

# The Reformation *Messenger*

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 11, NOVEMBER 2009

International Missionary Society of The S.D.A. Church Reform Movement



“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is  
for brethren to dwell together in unity!”  
Psalm 133:1

**WE BELIEVE:** The all-wise, loving God created all things in the universe by His Son, Jesus Christ; He is its 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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*Church group singing in Fiji*

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The Reformation  
**Messenger**

Official Publication of the International Missionary Society of the Seventh Day Adventist Church Reform Movement, Canadian Field.

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54 NEWCASTLE ST.  
TORONTO, ON  
CANADA  
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# How Many Shall Be Saved?

Our study is to address a question which was posed to Jesus.

*“Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait gate: **for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.** When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity. There **shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth**, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you [yourselves] thrust out.” Luke 13:23-28.*

The question we want to study is, how many shall be saved? We shall address this question but also consider whether we are among the truly gracious in this world. Whether we are among the few. We shall make these truths as clear as possible and straight to the point.

The scripture reading calls for a straight to the point approach and so do the times in which we live.

*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.” Matt. 7:13.*

How many? And many be there be which go in thereat.

We have a path, a broad path, and many of this world go down that path. Because strait is the way that leadeth unto life and few there be that find it.

The Scriptures are telling us that there is a broad road that leads to destruction, to hell. The majority, the large populace, goes down that road. There is a gate and few people actually find the gate. Few. Out of those few that find it, there are fewer still that enter in, as we compare with the scripture we just read:

*“Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.” Luke 13:24.*

The many that are seeking to enter in are the few that found it. The majority of the world has gone on the main road to destruction. There are a few people who have found this gate and many, Jesus says, shall seek to enter in and shall not be able.

It continues. Christ is talking to one of His followers, who asks, “how many shall be saved?” Who is standing without? One of His followers. Christ answers, when the door is shut and, *“When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you [yourselves] thrust out.” Luke 13:25-28.*

For us to consider how many will be saved, in the antediluvian world there were millions of people and the Bible says that few were saved. This gives us a biblical account of what few is: *“Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, **wherein***

**few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.”** 1 Peter 3:20 But even of the eight, Ham was taken over by the curse.

Few will find it and few again will actually be saved. They were saved by water and as these few faithful people multiplied and repopulated the earth, there weren't many righteous people left.

*“Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD: look unto the rock [whence] ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit [whence] ye are digged. Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah [that] bare you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him.”* Isa. 51:1, 2

How many people were faithful to be called that God could early on establish His seed? Abraham alone. Abraham came from those that came from the ark. There were few, eight, and even in that eight they weren't all true, and out of that offspring there only turned out to be one. Abraham alone.

Genesis gives us another picture of those that were following God: *“And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know. And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD. And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?”* Gen. 18:20-23

This is the question. *“Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that [are] therein? That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? And the LORD said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes. And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which [am but] dust and ashes: Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for [lack of] five? And he said, If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy [it]. And he spake unto him yet again, and said, Peradventure there shall be forty found there. And he said, I will not do [it] for forty's sake. And he said [unto him], Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Peradventure there shall thirty be found there. And he said, I will not do [it], if I find thirty there. And he said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord: Peradventure there shall be twenty found there. And he said, I will not destroy [it] for twenty's sake. And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy [it] for ten's sake. And the LORD went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place.”* Gen. 18:24-33.

The numbers are dropping fast. How many will be saved? “And

*turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned [them] with an overthrow, making [them] an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed [his] righteous soul from day to day with [their] unlawful deeds;)”* 1 Peter 2:6-8.

Lot was vexed with the way the city was. But how many came out with Lot? From the cities? There were four cities that were destroyed, not just Sodom and Gomorrah. In four cities, how many people came out? Four--only a few. What happened to his wife? She turned into a pillar of salt. What happened to his daughters? How many were saved really? Four came out but only one was saved.

So the application goes that **many** have gone down the road to Sodom and Gomorrah and few, four came out, but out of those four not all made it, only one.

*“For the LORD had said of them, They shall surely die in the wilderness. And there was not left a man of them, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.”* Numbers 26:65.

Only two from Egypt made it to Canaan. Millions, over a million people came out. Not all came out by Moses but two of those that came out entered into the Promised Land. Egypt is the world, it is the broad road. The Israelites were the few that found the gate out, but they all died at the gate, save two.

In the time of David: *“Help, LORD; for the Godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men.”* Psalm 12:1.

In the time of David to actually find someone upright was so hard. Even Solomon says, “I have searched among the women and I find none.” In a thousand men there is one. In the time of Elijah, how many prophets of Baal? 400 prophets within Israel and only one stood for God on Mt. Carmel.

