus to the mountain had excited the jealousy of the nine. Instead of strengthening their faith by prayer and meditation on the words of Christ, they had been dwelling on their discouragements and personal grievances. In this state of darkness they had undertaken the conflict with Satan." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 431

In this frame of mind, a man brought his son who was possessed with a demon to the nine disciples to ask them to cast the demon out. Previously, Jesus had sent out the disciples two-by-two to do missionary work (Mark 6:7–11). "They cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick and healed them." Mark 6:11. They had done this before, but this time could not. Why? What happened this time?

After Jesus took care of the man's son, "Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?" Matthew 17:1. What was Jesus' response? "And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you" Matthew 17:20. What was their unbelief? They had too much faith in themselves and their own abilities and not enough faith in God. Remember, Judas was one of the nine.

The nine felt jealous when not invited to the mount of transfiguration, and here thought to exalt themselves a bit and gain the approbation of the people by doing a mighty work in front of this crowd.

A young man recently preached a sermon in our local church, using the Bible Verse. "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep." Romans 12:15. He brought out that we often focus on the second half of this verse. It is well to try to encourage and help those that are sad and sorrowing. However, the first half can be more difficult to perform for some. For example, how easy is it to rejoice with the one who is rejoicing to have received a promotion that you felt you were entitled to?

Often those with talents, think they should be in the forefront and receive the highest offices in the church, and when put aside become discouraged asking, "Why not

me?" They cannot rejoice with those who are receiving more recognition than themselves, especially if they believe they are more talented. They covet the approbation that they see others receiving and are not happy seeing others rejoice.

The work of God is not dependent on any one person. The Lord can bless any faithful soul with the talent to carry on His work as He did in Ancient Israel, "See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah: And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship." Exodus 31:2–3

The disciples thought that Judas was the one best suited for the position, however, he was secretly a crook, seeking only the approbation of the world. The outward appearances and talents a person has may qualify them for high positions in the world, and they may seem to be the best to be in leading positions in the church, but if their heart and personal life are not fully committed, they are not qualified at all in the eyes of the Lord. Although the Lord is patient with the erring, even with those that love the approbation of the world, if they do not yield these unholy desires to the Lord, the Lord will eventually separate them from His church. "God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise." 1 Corinthians 1:27. The Lord needs people who are fully committed to His service, more than He needs the worldly talented ones who seek the approbation of their fellow man above the approbation of God.

"Act as though you knew that the eye of heaven is upon you, and that you are living under the approbation or disapprobation of God." —*Counsels to the Church*, p. 181

Jesus is our great example. He did not seek the approbation of the religious leaders of His time. He said, "'I receive not honor from men.' It was not the influence of the Sanhedrin, it was not their sanction He desired. He could receive no honor from their approbation. He was invested with the honor and authority of Heaven." —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 212. The greatest honour we also can have is the approbation of heaven.

"There is great need of zealous, disinterested workers in God's cause. One Christ-loving, devoted member will do more good in a church than one hundred half-converted, unsanctified, self-sufficient workers." —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 114

May God help us to be that one Christ-loving devoted member in our sphere of influence seeking only the approbation of God and not the approbation of any man whether they are in the church or out of the church. Amen.

Wendy Eaton



My Cooking Experiences

Dear brothers and sisters,

I greet you all in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

I am Sister Dorcas Luboya, a wife of a foreign missionary currently working in Senegal, West Africa. I want to share my cooking experience with you, how it has reached many lives and changed people's tables. First though, I want to share with you how the Lord encouraged me try to reach people through the cooking ministry.

When I first became a vegetarian, the food that I would sometimes eat at our church members' homes I did not find very palatable. From being a meat eater, to eat such food was not easy. I remember one day when I struggled to finish a plate of food that I said to myself, if this is what being a vegetarian is all about then it will be a difficult life for me. I found the food to taste very bland and it was unpalatable.

However, when I got married, my husband started giving me some ideas of what to cook and how to cook. He is actually the one who taught me how to cook food like vegetables in a healthy way because I would boil vegetables for hours until they were brown in colour. He also taught me how to cook different meals and how to bake bread. I then started trying on my own. I also learned cooking from one sister in Kenya, and another in South Africa who we were sharing the mission house with. Every time I learned something new, I would immediately go home and try it. I would aim to cook it to taste more delicious than the person who had taught me.

