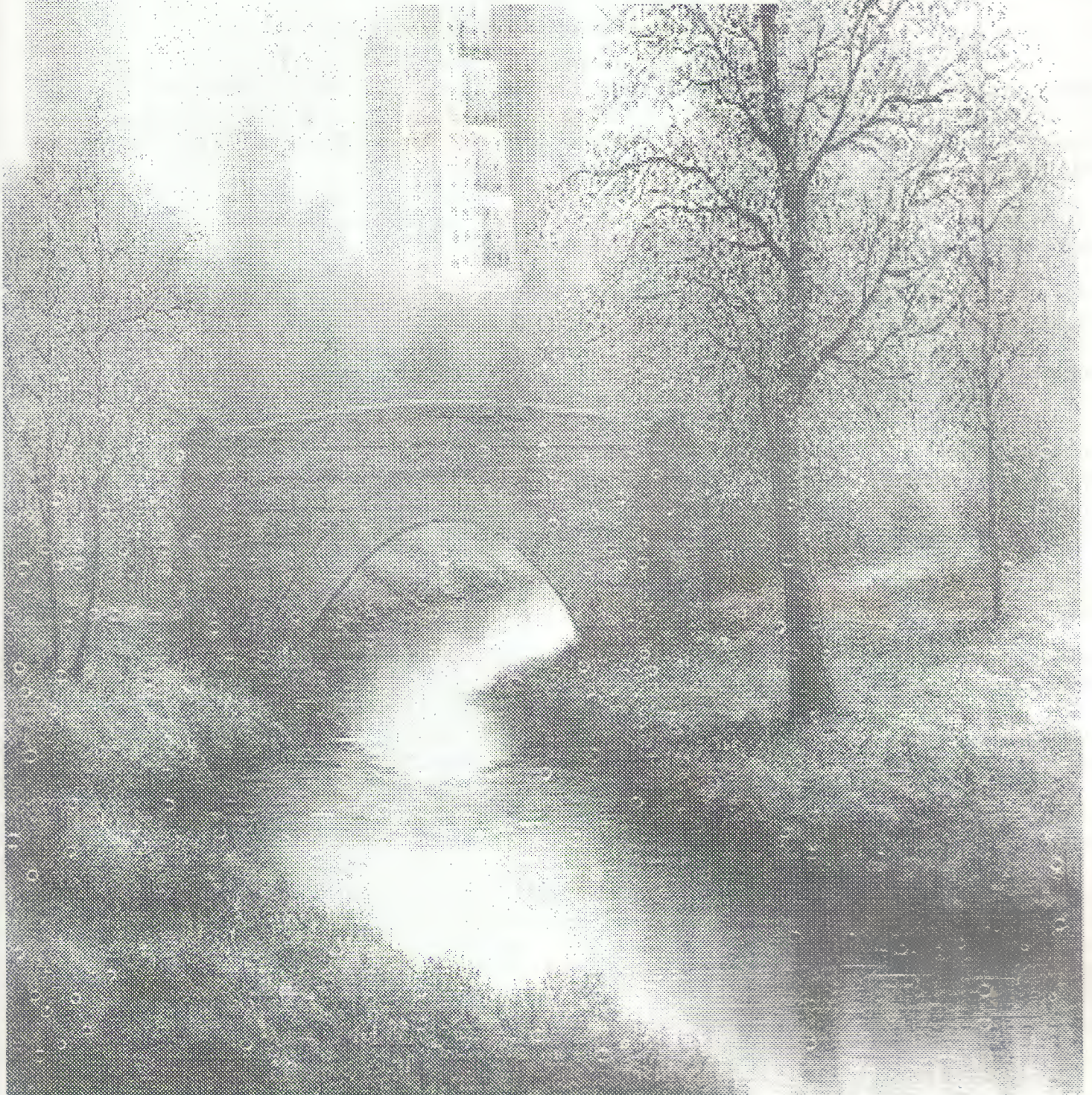


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CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

PART 10

CONDITIONS FOR RECEIVING CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

Are there conditions that we must fulfill in order to receive Christ's righteousness?

We read that, "There is not one in one hundred who understands for himself the Bible truth on this subject (justification by faith) that is so necessary to our present and eternal welfare." Rev. & Her., Sept. 3, 1889

Why so few only understood it?

Without understanding it we cannot receive it. Without Christ's righteousness there is no forgiveness of sins, neither justification. Since we cannot buy it, neither earn it, there must be another way for receiving it. The Apostle Paul gives us the answer: "Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is not difference." Romans 3: 22.

"What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith." Romans 9: 30.