Zion was the city, the headquarters in Jerusalem. *“And the daughter of Zion is left as a cottage in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city.”* Isa. 1:8.

What happened to the city? How many dwell in a city? Thousands, millions. How many dwell in a cottage? Less than ten?

*“Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, [and] we should have been like unto Gomorrah.”* Isa. 1:9.

In the time of Jeremiah we see the condition that God has illustrated that has sat behind us in history: *Run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places thereof, if ye can find a man, if there be [any] that executeth judgment, that seeketh the truth; and I will pardon it.”*

*Jer. 5:1.* It says Jerusalem, not Damascus or Jericho, or any other wicked city.

What was about to happen to Jerusalem in Jeremiah's time? It was about to be destroyed by Babylon. In Isaiah it says, if it wasn't for the little remnant we would have been like Sodom and Gomorrah, destroyed.

Now in Jeremiah, in the future, run to and fro, and if you can find anyone, I will pardon Jerusalem. The same story as with Sodom and Gomorrah. If you can find anyone in Jerusalem, I will pardon it.

Ezekiel has a vision given of what he was to do. Does God know the amount of hairs on your head? Is He acquainted with every particle on this earth? Indeed He is.

*"And thou, son of man, take thee a sharp knife, take thee a barber's razor, and cause [it] to pass upon thine head and upon thy beard: then take thee balances to weigh, and divide the [hair]." Eze. 5:1.* He has taken all his hair off and divided it into sections.

*"Thou shalt burn with fire a third part in the midst of the city, when the days of the siege are fulfilled: and thou shalt take a third part, [and] smite about it with a knife: and a third part thou shalt scatter in the wind; and I will draw out a sword after them." Eze. 5:2.* How much of the hair is gone? Three parts of three. One was burnt, one taken by the sword and one was thrown in the wind.

*"Thou shalt also take thereof a few in number, and bind them in thy skirts." Eze. 5:3.* Just take a few hairs, just a few.

*"Then take of them again, and cast them into the midst of the fire, and burn them in the fire; [for] thereof shall a fire come forth into all the house of Israel. Thus saith the Lord GOD; This [is] Jerusalem: I have set it in the midst of the nations and countries [that are] round about her." Eze. 5:4, 5.*

There were a few he was to take out and put in the fire for a different purpose than the others. They were to be purged and refined. All of this planet shall go through fire and some shall be saved through the fire. There was a few to be taken and this is Jerusalem.

John the Revelator saw that in the future the whole world wondered after the beast; and he also saw that the dragon was wroth with the woman and went to make war with the remnant of her seed. This may be discouraging, that so few are saved.

*"Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved." Rom. 9:27.*

A leftover. We can see in history that there was a remnant, and there is a remnant, and there shall be a remnant. The Scriptures give us across history how many were saved in each dispensation.

*"...take thee a barber's razor, and cause [it] to pass upon thine head and upon thy beard: then take thee balances to weigh, and divide the [hair]." Ezekiel 5:1.*



It doesn't leave us with the stories of what happened only, but illustrations to compare.

We are aware of the comprising of God's church and the place where the wheat and the tares come. *"There shall be an handful of corn in the earth upon the top of the mountains; the fruit thereof shall shake like Lebanon: and [they] of the city shall flourish like grass of the earth. Ps. 72:16.*

A handful of corn. What is a handful compared to the vintage of the crop? The whole collection. What is a handful? Have you gone to a big silo and taken a handful of grain? What is a handful compared to the rest?

*"As the lily among thorns, so [is] my love among the daughters. As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so [is] my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit [was] sweet to my taste." Song of Solomon 2:2, 3.*

Here God is likening His people to the lily among the thorns. Which comes up more easily? Thorns or lilies? How many thorns do you see compared to lilies?

The lily, the upright, compared to all the people in this world as thorns. There the lily is in the pricks of persecution and then it likens Jesus, God, as an apple tree among the forest. When you work in the bush in Australia do you come across an apple tree? You don't, but if you did it would be very special. Out of all the gods of this world, how many are there that are true? There is one. So, like the apple tree among the forest, there is only one. So the lily among the thorns is but few.

Another illustration is in Micah. This is often the sentiment of Christians when they come into a small congregation. *"Woe is me! for I am as when they have gathered the summer fruits, as the grape gleanings of the vintage: [there is] no cluster to eat: my soul desired the first ripe fruit. The good [man] is perished out of the earth: and [there is] none upright among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net." Micah 7:1, 2.*

Woe is me, we are like the few left over, all the grapes, the big harvest and now there is none. I'm hungry, I want grapes and there is none. If we understand the parable of the wheat and the tares, the tares were gathered first and the wheat was left. The main harvest is taken and the gleanings are left. The gleanings are a representation of God's people.