Then I met Sister Chileshe from Zambia. She was in South Africa with her husband, pastor Chileshe who was working there at the time. She loaned me a cook book that was compiled by Sister Wendy Eaton called, *VEGETARIAN COOKING*. I tried different recipes from the book and I was very much encouraged. Later on I returned the book, and the Lord helped me to improve my cooking so that church

members who would taste my food on Sabbath or during camp meetings were appreciating my cooking. Later sister Leila McTavish sent me the cook-book while in Senegal. I use it to inspire myself.

My daughter used to like vegan Fries very much when we were in South Africa, but now when my husband was transferred to Senegal we could not find them. I started doing some research on the Internet for recipes to make vegan sausages and burgers. At first, the results were not very satisfying, but I did not give up. I would try to make them as simple, healthy and delicious as possible for my family.

Another thing that encouraged me to persevere with cooking was trying to help the people who came to the church health clinic asking for help with their health. My husband always puts them on a vegan or vegetarian, diet depending on their illness. Most of them would ask, "but what are we going to eat now? Not even fish? What about dry meat?" They try to negotiate with him and he would simply respond by saying it was not good for their health, and to try it for a few months. Some were stubborn and would refuse. I felt sorry for these people. I know what it is like being a vegetarian for the first time so I decided to help those who wanted to try. I wanted them to see that there are many other foods to eat besides meat. Vegetarian cooking is not difficult.

So now, whenever there is a patient who is told to become vegetarian, I volunteer to take them grocery shopping to show them what healthy food to buy. I show them how to read the labels on the foods, to know what to buy and what not to buy. I tell them about the danger of meat or fish and many other harmful foods. After shopping we will go to their house and I would cook about three to four different dishes while they are watching. This was a very big sacrifice for me, leaving my home and going to cook for another woman, and then coming back home and cooking again for my own family. It was hard but I really wanted to help.

Those that do not have time due to their busy schedules asked me to make videos for them, and that was when I decided to open my YouTube channel. We also added cooking lessons to our free health training sessions that we conduct twice a week. Those who are unable to come to lessons, and do not have means to watch on YouTube, I was helped by Sister Claire from Italy and Sister Marie-Christine from Greece to compile some French recipes for them.

It brings us much joy to see how happy the people are through the work the Lord has enabled us to do. On my Facebook page, "*Dorcas' Vegan Kitchen*" and on my



WhatsApp, I share pictures of the different dishes I make.

The demand for recipes increased. Every time I answered my phone there was one or two people asking for a recipe. The burden was becoming too much for me, and I told my husband that I did not think I could do it anymore. Writing recipes is not easy when you are trying to replace harmful things. He encouraged me to continue as it is a good work that was being done. He then gave me the idea of opening a WhatsApp group to put all the women on it so that when I share a recipe everyone gets it. It was a great idea and it is working very well up until today. The sisters were so happy to be learning how to make simple vegan food in an easy, delicious, and nutritious way. We have over 160 women in the group. Besides Reform women, we also have Adventist women who join us. The group is going well so far by the grace of God. There was high demand from the brothers that I open a group for men. I have done this. My next plan is to open a French group, because there is a demand from the French people also. I know this is going to be a lot of work again, but I trust that God will give me strength.

I have now opened a website where I share all my recipes. The website has recipes in both English and French. The web site is: www.dorcasvegankitchen.com

I thank God for this ministry of cooking. I had no idea it would grow this large. I started it to help people who were not members, but it ended up helping our own members also. There are people who have been in the church for a long time but are still struggling to cook food in a delicious and healthy way. I believe there are still many people like this in our church, especially in the villages. We need to have cooking seminars in the churches where men and women, young and old, come to learn how to cook; both members and interested souls.

Eating healthy does not mean eating food that is not attractive nor palatable, especially for children. When

people change their diet and lifestyle, it not only unclogs their arteries but it also unclogs their mind. Our spiritual health is dependent on our physical well-being.

I do this work on a volunteer basis to help others. It is my wish to meet people everywhere, to conduct cooking seminars. Many women have requested that I come to their country and teach them how to cook. Unfortunately, I do not have money to travel, but I am using the tools I have—the Internet. However there are many more people to reach, especially in the villages, who do not have Internet access.

I know many reformers who are not eating well because sometimes teachers of the truth spend more time teaching the theory of health reform and the practical part—the cooking science—is often neglected, and people are left to eat unbalanced or less nutritious meals at the expense of their health and vigor. Such people need help.