Faith is the answer. By faith we can attain to the righteousness of Christ. "The only way in which we can attain to righteousness is through faith." 1 Selected Messages, p.367.

The old Israel kept the commandments outwardly. They kept the Sabbath, and paid their tithes and observed the letter of the law, yet we read that they did not have faith.

"For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. But with whom was He grieved forty years? Was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? And to whom sware He that they should not enter into His rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief." Hebrews 3: 16-19.

Only two adults of that vast army of Israel entered into the promised land. All others perished in the wilderness because of unbelief.

The disciples of Jesus were chosen by Him to be messengers of the gospel at the later date. He had taught them diligently yet Jesus had to tell them that they had no faith.

"And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And He was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake Him, and say unto Him, Master, carest Thou not that we perish? And He arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?" Mark 4: 37-40.

The lack of faith made the disciples fearful. Revelations 21: 4 tells us that the fearful are the first ones to be cast into the lake of fire. Jesus told the disciples that because of their lack of faith they could not cast out the evil spirit from the lunatic son. And He continued, "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.

Faith means believing in miracles by the power of God. When the Israelite people crossed the river Jordan they went on in faith. The feet of the priests touched the water and then the miracle took place. If they had waited on the land for the waters to divide it would have never happened. But they went on in faith without seeing their way clear, and then the miracle took place. Peter stepped off the ship believing that the water will support him so that he can walk on it. Sister White was sitting in the train ready to travel without ticket or money. Just before the train left money was provided for her. These examples show us the true faith, believing that a miracle will happen before it does.

By this kind of faith we will receive Christ's righteousness. We cannot play with God. He has purchased our salvation through immense cost and has offered to us faith which works through love. If we lightly esteem it and do not practice it, we will lose our faith and our salvation. What remains then is only the form of godliness; faith that is dead.

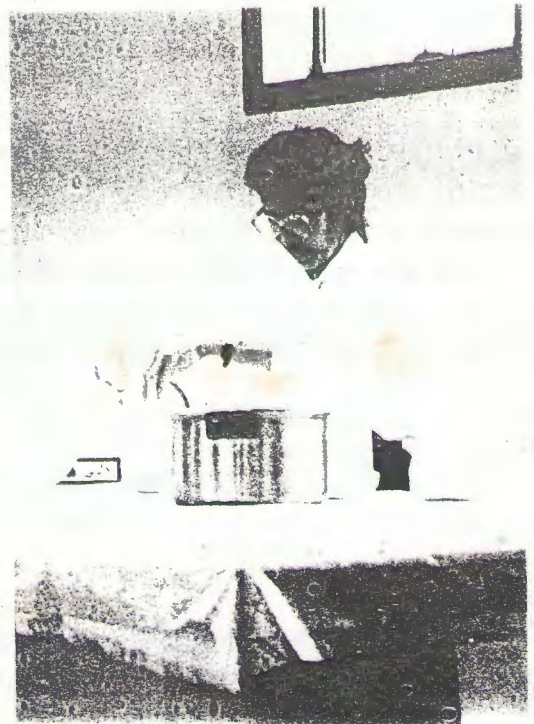
On the other hand, we have the wonderful promise of faith that will grow into greater faith. "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith." Romans 1: 17.

The just man will live by faith. He will remain righteous in his daily walk with God. Nothing is impossible to him, he is able to move mountains. This is the gift of God, offered to us freely yet many as the woman at the well are ignorant of it. Jesus said to the woman at the well, "If thou knewest the gift of God... thou wouldst have asked Him, and He would have given thee living water." John 4: 10.

Let us hunger and thirst after this gift of God and we will be filled with righteousness. AMEN.



Wendy Eaton demonstrating at the cooking class in Vancouver



Rosario Conde demonstrating at the cooking class in Toronto



NATURAL TREATMENTS

NATURAL HEALING

(CONT)

"Drug medication, as it is generally practiced, is a curse. Educate away from drugs. Use them less and less, and depend more upon hygienic agencies; then nature will respond to God's physicians - pure air, pure water, proper exercise, a clear conscience." CH, E. G. White p. 261

HERBS

"WHY USE HERBS? They are Nature's remedies, and have been put here by an all-wise Creator. There is an herb for every disease that a human body can be afflicted with. The use of herbs is the oldest medical science. Herbs were mentioned in the Bible from the beginning of creation. Much has been written about herbs all down through history, to the present day." BE p.168