*"And it shall be as when the harvestman gathereth the corn, and reapeth the ears with his arm; and it shall be as he that gathereth ears in the valley of Rephaim. Yet gleaning grapes shall be left in it, as the shaking of an olive tree, two [or] three berries in the top of the uppermost bough, four [or] five in the outmost fruitful branches thereof, saith the LORD God of Israel." Isa. 17:5, 6.*

How many? Once all the grapes have been taken, the olives have been taken off the trees, what is left? One or two on one branch, four or five on another. The parable, the tares were gathered in bundles to be burned and then the wheat was put in the garner.

*"And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him." Mal. 3:17.*

When was it last you were walking on the ground and you stubbed your toe on a diamond? When was it last you saw a piece of gold on the floor of your house? All the jewelry that we see has come out from extensive energy found in the ground.

If you are walking in the bush, when do you find these precious stones? The Bible teaches that in God's house there are many vessels, some of wood, hay and some precious vessels. How often do you see wood in a house? How often do you see, bricks, clay, tin and metal?

God is giving an illustration that His jewels are precious and the rest are just your common pea gravel. How many shall be saved? This is not meant to discourage us, but it is a truth. Jesus said, many shall seek to enter in but shall not be able.

*"Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left [us] of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it." Heb. 4:1.*

Fear that we actually don't claim the promise. We should fear that we should take the wrong road and make our own decisions. How many shall be saved and why?

Professors

If you notice in a lot of these illustrations, the illustration within Jerusalem, in the church, is that many find the gate but many are destroyed.

As for the Amorites, and the Moabites, it is not spoken of. It is spoken of Jerusalem—God's people; and out of those few there is a few. We must think there is a few but there will only be a few. Not because I want it this way but it is what is revealed. To profess, but not to have heart religion.

We need to ask the question, are we a professor or are we striving to enter in at the strait gate? When the wheat and tares are growing, you cannot see the difference between the two until the harvest comes and the grain is full but the wild tare is empty, there is no seed; it's just something that gets blown with the wind. There is no weight in it. The professor and the truly gracious—outwardly there is not much difference between the two, they look the same, but one has a heart religion and the other doesn't. Outwardly they look identical. The Bible says, don't pull up the tares as you may pull up the wheat also because you can't distinguish between the two. A professor can have repentance, cry and acknowledge and loathe the sin but they shall not be saved.

A dog loathes the food and throws up. It loathes the food because the food is troubling him. But when the dog throws up the food, the trouble has stopped and he goes and eats it up again.

Repentance that is not genuine and may say, "I don't like sin," but as soon as the stress of sin is over, you will go back and eat it. "As a dog returneth to his vomit, [so] a fool returneth to his folly." Prov. 26:11. So the swine to the mud hole, according to Peter.

A professor may cry and have emotion when it comes to an awakening. A professor may have conviction but not all conviction leads to conversion. A professor may like to do many things of God but still perishes. They have a form of Godliness. "Having a form of Godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." 2 Tim. 3:5.

The form is there but there is no power or body in it. Professors have fallen by the thousands and we here are professors. We profess to believe in Jesus Christ. May our profession have a heart behind it. Many will seek to enter in and profess, but shall not be able because a lack of power and body.

A professor may have faith but it profits him nothing if he doesn't have charity (love). Professors may be praying, fasting and tithing people but unless we beat our breast like the Publican we shall not be saved.

Luke 18:10-13 tells of a Pharisee, a hypocrite, that prayed in the temple saying, "thank you Lord, I pay tithe and do and do all these things," and he never went to his house blessed.

The hypocrite may show repentance, a spiritual awakening, a loathing of sin, a faith, praying and fasting and committing their possessions to God and they are not saved. Those who are truly gracious indeed repent, indeed have a spiritual awakening, loathe sin, have faith, pray, fast and tithe and are saved. The externals are exactly the same. Many professors. Are we professing only? There is a professor that has a religion that lies in his tongue.

*"Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near [me] with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men." Isa. 29:13.*

He draws near to God with his mouth and honours God with his lips but the heart is far from Him. The professor that professes in word only. In the life they are the same as the world. They are the same as the world, but can just talk better. Good speech will not unlock the gates of heaven.