Read carefully the following statements from the Spirit of Prophecy:

“Every church . . . there should be schools of health, cooking schools, and classes in various lines of Christian help work. There should not only be teaching, but actual work under experienced instructors.” —*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 148–149

“The science of cooking is not a small matter. . . . This art should be regarded as the most valuable of all the arts, because it is so closely connected with life. It should receive more attention; for in order to make good blood, the system requires good food. The foundation of that which keeps people in health is the medical missionary work of good cooking.

“Often health reform is made health deform by the unpalatable preparation of food. The lack of knowledge regarding healthful cookery must be remedied before health reform is a success.” —*Child Guidance*, p. 372



“The diet reform should be progressive. As disease in animals increases, the use of milk and eggs will become more and more unsafe. An effort should be made to supply their place with other things that are healthful and inexpensive. The people everywhere should be taught how to cook without milk and eggs so far as possible, and yet have their food wholesome and palatable.” —*The Ministry of Healing*, 320–321

A vegan diet is very close to the standard of the Health Reform according to the light given by God through the Spirit of Prophecy. For this reason, I have chosen vegan recipes as a basis of my cooking. My family enjoys eating a vegan diet. Though not all vegan principles are Health Reform principles, I try by the grace of God to make recipes that are according to message of Health reform.

For those who would like to assist in any way they can. Your help and support are needed and would be appreciated. For those still who struggle with cooking healthy foods, you can join us in my WhatsApp group (+221 76 375 5706).

In closing, I wish to encourage many brothers and sisters to do their part wherever they are with whatever talent God has given to them. Let your little light shine brighter and brighter until the perfect day.

May God bless you! Your sister in Christ,

Dorcas Ndomba Luboya, Senegal

CHICKPEA VEGAN LOAF

This chickpea vegan loaf is very delicious and tasty. My children love it a lot. It is very easy to make and its ingredients are available in every country and local market. Give it a try and you will see how your family will also love it. Vegan food does not have to be bland and certainly does not have to be boring! If you have family members who eat meat, make this when they visit you and they will enjoy it.

This chickpea loaf is high in protein, fibre, iron, magnesium, Calcium, B vitamins and vitamin A.

INGREDIENTS

2 cups boiled chickpeas
1 cup boiled red kidney beans
1 cup roasted oats
½ cup whole wheat flour
1 large onion finely chopped
3 cloves garlic finely chopped
2 Tbsp nutritional yeast (optional)
1 tsp coriander powder
1 tsp fennel seeds
1 cup water
½ cup chopped almonds
2 Tbsp olive oil
Salt to taste.

SAUCE

3 Tbsp tomato paste
1 tsp lemon juice
Pinch of garlic powder
1 Tbsp olive oil



METHOD

Blend the chickpeas and red kidney beans in a blender. You can use a food processor also. If you do not have either you can mash your peas and beans using a fork or potato masher.

Transfer the chickpeas and beans to large mixing bowl.

Add the roasted oats and the remaining ingredients.

Stir with a large spoon until well mixed.

Press the loaf mixture into a prepared loaf pan, pushing down evenly with your hands.

Bake for 30 minutes.

While the loaf is baking, mix together the sauce ingredients in a small bowl.

After the loaf is baked, spread the sauce mixture evenly on top.

Return to the oven and bake for another 20 minutes.

Leave to cool for 10 minutes before slicing.

Enjoy!

How Do Divine Principles Promote Happiness? Part 3



As we have been learning, adhering to God's divine principles brings about happiness. "The true principles of Christianity open before all a source of happiness, the height and depth, the length and breadth of which are immeasurable." —*The Adventist Home*, p. 493

We will conclude this series of articles by looking at one final principle that contributes to a Christian's happiness.

GENEROSITY AND BENEVOLENCE

The world has become more selfish and self-centered. Many rarely go out of their way to help someone else unless there is some benefit for themselves. Companies are driven by profits more so than serving its customers. The mentality of "each person for themselves" appears to have taken a hold of society. And, people justify selfishness. The claim is that we cannot be helpful to others unless we take care of ourselves first. This is true to a degree, in that we need to ensure that we are healthy in order to be able to perform our life's duties, and that includes helping others. This form of self-care is not selfish or shallow; it is a really important part of a healthy lifestyle. But it is now taken to an extreme.