"Even modern 20th century medical science, after being contemptuous of herbal medicine for decades, is now turning "back to nature" and is engaged in world-wide research of old-time herbal remedies There is not a single disease in man that does not have a corresponding remedy or cure in some herb, root, bark or other botanical medicine. As it is said, "for every disease there is a cure," and this cure was given to man by a wise and loving Creator right in his close environment - in the plant kingdom. It behooves us to learn about and use these God-given herbal remedies to cure our ills." HGW p. 234, 235

Herbs can be taken in tea, capsules from the health food store, or in salves (an extract of herbs in a base that will keep them in contact with your skin). When taking herbs you may add a little honey, but never sugar, and "never take drugs when taking herbs. The two do not work together." BE, p. 373

MASSAGE

"Massage is a systematic rubbing and manipulating of the body. Massage prevents stiffness, promotes circulation, and brings health and tone. By massage the muscles are exercised as fully as possible without exhaustion, and the blood is propelled to greater activity.

Massage is one of the most valuable of remedial measures. When used in combination with water, it accomplishes amazing results. It assists in building of the blood and rebuilding of the tissues in general." BE p. 139

A self massage or stimulation of your skin can be given while taking a shower with a rough loofa sponge.

MEGA VITAMINS

"Many avant-garde practitioners around the world are now using vitamins in massive doses, doses that are far above the actual nutritional needs, in the treatment of all kinds of conditions of ill health. It has been found that in large doses many vitamins have a miraculous healing, stimulating and/or protective effect on a variety of body functions - an effect that is totally different from the usual vitamin activity as nutritional and metabolic catalysts." HGW p. 205

WATER

"Water treatments are not appreciated as they should be, and to apply them skilfully requires work that many are unwilling to perform ... There are many ways in which water can be applied to relieve pain and check disease. All should become intelligent in its use in simple home treatments." MH, by E.G. White p. 237

"...if those who are afflicted would assist nature in her efforts by the use of pure, soft water, much suffering would be prevented. But many, instead of doing this, and seeking to remove the poisonous matter from the system, take a more deadly poison into the system, to remove poison already there....."
CH, by E. G. White, p. 62

a) Therapeutic baths.

i) Hot & Cold Shower- Alternating hot and cold showers have a great stimulating effect on all body functions, but particularly the adrenal and endocrine glands, and they also reactivate their functions. "They are an excellent means of revitalizing skin activity and improving circulation."

ii) Sitz Bath - HOT: "The hot sitz bath is beneficial for relieving pain and inflammation in the reproductive organs and other organs of the pelvic region. The water should be as hot as can be borne comfortably and the duration of the bath should be 10 - 15 min."

COLD: "The cold sitz bath has a stimulating and invigorating effect on the reproductive organs and spine." It has a rejuvenative effect which results in increasing the blood circulation to the vital centres. The water should be about 50-65 degrees F. and the duration of the bath from about 3 - 5 min. "After the bath, rub yourself warm with a coarse towel."

ALTERNATE HOT AND COLD: "The alternate hot-and-cold sitz bath has a great therapeutic value in most internal disorders. Not only organs and glands of the pelvic regions are stimulated and revitalized, but practically all body functions are beneficially affected. This bath is especially beneficial for all who have lowered vitality." HGW p. 238

You can use your regular tub at home for a hot or cold sitz bath. Fill the tub about 8 inches or a little less than half full and sit in it with your knees drawn up. For an alternate hot and cold sitz bath, two tubs are required.

iii) Cold Shower - "A cold shower treatment has a special tonic-like magic of exerting a rejuvenative and healing effect on the entire system. It stimulates circulation and increases muscle and nerve force. It stimulates the entire glandular system. It improves digestion and speeds up general metabolism. It will increase resistance to infections and colds, if used regularly. It has a powerful influence on the central nervous system, on the brain and on all the vital organs of the body. It increases the blood count, as shown in actual studies. It has an electro-magnetic effect on the body, stimulating the flow of life energies and increasing the intake of oxygen." HGW p. 239

iv) Sauna - The specific purpose of the sauna bath is to induce profuse, therapeutic sweating. "The skin is our largest eliminative organ - 'the third kidney.' It is generally considered that the skin should eliminate 30 percent of the body wastes by way of perspiration. Due to lack of physical work and an overly sedentary life, the skin of most people today has degenerated as an eliminative organ, since it is of vital importance that the eliminative activity of the skin is revitalized. Taking sauna or steam baths regularly, once or twice a week, will help to restore and revitalize the cleansing activity of the skin." HGW P. 242

v) Mineral Baths - "Hot mineral baths have a curative effect on virtually every disease in the medical book but particularly rheumatic and arthritic conditions, diseases of the heart and circulation, nervous disorders, skin conditions and disease of old age and senility." Above quotes taken from HGW p. 237 - 240

Sea water, with its salt, is extremely rich in all the beneficial minerals. It has the greatest curative power of all living waters. Minerals are absorbed through the skin and while ocean bathing you can receive many important minerals even by inhaling the mineral rich air by the seashore.

b) Compresses and Fomentations.