*"The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating fool shall fall." Prov. 10:8.*

There is a covetous professor. Someone who has a religion for



**"As a dog returneth to his vomit,  
[so] a fool returneth to his folly."  
Proverbs 26:11**

recognition, because if we keep God's sayings, we shall increase our favour with man and God; and so many a professor like to increase their favour with man and so pursue a form of godliness, to impress, to covet position, to rule.

Judas' religion lay in the money bag. He was there for the money. The Bible says, let us not care for the flock of God with constraint or filthy lucre but of a ready mind. There is a haughty professor, a person who is a Christian but doesn't fear God.

*"And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, [as] they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots [they are] and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you."* 2 Pet. 2:13. This is a professor. They are with people here and doing these things and feasting with you.

*"For when they speak great swelling [words] of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, [through much] wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known [it], to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them."* 2 Peter 2:18-21.

Here is a people eating and drinking with the people of God and they do not fear. Their haughtiness, wantonness with vanities, they do not understand that God is not mocked. What we sow we shall also reap.

*"Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core. These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds [they are] without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots."* Jude 1:11, 12.

Here in the Christian church are professors that are covetous, haughty, they do not fear. The word of God is saying that these people are spots in your feasts of charity. Among God's people these spots exist, many of them. The haughty professor does not fear God. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. There is a circumstantial professor, also. A professor, that as long as their ideas are good and their circumstances are good, they will follow but when things come across them and cut across their circumstances of ease, they will not walk anymore.

When the feeding of the 5000 was going on, Jesus gained many disciples. Circumstantial, things are good, we will be part of it.

When things go wrong, we better get out of there.

When Jesus said, except ye eat My flesh and drink My blood, you have no life in you, those disciples walked no more with Him from that time onwards. Those disciples were at the gate. There were only a few that found it, but many of the disciples, the 70 left and left only a few. Even in that few, there was still one, a devil. The circumstantial professor will be there when it's good, but won't be there when it's bad.

There is also the formalist or legalistic professor. As long as it's the same, the traditions of men are performed.

There is the liberal professor. They pretend to be against forms and duties but neglect the order of God. They are free wheelers. They are independent. They do what they like.

There is a willingly ignorant professor. Someone afraid to know more for fear of the cross. *"For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water."* 2 Pet. 3:5.

I don't want to know, because then I will be accountable. You already are accountable. There is a professor that will judge his standard against another. They compare themselves with themselves. *"For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."* 2 Cor. 10:12.

They say, as long as I am as good as the other or better, God will receive me. How long do these professors, comparing ourselves with ourselves, stay? As long as everything is good, I'm here; or, as long as there is not too much detail of God's will in my life, I will be there.

What sort of Christians are we today? There is the professor for God and the world. He's like the frog of Egypt. He lives in the water and out of the water. His religion alters as fast as does his company. When he is in one crowd he behaves in one way, when in another crowd, he behaves in another way. He can serve God at church and the world at work.

He is a person that commits spiritual adultery, according to James 4:4. He can throw stones with both hands. He is for God and against God. All these professors, the Bible says, will have weeping and gnashing of teeth.

To profess is to seek after God, to seek to enter in, but you are not able. The professors will look to escape hell but shall fall in it. They shall look to heaven but it shall be shut to them; they will expect Christ's compassion in the day of judgment and find there is none.

No wonder the Bible says that there will be weeping and gnashing of



teeth. It doesn't say there will be weeping of gnashing of teeth to the ones that go down the broad road of destruction. They expect to go to damnation because that is the road they are on, but the weeping and gnashing of teeth refers to those who come to church and have a form of Godliness that actually engage in religious exercise. They are the ones who will have the weeping and gnashing of teeth because they will look to heaven but it's locked.

They will say, "Lord, Lord didn't we do these things?" God will say, "I don't even know you." They will try and avoid hell but they will be there.

We need to consider very, very carefully as to what sort of Christian we are. Are we a Christian because our mom and dad were and we were dragged along? Do we actually have a form of religion in our mouths only? Do we profess in any one of these categories? Do we have a secret desire to be the first? It's in humanity, you can't deny it.

This study is to help us to identify to strive to enter in at the gate. Seeking is not enough; you must knock and knock with all your might. **KNOCK LOUD**. The instruction that the Bible gives us is that we are to ask, we are to knock and seek.