Self-centered people, having a "me-first, me-only" attitude, are solely focused on one's own wants and needs, with absolutely no consideration for others. People feel they need to be selfish because of competition for jobs, resources such as land, and basic necessities such as food and shelter; people are just "trying to survive." The unselfish person gets taken advantage of, and is left behind. So, people feel that they are forced to be selfish, and to keep their interests above everything and everyone else, to ensure that they have all they

need in order to survive in a world that does not have enough resources for its population.

What can we do to combat the natural urge towards selfishness? By definition, benevolence and generosity are the opposite of selfishness. Therefore, these characteristics are found in those who are considered unselfish. Generosity is a willingness to give to others more than they have reason to expect or a right to demand. Research has found that even a small amount of generosity towards others makes people happier. In fact, merely promising to be more generous is enough to trigger changes in an area of our brain that leads to greater happiness. We produce endorphins, which are brain chemicals associated with helping our mood, in other words, we feel happier. Being generous also increases one's ability to cope with physical pain and chronic diseases. Volunteering one's time has been associated with decreases in blood pressure, stomach acid, and cholesterol levels, while boosting the effectiveness of the immune system. An ongoing study at the University of Notre Dame has shown that those people who demonstrate more generosity tend to be emotionally happier, physically healthier, and to have a greater feeling of purpose and meaning in their lives.

Generosity may be expressed in many ways, in kind acts, in gifts, in doing good things for others, in volunteering one's time to help those in need. And in doing these acts, the giver expects nothing in return. This type of generosity is often referred to as benevolence. The definition of benevolence is "disposed to promote the prosperity and happiness of others; charitable." God is a God of love, pity, tenderheartedness and compassion, and He expects His children to exhibit the same charac-

teristics. Benevolence is more than giving money; it is a personal work that we do for others. "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction." James 1:27. The act of benevolence also benefits the giver, but only if nothing is expected in return. Once we expect something in return, even the receiver's gratitude, it diminishes the sense of wellbeing that our actions produce.

How do we develop this willingness to help others? Is it innate in human beings to give selflessly to those who are less fortunate than them? There are many philanthropists in this world, who give generously to charities, who help the poor and needy. But, often these people are ones who have more money than they will ever need in their lifetime; therefore, it is easy to give. Where do we find the true source of selflessness? When we understand the compassion and kindness given to us by our Heavenly Father in giving us much more than we deserve, in unconditional love towards sinners by giving His Son to die for us, we then will want to do the same for others in response for all that we have received. "He alone, for the selfish heart of sin, gives the new heart of love." *—Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 254

"The greatest sin which now exists in the church is covetousness. God frowns upon His professed people for their selfishness. . . . If they can help the servant of God just as well as not, they sometimes do it; but he is often left to pass on, and but little done for him. . . . The poisonous weed, covetousness, is so deeply rooted they let the servant of God leave them without administering of their temporal things. They have prized his wearing labour just as highly as they act." *—Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 2, p. 236

God knew how important it was for man's spiritual health to develop a spirit of willingness to give to others, in order to prevent the root of selfishness taking hold of men's hearts. "Our heavenly Father did not originate the plan of systematic benevolence to enrich Himself, but to be a great blessing to man. He saw that this system of beneficence was just what man needed." *—Christian Service*, p. 67

The children of Israel were directed to pay tithes to support the priests who ministered in the sanctuary. But, this was just a part of God's plan. Gifts and offerings were also specified, and the people were taught to be liberal both in sustaining the cause of God and in giving to the needy. "By this system of benevolence the Lord sought to teach Israel that in everything He must

be first." *—The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 337

Even the stranger in the land was to be taken care of. "If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth." Deuteronomy 15:7-8. "And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reapest, neither shalt thou gather any gleaning of thy harvest: thou shalt leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger: I am the LORD your God." Leviticus 23:22



God reminded His people, in His command to take care of the poor and strangers, of what He had done for them, in His generosity towards them. "I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage." Exodus 20:2

When we practice benevolence towards others, we also receive blessings in return. What does God promise us if we are generous in giving to Him and to others? "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Galatians 6:9-10. "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." Luke 6:38. "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove Me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Malachi 3:10. "Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase: so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall



burst out with new wine.” Proverbs 3:10. What wonderful promises in these verses! We never lose when we give our time, our money, and our means to others, to God’s cause. These promises reassure those who are willing to give, that they are actually gaining when they are generous in their tithes and offerings. I have had people tell me that they cannot afford to give any more to God, because they have little money themselves. Can we afford the loss of heaven with our selfishness?