You can give therapeutic baths to certain parts of the body like leg, foot, arm, eye, ear, nose, etc. These baths, called compresses and fomentations, are local applications of hot or cold or both, to relieve pain and increase circulation to specific areas of the body. A compress is much smaller than a fomentation, consisting of several folds of cloth to heal and soothe small parts of the body whereas a fomentation covers larger areas such as the chest or spine. Fomentation packs can be obtained from orthopedic suppliers.

Hot compresses/fomentations can be used for various other illnesses for example, to break congestion in your chest. Cold compresses can be used to relieve headaches. Sprains and strains can also be relieved by cold compresses for the first 24 hours after the injury, then apply hot compresses (or perhaps alternating short hot and cold)

c) Poultice.

A Poultice consists of several folds of cloth saturated with different herbs (in tea form or granulated form) and then applied to the wound. It must be warm.

This is a just a brief overview about some of the natural treatments that are available. We encourage you to do more study for yourself especially if your health is not as good as it should be. If you do have good health the knowledge will be a blessing for you in ministry to others.

In the Bible there are many instances where natural remedies were used. Christ healed a blind man using clay and water (John 9:1,3,7), and Namaan was healed by washing in the Jordan. These cures could be wrought by the divine power of the Great Healer only, yet He wanted to make use of the simple agencies of nature. Thus He sanctioned the use of simple natural remedies. Isaiah also used a natural remedy to heal Hezekiah (Isaiah 38:21). "And we should teach others how to preserve and to recover health. For the sick we should use the remedies which God has provided in nature, and we should point them to Him who alone can restore." DA p. 824

BE refers to the book - Back to Eden, by Jethro Kloss
HGW refers to the book - How to Get Well, by Paavo Airola

Organization

"For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. Let all things be done decently and in order." 1 Cor. 14: 33,

"The God of heaven is a God of order, and He requires all His followers to have rules and regulations, and to preserve order." Test. Vol. 5. p. 274.

To maintain order in the church, the church manuals and the Principles of Faith have been printed which are based on the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy teachings.

The organization done by Moses is an example to us today. "Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens." Exodus 18: 21.

We also have different levels of organization; local churches, fields, unions and the General Conference. Each level have their distinct work and are not to interfere with each other but rather respect the other levels. The local churches have full right to call meetings together and do missionary efforts without asking permission from the higher level. David was a man of war but he did not touch King Saul because he was the Lord's anointed to the office. He had respect to Saul because of his office.

"And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves." 1 Thes. 5: 12-13.

The new church manual will soon be printed which has many changes. The old church manual and the Principles of Faith book are outdated and will not be printed any more. As the knowledge is increasing, the church principles and the manuals also must be changed accordingly. Recently we received a letter from the General Conference indicating that the Field President does not need to be an ordained minister but a lay member can fill this position. Our members need to be educated as to these changes to avoid any confusion.

The sin of Korah was not against the doctrines of the church but against the order in the church. His punishment was equal to the seriousness of his sin as God looked upon it.

What is the difference between the unbelieving mind and the believing mind?

If you ask many people in this our day of great intellectual light about the dark ages- you might just get a blank stare. So many people today haven't even heard of the dark ages or know what they're about. In fact, most people in North America and Europe don't even know why the pilgrims came to North America any longer. Why? Because it has been deleted from the children's school books. Or they may say, "Oh, you mean when the church oppressed the masses and the Pope reigned supreme"? Yes, indeed we can say - that's part of the story. But to most folks the Roman Catholic Church is the only church - they don't know any other. And they certainly don't know that the basic reason behind the Renaissance in Europe, was because of godly men and women who stood up at the peril of their lives to defend truth and righteousness. Because of their moral courage and bravery in buying back from the forces of darkness some freedom of speech and assembly, society was helped tremendously. What's more than that: they won back from the forces of apostasy the basic human right to believe the way the Holy Spirit leads you to believe - the freedom of conscience.

Just like Martin Luther standing before one of the most grand assemblies of all time declaring with the open Bible in his hands that in matters of conscience the majority has no power. Isn't that beautiful?