I encourage each one to pray to Jesus for awakening in our hearts. That we can be aware of our condition. You know not that you are poor, miserable, blind and naked. You don't know. The professors don't actually know these attributes. They genuinely think they are ok. We have twelve considerations for us to conclude with:

1. Pray to Jesus for an awakening of heart that we may be allured to Jesus.
2. Ask for a deeper awakening of our sin and about grace, health, and Jesus' righteousness.
3. Cry for the Spirit of discernment.
4. Study the scriptures to show yourself approved.
5. Take heed that a sin in your life doesn't go unrepented of.
6. Remember that only a few are saved and for us to be saved it is only by the mercy of God so plead for mercy, have mercy on me a sinner.
7. Be thankful for conviction, for conviction is the beginning of conversion. When conviction strikes, don't shun it, thank God.
8. Be willing to see the worst of your condition. How many of us aren't willing to see where we are really at? It's better to see it now than to see it in hell.
9. Beware of little sins. The little things.
10. Take heed of bad company and evil communications for it will corrupt your good manners. By beholding you will become changed.
11. Seek to have association with those who have a high standard in their action. Associate with them. Beware of the thoughts that bid you to delay repentance. There are many thoughts that come to us, such as, tomorrow is a better day. Don't have these thoughts, beware of them.
12. Keep in remembrance that God's eye is upon your heart.

There are a few that shall be saved. This is the answer to, "how many shall be saved?" A few. Do not be discouraged, strive to enter in. **Amen. Paul Godfrey**

## Canoe Trip In Australia

# How To Reach Perfection



The most important study for us is how to overcome sin and reach perfection. It is a life long struggle to reach fitness for heaven. What makes it hard is our enemy, Satan, who is constantly trying to defeat us. He was the highest of the angels in heaven, the most intelligent, and now after 6,000 years of deceiving people, he has become very skilful at it. He defeated the people before the flood, except for eight people. Even in the wilderness he deceived the church of God except for two of them, Joshua and Caleb.

Men of great intellect and of great knowledge have been no match for him. Powerful nations have fallen into his deceptions. Even professed Christians and the ministers of the Gospel have bowed their heads to him in submission. A third part of the angels in heaven broke their allegiance with God and joined with him in his rebellion.

“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” Rev. 12:9.

Satan gives gifts to people, and then hypnotizes them. He gave forbidden fruit to Eve. He offered to Jesus the whole world. Things that God does not allow he gives out freely and this makes him very successful.

No man has ever been able to resist him alone. People cannot see through his deceptions, and yet him we must overcome, or we will be lost.

“He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son.” Rev. 21:7.

In the world today, there are one and half billion Christians who have started the war against Satan and his temptations with the purpose of overcoming him and receiving the reward promised to the overcomer. But the Bible tells us that only 144,000 will make it from the time of the end.

Since the beginning of the world, men have waged war against Satan, but many have lost the battle in the end. In the cemeteries there are millions of victims of Satan. They fought a losing battle. Their prayers, offerings, and all the religious exercises were in vain.

Yet Satan has been defeated. There are men, women, and children who have overcome him and escaped his deceptions.

How did they do it? Which weapons did they use? This we must know, so that we also can defeat him, and receive the reward of the overcomer.

In heaven there will be men, women, children, teenagers, and small babies. They followed the instructions and the mighty enemy was defeated. They overcame their sins and developed perfect characters.

Goliath was stronger than David. He was a more experienced man of war. All the host of Israel were afraid of him, and no one dared to go against him. Then comes a young shepherd boy, and the giant was defeated so easily.

David had no fear of defeat. He spoke with confidence. Not a shadow of doubt did he express.

“This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.” 1 Sam. 17:46.

When the Israelite people went against Jericho, a great city, they gained the victory so easily, when they followed the instructions.

Then later when they went against the small city Ai, they were badly defeated. What made the difference?

The reason for their defeat was that sin had entered into the camp. Achan had disobeyed the commandment of God, and therefore their power was gone, and a curse was upon them.

Balak, the king of Moab tried to defeat the people of Israel, and called Balaam to curse them. But every time he tried to curse them, the Lord turned it into a blessing. But then the Moabites made a plan to lead the Israelites to sin, and the Lord would destroy them. They made a great feast and invited the people of Israel to it, and as a result they were badly defeated.

Satan would destroy God’s people, but angels protect them. But we lose this protection when we disobey God and sin against Him.

We all have Goliath’s on our way, trying to destroy our salvation.

The Goliath that we must fight against may be an uncontrolled appetite. It can be the desire to read forbidden books or watch worldly shows. It can also be covetousness, pride, selfishness, jealousy, or an unforgiving spirit. Millions of professed Christians have been victims to these giants.

Many Christians try to justify their sins by saying that no one can keep the law of God. It is impossible to be perfect. A Christian who has not overcome his sins is the greatest loser in the world.

“Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you.” Jer. 5:25.

“The way of transgressors is hard.” Prov. 13:15.

It is full of misery, disappointments and unhappiness.