When the rich young man approached Jesus, asking what good thing he can do to gain eternal life, Jesus told him to keep the commandments. When the young man replied that he had kept all from his youth up, Jesus gave him one more command. “If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow Me.” Matthew 19:21. At this, the young man “went away sorrowful.” Jesus knew that the young man’s possessions were holding him back from truly loving Him, and that these possessions meant more to him than salvation. Unless he was willing to give up his earthly treasures, to show kindness to others by giving from his wealth, he would never be able to lay up treasures in heaven. We may claim to keep all the commandments, but if we are selfish, there is no place for us in God’s kingdom. “The righteous considereth the cause of the poor; but the wicked regardeth not to know it.” Proverbs 29:7. “Take heed, and beware of covetousness, for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.” Luke 12:15

“Those who deny self to do others good, and who devote themselves and all they have to Christ’s service, will realize the happiness which the selfish man seeks for in vain.” –*Counsels for the Church*, p. 282

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, two people—a priest and a Levite—passed by the man who had been beaten, stripped of his clothing, and left for dead. They were considered leaders in Israel, men that were looked up to by others. But, what did they lack? They lacked mercy, kindness, and compassion. Jesus said to those who took care of the poor and needy, “Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me.” And to those who refused to give to the hungry, the thirsty, to the stranger without a home, Jesus pronounces a curse upon them. “Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.” Matthew 25:40–41

“He whose heart is aglow with the love of Christ will regard it as not only a duty, but a pleasure, to aid in the advancement of the highest, holiest work committed to man—the work of presenting to the world the riches of

goodness, mercy, and truth.” –*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 338

It is also known that the person giving the gift receives more benefits from the exchange than the person receiving the gift. And, why is this? It is based on the reason why we give gifts to each other. When we give to others because we love them and are thankful for what they mean to us, we appreciate the opportunity to express this care for them in the form of a gift. Does it matter what the gift is, how extravagant or costly? No, “it is not the greatness of the gift that makes the offering acceptable to God; it is the purpose of the heart, the spirit of gratitude and love that is expressed.” –*Christian Service*, p. 73

The widow had only two mites to give to the treasury, but Jesus commended her sacrifice as she gave “all that she had.” He compared her to the Pharisees who gave



from their excess, “of their abundance”, thus their offerings, presented with great ostentation so that all could see, were not a true sacrifice. Their motives were based on self-glory. “The poor widow who cast

her two mites into the Lord’s treasury, little knew what she was doing. Her example of self-sacrifice has acted and reacted upon thousands of hearts in every land and in every age.” –*Christian Service*, p. 171. The value of her gift was not based on the amount she gave, but by her love to God and her willingness to give for His cause.

“When the hearts of men are softened by the presence of the Spirit of God, they are more susceptible to the impressions of the Holy Spirit, and resolves are made to deny self and to sacrifice for the cause of God. It is when divine light shines into the chambers of the mind with unusual clearness and power, that the feelings of the natural man are overcome, that selfishness loses its power upon the heart, and that desires are awakened to imitate the Pattern, Jesus Christ, in practicing self-denial and benevolence. The disposition of the naturally selfish man then becomes kind and pitiful toward lost sinners, and he makes a solemn



pledge to God, as did Abraham and Jacob. . . . The love of God and love for souls triumph over selfishness and love of the world.” –*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 315

Our generosity should not only be in the larger gifts that we give when special offerings are requested, or in the energy that we put towards completing some grand project that occasionally requires great effort. We need to daily consider the needs of those around us if we are to develop characters fit for heaven. “God tests and proves us by the common occurrences of life. It is the little things which reveal the chapters of the heart. It is the little attentions, the numerous small incidents and simple courtesies of life, that make up the sum of life’s happiness; and it is the neglect of kindly, encouraging, affectionate words, and little courtesies of life, which helps compose the sum of life’s wretchedness. It will be found at last that the denial of self for the good and happiness of those around us, constitutes a large share of the life record in heaven.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 133

HAPPINESS IN OUR FUTURE HOME

Not only do acts of kindness, benevolence and self-sacrifice increase our happiness on this earth, if we are faithful in the performance of our duties, we are promised even greater happiness in the next world. “And the years of eternity, as they roll, will bring richer and still more glorious revelations of God and of Christ. As knowledge is progressive, so will love, reverence, and happiness increase.” –*The Adventist Home*, p. 548