But we know that in this great day of intellectual light we will yet see how the forces of spiritual darkness can again triumph. How can this happen, You may say? In this great day of intellectual freedom, how can anyone presume to infringe upon the right of another to believe the way that he wants to? Don't we have just about every possible belief under the sun out there, now?

Well, yes indeed we do have just about every possible belief under the sun out there, but that in itself is part of the problem. Because the powers that be in this world are allowing every outlandish, weird and horrible practice to bring our society to anarchy so that they can do anything in the name of the emergency.

1.) Let's examine what the heathenish mind is:

a.) "Hear ye the word which the Lord speaketh unto you, O house of Israel: Thus saith the Lord, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain; for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. Jer. 10:1-3 A real focus on outward, carnal things to give satisfaction to the human pride and ego, isn't it? Of course, at the end of the year many people are doing exactly this, aren't they? Their only religion is focused on the tree that they have set up to gratify the eye and carnal, human pride.

2.) Now why are those verses mentioned before the ones about worshipping the tree? I submit to you, that it is because this is exactly another fruit of the heathenish or unbelieving mind - looking at the things of nature as ends in themselves, omens and causes for interpreting around the plain word of God. How is your faith today? Could we answer with the Psalmist in Psalm 46: 1-3. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof." That's the difference of the believing mind. (What a challenge, isn't it?)

b.) Let's take another example: Simon Magus "But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries. But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done. Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost; (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity. Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me." (Acts 8:9-24)

He thought that he could buy the power of the Holy Spirit with money-but perhaps the Lord graciously impressed his heart with what was truly important because he said, finally, "Pray to the Lord that none of those things that you have mentioned will befall me."

3.) Now let's examine what the believing mind has as its response to the tests and trials of this life: "Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father: and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believe on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." John 14:8-13. You see, Phillip was slow of heart to believe, that's for sure-but he came around to belief. The Lord Jesus was so patient and gentle with him. The Lord never needlessly spoke a word to cause pain. He uttered scathing rebukes over Jerusalem, His own city, but there were tears in His voice. He didn't censure human weakness, but always encouraged his followers to a higher course.

And later in Philip's life we find him witnessing to the Ethiopian eunuch on the Gaza road-Acts 8:26-40. What an example of bold, incredible faith-this kind of faith will lead God's people to claim His promises in obedience and do the great things that Jesus promised that we would do.

a.) Now there was another famous incident on a road that led the most staunchly anti-christian persecutor to become the greatest and most able defender of the way of the cross. In the very next chapter of Acts we see Saul-the promising young member of the Sanhedrin off on his appointed mission to compel Christians to blaspheme or kill them. Not too nice a job, was it? But Saul loved it. No doubt he was proud, ambitious: upwardly mobile in Jewish society. And then the Lord Jesus appeared to him on the Damascus road. Well, we know the story. Acts 9:1-6. And what was the response of the believing mind? He certainly wasn't looking for any outward stimulus to show him the

way of the Lord-he stayed fasting for three days so he could focus on the voice of the Holy Spirit clearly. vs. 7-9

What was Saul's response after his baptism? vs. 19,20 (The Lord had him take some food to strengthen his body and immediately he started to strengthen his soul by sharing the faith with others.)

Now do you know where Saul first came to be known as Paul? Well, I think that incident has something to say in this topic.... It wasn't when he was ordained in case you were wondering...."And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar-jesus: Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand. Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord." Acts 13:6-12.

The Holy Spirit gave the Apostle Paul a mighty, believing mind that claimed the promises of God in obedience so he could be bold as a lion.

To the same degree that Saul, the persecutor was of service in the powers of darkness, he had to become a servant to the kingdom of light. Anything that needed to be done, anything that needed to be given-whether money or time or the powers of mind and heart and will-the Apostle Paul gave it all. What does the Lord ask us to give up when He asks for our hearts? Not much, just a lot of uncleanness and ugliness. So when we give our all to His service, we will become more responsible, more balanced, more loving and lovable people.

In conclusion: The main reason why the believing mind is more powerful and stable than the unbelieving mind is not just because there is something to believe as compared to the continual questioning of the doubtful, unbelieving mind. There may be a slowness of heart at first - that's okay - the Lord understands how we have been used to focusing on outward things and will give us evidence on which we can rest our faith. Then He appeals to our sense of reason to unite our wills to His wills. He draws us with loving-kindness that has basically nothing human with which to compare. **No, the main reason why the believing mind is more powerful and stable than the unbelieving mind is because of the power of the truth. God's truth is always true and will be true on every level.**

"And when they were escaped, then they knew that the island was called Melita. And the barbarous people shewed us no little kindness: for they kindled a fire, and received us every one, because of the present rain, and because of the cold. And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand. And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live. And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm. Howbeit they looked when he should have swollen, or fallen down dead suddenly: but after they had looked a great while, and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds, and said that he was a god." Acts 28:1-6 Isn't this just like the carnal, unbelieving human mind? First, think he is suffering under some kind of divine punishment and then worship him as a god?