David said, “Mine iniquities are gone over mine head: as an heavy

burden they are too heavy for me.” Ps. 38:4.

“There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” Prov. 14:12.

For a while the way of Satan may seem good, as it did to Adam and Eve, but in a little while there is disappointment, depression, worry and anxiety.

On the other hand, the obedient child of God has the peace of heaven, joy, love, and continuous happiness.

In order to overcome the first thing that we must do is to choose to do right.

“Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.” Heb. 11:25.

The next thing is to be born of God. “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.” 1 John 5:4.

By faith we are born again of the Holy Spirit.

Then we must come to Christ to receive the power. “But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.” John 1:12.

After receiving the power we need to resist the devil. “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” James 4:7.

When you take a worldly book or magazine to read, you are not resisting the devil. When you watch a television show, you do not resist him.

Besides these, pray without ceasing, then sinful thoughts cannot enter into your mind.

Add fasting to your efforts when other things have failed.

And the most important thing is to love God and hate sin.

This love to God will be generated at the cross of Calvary, also sin becomes hateful when we are watching the suffering of Jesus.

If you do all these things then the promise is given to you. “Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the lawful captive delivered? But thus saith the Lord, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children.” Isa. 49:24.

“And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil,

who are taken captive by him at his will." 2 Tim. 2:26.

Overcoming sin is possible to everyone by the help of God. Perfection is not impossible. By looking to Jesus we change to His image, and when you have gained the victory you can help others to do the same. Your example and counsels will encourage others to become overcomers. This is the most important work we can be engaged in, especially when we are so near the end. May the Lord help each one of us to reach the perfect character. **AMEN.**

*Timo Martin, Canada*

# Training The Mind = The Word

The more we dwell upon Bible topics, the safer and stronger we will be. When I was first converted, my mind had some bad words in it. I learned that by putting memory verse Scriptures in their place, they finally were driven out, those bad words and thoughts.

I remember imagining my mind was like a room, and I would take a mental broom and sweep out all the rubbish, all the dusty corners of my mind. The word of God is the broom.

The problem is that we are continually bombarded with bad situations and bad influences and we need the right broom to fit the circumstances. It must be just the right size, shape and weight to meet the invader and put him to shame, drive him away. Death to sin.

But what about when we are tired and Scripture doesn't seem to come to mind that fits the case? Just find some WORD, even one word. One little word shall fell him!!

The Word is our anchor. One divine word can drive out Satan. Cling to the Word.

*A mighty fortress is our God,  
a bulwark never failing;  
our helper he amid the flood  
of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe  
doth seek to work us woe;  
his craft and power are great,  
and armed with cruel hate,  
on earth is not his equal.*

*Did we in our own strength confide,  
our striving would be losing,  
were not the right man on our side,  
the man of God's own choosing.  
Dost ask who that may be?  
Christ Jesus, it is he;  
Lord Sabaoth, his name,  
from age to age the same,  
and he must win the battle.*

*And though this world, with devils filled,  
should threaten to undo us,  
we will not fear, for God hath willed  
His truth to triumph through us.  
The Prince of Darkness grim,  
we tremble not for him;  
his rage we can endure,  
for lo, his doom is sure;  
one little word shall fell him.*

*That word above all earthly powers,  
no thanks to them, abideth;  
the Spirit and the gifts are ours,  
thru him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go,  
this mortal life also;  
the body they may kill;  
God's truth abideth still;  
His kingdom is forever.*

*Kathleen Ross, Alberta*

# Ninety Percent



When we consider 90%, that is almost the entire whole. If someone ate 90% of a cake or a pie, they ate almost all of it.

If a child would come home from school with a test that he/she had written and there was 90% written at the top, it would make the parent proud. Even more so if they should bring a report card home and every subject was 90%. We would think that this child was intelligent and they deserve a reward for their hard work. 90% is a worthy achievement. If they have achieved this, we often don't expect any more.

This thought process could be carried with a person all throughout their lives. We are training them to think that as long as they achieve 90% in everything they do, that is a job well done. While this may be true, the danger arises when we train them to feel that there is no need to try any harder or work more hours, to achieve a greater result.

But ask yourself, would you wish to be treated by a surgeon performing delicate surgery who is satisfied with only 90% accuracy? Or how about a nurse who was only 90% accurate in her dispensing of medications? Would you feel comfortable flying in an airplane if the pilot was only concerned with 90% accuracy of flying the plane?

In some professions 90% accuracy is not good enough. In the manufacturing world an industrial pattern maker must read the blue prints and construct the model to 100% accuracy. When he is a millimeter or two off, the finished product is returned by the customer for more precision. In the financial world, (banking or even cashing), 100% accuracy is required. If there are a few pennies difference at the end of the day, a search is made to try to reconcile those pennies. Many jobs require 100% accuracy.