We are now preparing for our home in eternity. The same principles that will be present in heaven will need to be present on this earth also, if we are to obtain this heavenly home. “In heaven none will think of self, nor seek their own pleasure; but all, from pure, genuine love, will seek the happiness of the heavenly beings around them. If we wish to enjoy heavenly society in the earth made new, we must be governed by heavenly principles here.” –*Counsels for the Church*, p. 80

We can also begin to experience the happiness of heaven while still on this earth. “Those who take Christ at His word, and surrender their souls to His keeping, their lives to His ordering, will find peace and quietude. Nothing of

the world can make them sad when Jesus makes them glad by His presence. . . . As through Jesus we enter into rest, heaven begins here. The

longer we are in this heaven of bliss, the more and still more of glory will be opened to us; and the more we know of God, the more intense will be our happiness. . . . But what is this compared with the hereafter?” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 331

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.” Revelation 21:4. Despite the promise of happiness in this life, if we follow Jesus, we all will have times of sorrow—we will lose loved ones, we will have trials, difficulties, people will hate us for His name’s sake. However, we do not need to allow these things to make us unhappy. Everything that we experience in this life is to prepare us for eternity. And to all those who are saved are given this wonderful promise, that in heaven, all tears will be wiped from their eyes.

The Spirit of Prophecy sums up the source of true happiness in one sentence: “If there is anyone who enjoys happiness, even in this life, it is the faithful follower of Jesus Christ.” –*Child Guidance*, p. 147. Our faithfulness will be reflected in our generosity in giving of ourselves to others. “Then said Jesus to His disciples, If any man

will come after Me, let Him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. . . . For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?” Matthew 16:24, 26



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CHILDREN'S CORNER:

“Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.” Romans 12:20

This following story will give an illustration of the true meaning of this Bible verse.

The red sun was just setting behind the rugged peaks of the Himalayan mountains in India. Their snow-capped edges were alive with colour. The little village of Chakdara, clinging to the hillside, was ablaze, too. But it was ablaze with excitement. Gopal, the only son of the Rajput, had disappeared. His father had not discovered his absence until evening because he thought he was tending the goats on the hillside.

For months there had been trouble in Gopal's family because he was a Christian. This seemed like a terrible disgrace to the proud father. He was a Rajput, a member of the ruling and fighting caste of India. Surely it couldn't be that his son had become a Christian. The landowner beat his son. He starved him. But Gopal would not change his mind. And now—now he was gone!

Samuel Stokes, the American, was also gone. He was a Christian missionary and had much to the poor. He spent much time in prayer as he went about preaching and teaching about the love of Jesus. He knew that many Indians would not listen to him. Samuel, though, loved his Indian friends and he wanted them to know his Saviour.



“The American is gone and so is my son is gone. They must have disappeared together,” thundered the Rajput. “We will find them.”

The Rajput and a large group of villagers left in the cold still night. They were determined to bring back the boy. But days later the weary hillmen straggled home, bitterly disappointed. They could not find Gopal.

Days passed without news. Weeks stretched into months but still no sign. The Rajput busied himself with his goats and small black oxen, but inside he nursed his anger. He would not forget!

Slowly the winter passed and the streams became swollen with the melting snows. Then news came. A peasant had seen Gopal in a village higher up the valley.

“The Rajput's son is at school in the plains,” reported the peasant. “The foreign missionary himself has baptized him a Christian. They say the boy is an excellent scholar. In four days' time the missionary will come to Bareri to see his friends at the house of the tea-planter's widow.”

The foreign missionary was coming! It was the Rajput's chance. He could scarcely wait. On the third day he gathered the men of the village and told them his plan.

“We will go to meet the missionary. By the widow's house we will lie in wait for him. The man who bewitched my son shall die.”

At dawn, armed with bamboo poles and knives, the hillmen left Chakdara. Gopal's cousin Ram was among the men as they scrambled down to the river, crossed the swaying bridge above its rushing waters, and climbed swiftly to the opposite slope. Nearing the road by which the missionary must come, they proceeded cautiously. One man went ahead alone, and then returned to re-

port.

“In the widow’s house are two missionaries. One is a foreigner, but not the one we seek. We must wait.”

The party hid among the pines below the bungalow. A few yards lower a watchman was stationed to give warning. Hour after hour they waited. The stillness of the mountains was broken only by the sound of the cattle bells among the pines. Dusk fell. Ram was beginning to grow restless when suddenly a dog barked in the distance. The hillmen seized their weapons. The next moment the watchman came running on noiseless feet.