The Lord will give His own balance and grace to those who are choosing to serve Him everyday. The believing mind will become powerful to discern first and then to do God's will in all things. May the Lord God help us to be not faithless, but believing. AMEN

By Jerry Eaton

What is a Void Conscience?



First, let's define conscience: "What is conscience", asked a Sabbath School teacher of her junior Sabbath School class. Several of the children answered, some one thing and some another until a little timid child spoke out: "It is Jesus whispering in our hearts". Isn't that a good definition? Jesus whispering in our hearts.

Now let's see about this void conscience in Acts 24:16. "And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men." A conscience void of offence toward God and man-that is what is truly of value-is it not? Regretfully, so many people have the other kind of conscience-an empty conscience-because they have not stored their minds with the things of God, but rather with the things of self.

An empty conscience, you say? How could that be? Wouldn't that be very dangerous? Yes, but this is exactly what Eastern Religions, chanting or speaking in tongues will do for you. Oh, these techniques may even be lauded as a great way to relax, unwind or find peace-but what did Jesus say happens when you leave your spiritual house empty, swept and garnished? Yes, seven unclean spirits worse than the first come and take possession of the house..

You see, man naturally doesn't want to think for himself. As the saying goes:" it is hard to think, it is harder to think about how you're thinking and it is the hardest to think about why you're thinking what you're thinking". And man certainly doesn't want to stand on his own looking for God's help-but rather to a Doctor, College Professor or some authority figure to tell us what to think, how to feel, what to buy, and so on. How to direct our conscience, in other words. Years ago, the King of Poland had advisers that were urging him to pass a law restricting religious liberty in Poland. Upon hearing this advice from his counsellors, he replied, "God gave me the title: King of Poland-God is the King of men's consciences."

In fact, the ironic thing about human nature is that once something goes wrong-no matter how high an authority that person is , everyone wants to pass the blame along to someone else. Doesn't that just show how small a person that authority really is? Have you ever heard of the saying, "Passing the Buck"?-meaning passing the blame along like everybody is in a habit of doing? I sort of like what President Harry Truman put on his desk-have you heard about it? There was a little sign that said, "The Buck stops here." In fact, I submit to you that to the same degree a person will try to keep their conscience clean in their own human strength, in other words to shirk their responsibility, to that same degree they will play the blame game in trying to justify themselves by accusing someone else when something goes wrong.

The famous Indian man, Gandhi once said, "Only small men cannot forgive. It is an expression of strength to forgive." Isn't it also an expression of strength to not blame?

Think about the way people are educated in just about every University and College in the land. Aren't they encouraged to have the mind-set to question everything but themselves? In Christianity, the mind set is exactly the opposite: We are to question ourselves every day and make sure of our standing with God every day. "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? 2 Cor. 13: 5. "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong." 1.Cor. 16:13 How do you understand these

words? What I believe that they mean is that we are to look to God and His answers higher than any other source. Sometimes that will mean that we will have to completely ignore the impressions that our senses are bringing to us.

Will our faith be great enough to even deny our senses? That is the real question that the Lord is trying to settle for us when He allows us to go through trials. If we could just remember that through any negative circumstance, if we hold onto His outstretched hand then we can afford to be cheerful, positive Christians. Then it will be also that we can have rightly directed consciences-without offence to God or man.

We hear so much about letting our consciences be our guide in modern-day religion, don't we? "Get away with anything," those popular preachers are saying, "just let your conscience be your guide". What absurd nonsense! How in the world can unenlightened human conscience be trusted to be our guide? In fact, the only way that we have any hope to see what God's will truly is for us, is if we always keep Him ever before us. "For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." James 1: 23-25

God's commandments are given to the life of His Son in us, consequently to the human nature in which His Son has been formed, His commandments are difficult, but immediately as we obey they become beautifully easy.