Then there are professions where, if a person achieves only 90% accuracy, the employer is satisfied. Perhaps in jobs like cleaning jobs, if there is a little dust left in the corner, that is ok, the majority of the place looks excellently clean. In the sports world, if the sports player achieves 90% accuracy in making goals of some sort, he is an expert player. In other manual labouring jobs, a little mistake here or there can easily be covered up.

This article will now quote instances from the Spirit of Prophecy when the term 90% is made reference to with the resulting consequences.

## *God's Requirements*

With God is 90% good enough? Will that give us entrance into His Kingdom? The majority of the Christian world believes so. There is danger that this thought could creep into God's church. The false doctrine that is prevalent in Christian circles is that it is impossible to live and overcome ALL sin, and we will continue to sin until Jesus

comes. If you are generally a good person, God will overlook your misdeeds. To achieve a goal of 90% perfect would be an excellent accomplishment, however, this is not good enough with God.

**“God requires of his subjects obedience, not to nine-tenths of the law, but to every one of the ten precepts.** They are like the links of a chain; if one is broken the chain is of no value. The violation of one commandment makes us commandment breakers; and we must yield willing obedience to all the precepts of Jehovah if we would be true commandment-keepers, for ‘He that offendeth in one part is guilty of all.’” ST, March 7, 1878

## Intemperance

The previous statement refers to the Ten Commandments, but what about the spirit of the law which goes much deeper?

For example, when we think of the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment, “Thou Shalt Not Kill,” we often think of murder, or hatred (as written in 1 John 3:15). But what about killing ourselves? Are we not breaking this commandment if we knowingly, willingly disobey health laws that will shorten our lives? There are many counsels on health in the Spirit of Prophecy, from diet to sleep, to exercise... and would it be sufficient if we kept only 90% of the health laws? To disobey even one of these health laws is disobeying God’s law. Diet can be such a controversial issue as there are often a variety of standards amongst people, even in God’s church. Some people do not take the dietary laws seriously. A little indulgence here and there is acceptable in their view. A good question to ask, before eating some food is, “Will this food benefit my body in any way, or is it just something to satisfy my taste buds, but is in reality detrimental to my health?” What would Jesus do? If God said it is wrong, who are we to state that it is not important? No, God expects us to keep 100% of the health laws, to keep our body in optimal condition. Or then we sin.

“Moses preached a great deal on this subject, and the reason the people did not go through to the Promised Land was because of repeated indulgence of appetite. **Nine tenths of the wickedness among the children of today is caused by intemperance in eating and drinking.** Adam and Eve lost Eden through the indulgence of appetite, and we only regain it by the denial of the same.”-- RH, Oct. 21, 1884.

“Illness has other causes also. Much of physical illness can be attributed to an incorrect diet. But to deny self, to restrict the appetite, to eat only wholesome food and exercise temperance in eating the wholesome food, abstaining almost wholly from **the flesh of dead animals that creates nine-tenths of the disease in our world,** is too severe a process for a large part of our world and of professed Christians to enter into.” 20MR 374. Imagine if the whole world ate a vegan diet. Many doctors and nurses would lose their jobs.

## How Many Problems Do Alcohol And Tobacco Cause?

Satan loves alcohol because he tempts people to think it is a wonderful way to have a good time; a way to forget about life’s problems and relax. But this will more often than not, lead to an addiction that takes a great amount of will power and help from God to overcome. Many people have committed gross sins and evil acts while intoxicated. They did things they would not ever think of doing if they were sober. But alcohol is a drug that is deceiving many decent people in society.

Tobacco is also a very strong addictive substance that people feel they need in order to relax. The health problems from these two habits are phenomenal. The people in the world are not the only guilty ones indulging in these intemperate habits. Many who name the name of Christ and count themselves as His children, also partake of these evil habits. **“The world is the god of nine-tenths of professed Christians.** The indulgence of appetite is carried to the greatest excess. Tobacco, wine, liquor and opium are added to the list of a feverish stimulating diet.” ST, January 3, 1878

**“If men strictly and conscientiously kept the law of God,** there would be no drunkards, no tobacco inebriates, no distress, penury, and crime. Liquor saloons would be closed for want of patronage, and **nine tenths of all misery existing in the world would come to an end.** Young men would walk forth with erect and noble forms, free and elastic step, clear eye, and healthy complexions.” Te 164

“The law authorises the sale of liquor, and then has to build prisons for its victims; **for nine-tenths of those who are taken to prison are those who have learned to drink.**” PH141 4

## Mental Illness

Mental illness is a growing problem in the world. Is it any wonder when you look at the condition of the world? Young people have little good to look forward to in the future. The political world is unstable. There is fear from terrorism; nature is in upheaval – we see fires, floods, and earthquakes on every side. All this unrest is causing an increase in mental disorders, which in turn affect the physical body.