“He is coming,” he whispered.

“Are you sure?” asked another.

“He is short, barefoot and is red-haired. I tell you, it is he!”

There was a tense pause, then with a wild shout the hillmen attacked. Men dashed from the bungalow. After a few moments of confusion, the hillmen fled, leaving the missionary on the ground with a terrible wound in his forehead.

Daring as it was, Ram remained behind the rest, determined to learn more about the missionary. Then he would take word to his uncle, the Rajput. Hiding near the inn, he hoped to overhear the men’s talk. His patience was rewarded and this is what he heard:

The police had been informed immediately. The missionary was not dead. For hours he had lain delirious while his friends nursed him continuously. What most impressed the villagers, however, were the missionary’s words as he regained consciousness.

Over and over he prayed, “Father, forgive them. . . . Father, forgive them.” Then he begged. “Don’t tell the police. Don’t tell the police.”

Ram could wait no longer. He must tell his uncle. As fast as he could, he made off through the pine forests, slipping over rocks and steep grassy slopes down to the river. Then up the winding path to Chakdara. But Ram was too late. The police had already raided the village, making many arrests. The Rajput and his men were taken miles away to the prison at Simla.

Snatching a bit of food, Ram was off again. This time he was going to the prison at Simla. He must know what was happening. He ran along the winding mountain track. Above him were the brilliant stars. The first golden sunbeams crept over the ridges and down into the deep valleys just as he entered Simla. For days Ram watched the police station, not daring to ask questions. He might

be recognized. Somehow he managed to keep himself alive, getting work and food as best he could. One day while he hovered outside the courtroom, the door opened, and out walked the Rajput and his men. They were free! As they took the road which led to Chakdara, they told Ram their story.

“The missionary himself pleaded for us. Unable to walk, he was carried by stretcher from Bareri. Eighty kilometres! He saw the deputy commissioner not once or twice, but many times. And now we are free. The deputy commissioner was angry and threatened us, but he released us, every one.”

That night the village buzzed with talk. Why had the missionary risked his life to plead for the men who tried to kill him? Why did Gopal want to leave them to become a Christian? No one could give the answers.

Years passed. One day Gopal and the missionary returned to Chakdara. Again the village was ablaze with excitement but this time there was rejoicing in Gopal’s home. Now the Rajput and the hillmen were eager to listen to the missionary as he told them about his Saviour. The good news spread quickly and it was not long until the whole village had heard about the Master.

“Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”
Romans 12:21

Although you may not be a foreign missionary who has enemies that want to kill you, you may meet bullies at school or at work. I was told by a friend how there was a bully in her son’s school who everyone feared. One day her son said he did not even want to go to school. My friend gave her son a package of chewing gum and told him to go and give that to the big bully. At first her son recoiled. There was no way he was going to do that. But his mother insisted. So he finally agreed. Later when he came home from school, he told his mother that he had done so. And that the bully was very thankful and grateful and said no one had done something so nice to him. The bully then decided that my friend’s son would be one of his best friends and promised to defend him if anyone tried to hurt him.

Many people act badly because they are sad and lonely and do not know Jesus. If we show them kindness and the love of Jesus, these people can turn away from their bad behavior and learn good behavior through the love of Jesus.

This is what it means to heap coals of fire on the heads of your enemies. Go forward in the name of Jesus and be a true missionary for Him.

FINLAND



BENIN



Western Field Conference, Oregon USA



Above: Michael and Yonka Mitov (Vancouver, Canada), with American Union President, Elder Idel Suarez, Jr.

Left top: (from Left) Martha Knight (Denver), Sandra Elias, (California)

Left Bottom: (from Left) Talana and Jeffery Johnson (Denver), Aracely and Sandra Elias, Amos Hernandez (California)



“God, the great Architect, has built these lofty mountains, and their influence upon climate is a blessing to our world. They draw from the clouds enriching moisture. Mountain chains are God’s great reservoirs, to supply the ocean with its water. These are the sources of the springs, rills, and brooks, as well as the rivers. They receive, in the form of rain and snow, the vapors with which the atmosphere is charged, and communicate them to the parched plains below.

“We should look upon the irregular mountains of the earth as God’s fountains of blessings from which flow forth the waters to supply all the living creatures. Every time I look upon the mountains I feel gratitude to God.” – *Our High Calling*, p. 253