Conscience is that faculty in me which attaches itself to the highest that I know, and tells me what the highest I know demands that I do. It is the eye of the soul which looks out either towards God or towards what it regards as the highest, and therefore conscience records differently in different people. If I am in the habit of steadily facing myself with God, my conscience will always introduce God's perfect law and indicate what I should do. The point is, will I obey? I have to make an effort to keep my conscience so sensitive that I walk without offence. I should be living in such perfect sympathy with God's Son, that in every circumstance the spirit of my mind is renewed, and I "understand at once what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

God always educates us down to the principle. Is my ear so open to hear the tiniest whisper of the Spirit that I know what I should do? "Grieve not the Holy Spirit." He does not come with a voice like thunder; His voice is so gentle that it is easy to ignore it. The one thing that keeps the conscience sensitive to Him is the continual habit of being open to God on the inside. When there is any uncertainty, quit that track. If you have to ask, "Why shouldn't I do this?" you are on the wrong track. There is no uncertainty possible when conscience speaks. At your peril, you allow one thing to obscure your inner communion with God. Drop it, whatever it is, and see that you keep your inner vision clear.

As a part of this worship of human will and conscience going on in society today, we often hear that Jesus was the most self-realized person that ever lived-is that true? Think about it...A self-realized person would have only a void conscience, not a conscience void of offence. Why do I say that? Because a person who is realizing only the self: self-will, self-endeavor, or even self-abasement is doing everything they can to empty their conscience of their offences-everything that is, except to turn aside from that sin. The merely self-realized person will justify self, excuse self, pamper self and reward self. It is only the God-realized person who can be kind in the face of unkindness and love even the unloveable. Why? Because he is making sure he's doing God's will for himself everyday-regardless of what other people are doing....

"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Prov. 14:12 Isn't that true more than ever today? Every type of religious system or belief to quiet the conscience and keep it going the way of self. How does the New Testament put this same thought? "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition,

upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry." 1 Cor. 10:11-14

Finally, there is coming a time when only those who have been sanctified through obedience to the truth will be able to deny a world's frown in order to win the heavenly crown. Another aspect of this is being free in our conscience even to the point of taking God at his word when Satan works his lying wonders. G.C. 559-60 We must have a conscience void of offence if we would withstand Satan's lies now or anytime in the future.

The initiative of the Christian is not towards self-realization, but towards knowing Jesus Christ. The Christian never believes circumstances to be haphazard, or thinks of his life as secular here and sacred there; he sees everything he is dumped down in as the means of securing the knowledge of Jesus Christ. There is a reckless abandonment about him. The Holy Spirit is determined that we shall realize Jesus Christ in every domain of life, and he will bring us back to the same point again and again until we do. Self-realization leads us to the enthronement of work; whereas the Christian enthrones Jesus Christ in his work. Whether it be eating or drinking or washing disciples' feet, whatever it is, we have to take the initiative of realizing Jesus Christ in it. Every phase of our actual life has its counterpart in the life of Jesus. Our Lord realized His relationship to the Father even in the most menial work. "Jesus knowing that He was come from God, and went to God...took a towel...and began to wash the disciples' feet."

The aim of the Christian is "that I may know Him." Do I know Him where I am today? If not, I am failing Him. I am here not to realize myself, but to know Jesus. In Christian work the initiative is too often the realization that something has to be done and I must do it. That is never the attitude of the spiritual Christian, his aim is to secure the realization of Jesus Christ in every set of circumstances he is in.

A great steamship left Liverpool, England bound for New York some years ago. The voyage passed without incident until the Navigator took out his compass and sextant to figure their location. According to his reading, he figured they were still about 200 miles off the rocks of Nantucket. Just then, the sentry shouted out "Land Ho" whereupon the Captain looked and saw that they were only 2 ship-lengths away from the rocks. He called for full stop and even had to reverse the engines. And then they started to investigate how the Navigator could have gotten such a wrong reading. Well it seems that before leaving Liverpool there had been a stove installed up on the bridge. A carpenter had driven a nail a little too close to the compass which had thrown off its reading.

You see, conscience is the needle of the compass. Some little secret sin or perhaps a big sin is the nail. The conscience will be deflected from right by any sin, great or small and will surely wreck its possessor upon the rocks of eternal ruin.

In conclusion, if we would be saved at last we must continually exercise our consciences to discern between good and evil. The Lord knows how close to the pathway of good evil is becoming and he also knows that without the Holy Spirit we will be hopeless to keep a clear conscience before God and man. May the Lord help us to build upon the sure foundation of His love and His law so that we can share His goodness with others. And in sharing His goodness with others we only can be clear from their blood in the time of judgment. Truly Lord, help us to have a clear conscience before Thee....Amen.

**SDA Church Reform Movement
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What burdens should young people bear?

It is very important that we have the mind occupied with work that will help us to improve our intellectual, physical and spiritual being. It is good that parents encourage their children to read, especially the Bible. This will prepare them to become men and women of good principles and be a good testimony. I remember the story of a young boy who was always repeating this statement, "When I grow up, I will study at the school of the prophets." He was told this from his parents and every teaching from the Bible was taught to him very carefully. We have this message to bear and share with others and not to keep it for ourselves, otherwise what happened to the man in Matthew 25: 28-30 will happen to us. "Take therefore the talent from him and give it unto him which hath ten talents. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness..." Our crown will be given to another.

When we put in our mind to do all what Jesus asks of us, and if we follow it we will be mightily blessed in every effort that we make to advance the second coming of Christ. For this we must work daily.

But why is it that so many young people are backsliding? Sis. White writes in the book Messages to Young People, p. 239, "They have not felt the importance of being faithful in the little things, nor have they felt under obligation to their parents to be true." Joseph was his father's chosen because he bore every responsibility that Jacob gave him. Even when he asked him to go and check up on his brothers, knowing that they despised him.

We young people will receive strength through missionary work. But for this we must take a stand and say like Paul, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4: 13.

Let us pray to God that He may give us strength to bear all the responsibilities that will help us to reach the crown of glory. May this be our wish and prayer in Jesus name. AMEN.

Your brother in Christ,

George A. Williams R.

Asleep in Jesus

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord." Rev. 14: 13.

Our dear sister Enid Doreen Williams passed away on the 23rd of May 1996 at the age of 76. For more than a year she suffered a weakened condition and finally she was admitted to the hospital where a week later she passed away peacefully.

She was born in Guyana in 1920 and moved to Canada in 1983; soon after she joined our church in Toronto. She was a faithful member and always cheerful, with a permanent smile on her face. Those who knew her best will miss her most.

She left behind one brother and one sister, five children and fifteen grandchildren, as well as sixteen great-grandchildren.

At the funeral service, Brother Timo Martin spoke words of comfort and directed the minds to the blessed hope which is before us; the coming of the Lord when the graves will open and the dead in Christ shall rise. Then we shall meet our dear sister Doreen again, never to be parted any more. Brother Raul Escobar spoke of the condition of the dead and the service was finished by comforting words by Brother Kanagarajah.



Participants of the cooking class in Toronto

1997 WORLD ASSEMBLY

of the
International Missionary Society
Seventh-day Adventist Church Reform Movement
to be held

Monday, July 7, to Sabbath, August 9, 1997
in Ellecom and Doesburg, Holland



General Conference Delegates' Session

Monday, July 7, 1997
to Friday, August 1, 1997

Dutch Field Headquarters
Ellecom, Holland

International Youth Conference

Monday, August 4, 1997
to Tuesday, August 5, 1997

Martinikerk
Doesburg, Holland

General Conference Public Meetings

Wednesday, August 6, 1997
to Sabbath, August 9, 1997

Martinikerk
Doesburg, Holland

For additional information, write:
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HE CARES

*"What can it mean? Is it nothing to Him,
That the nights are long and the days are dim?*

*Can He be touched by the griefs I bear,
Which sadden the heart and whiten the hair?*

*About His throne are eternal calms,
And the strong, glad music of many Psalms,
And bliss unbaffled by any strife;
How can He care for my little life?*

*And yet I want Him to care for me
While I live in this world where the sorrows be,
When the lights die down from the path I take,
When strength is feeble and friends forsake,
When love and music that once did bless,
Have left me to silence and loneliness,
And my life song changes to sobbing prayers,
Then my spirit cries out for a God who cares.*

*When shadows hang over the whole day long,
When my spirit is bowed with shame and
wrong;*

*When I am not good and the deeper shade
Of a conscious sin makes my heart afraid,
And the busy world has too much to do
To slow its course to help me through,
And I long for a Saviour--can it be
That the God of the universe cares for me?*

*Oh wonderful story of deathless love!
Each child is dear to the heart above;
He fights for me when I cannot fight,
He comforts me in the gloom of night,
He lifts the burden for He is strong
He stills the sigh and awakens the song;
The sorrows that bowed me down He bears,
He loves and pardons, because He cares.*

*Let all who are sad take heart again,
We are not alone in our hours of pain;
Our Father stoops from His throne above
To soothe and to quiet us with His love,
He leaves us not when the storm is high,
And we have safety, for He is nigh.
Can it be trouble, which He will share;
Oh, rest in peace, for the Lord does care."*

--adapted, author unknown



NOTICE to the DELEGATES

**CANADIAN FIELD CONFERENCE DELEGATES
MEETING WILL BE HELD JUNE 25 AT 7:00 PM**