“A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.” Prov. 15:13

“A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.” Prov. 17:22

“Satan is the originator of disease, and the physician is warring against his work and power. **Sickness of the mind prevails everywhere. Nine tenths of the diseases from which men suffer have their foundation here.** Perhaps some living home trouble is, like a canker, eating to the very soul and weakening the

life forces. Remorse for sin sometimes undermines the constitution and unbalances the mind. There are erroneous doctrines also, as that of an eternally burning hell and the endless torment of the wicked, that, by giving exaggerated and distorted views of the character of God, have produced the same result upon sensitive minds. Infidels have made the most of these unfortunate cases, attributing insanity to religion, but this is a gross libel, and one which they will not be pleased to meet by and by. The religion of Christ, so far from being the cause of insanity, is one of its most effectual remedies; for it is a potent soother of the nerves." CH 324

People often worry unnecessarily. And it is true that more often than not, the worry and anxiety is worse than the reality. If people would just trust in the Lord, there would be much less stress. Stress leads to many other problems like high blood pressure. "**Nine tenths of the trials and perplexities that so many worry over are either imaginary, or brought upon themselves by their own wrong course.** They should cease to talk of these trials, and [cease] to magnify them. The Christian may commit every worriment, every disturbing thing to God. Nothing is too small for our compassionate Saviour to notice; nothing is too great for Him to carry." OFC 297 "Thousands need to be educated patiently, kindly, tenderly, but decidedly, **that nine tenths of their complaints are created by their own course of action...**" MM 225

**"The burden of sin, with its unrest and unsatisfied desires, lies at the very foundation of nine-tenths of all the maladies the sinner suffers.** Christ is the mighty healer of the sin-sick soul. These poor afflicted ones need to have a clearer knowledge of Him whom to know aright is life eternal. They need to be patiently and kindly, yet earnestly taught how to throw open the windows of the soul and let the sunlight of God's love come in to illuminate the darkened chambers of the mind." PH100 72

## Tithes

This is a very familiar subject for many people. We keep 90% of our income while we give God 10%. When we do a job of any sort, it is always in cooperation with God. He gives the strength, health and ability to do the job. He keeps our heart beating and our lungs breathing and blood flowing. We owe our life to God. Yet when it comes to dividing the spoil, all He asks for is 10% and He gives us the remaining 90%. He doesn't ask for a 50/50 split. He deserves much more, but He is a great God. A loving God and definitely NOT a selfish God. And the beauty of it is that He has entrusted us with the duty of dividing the spoil. Unfortunately mankind is often the opposite. Many refuse to divide fairly. Most decide that they don't want to give God His 10%. They want to keep the entire 100%. In essence, they are robbing God of His fair share.

"God called for men in the Mosaic dispensation to give the tenth of all their increase. He committed to their trust the things of this life, talents to be improved and returned to Him. He has required a

tenth, and this He claims as the very least that man should return to Him. **He says: I give you nine tenths, while I require one tenth; that is Mine.** When men withhold the one tenth, they rob God. Sin offerings, peace offerings, and thank offerings were also required in addition to the tenth of the increase." 3T 394

"Many have pitied the lot of the Israel of God in being compelled to give systematically, besides making liberal offerings yearly. An all-wise God knew best what system of benevolence would be in accordance with His providence, and has given His people directions in regard to it. **It has ever proved that nine tenths are worth more to them than ten tenths.**" 3T 546. If any, through selfishness, robbed God or brought to Him an offering not perfect, disaster and loss were sure to follow them. God reads the motives of the heart. He is acquainted with the purposes of men and will mete out to them in His own good time as they have merited." 3T 404.

## Church Trials

"For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." Matt. 12:37

**"Unchristlike speech lies at the foundation of nine-tenths of all the difficulties that exist in the church.** Satan's agents are industriously trying to get professed Christians to speak unadvisedly. When they succeed, Satan exults, because God's followers have hurt their influence."--RH Nov. 24, 1904. "Let your speech [be] always with grace, seasoned with salt," Col 4:6

**Listening to Gossip** – is it sin? It is sin to speak and spread gossip, but to listen to it? It is equally sin. If someone is about to gossip, we should ask them to cease immediately. That is something we do not want to hear. Imagine if no one in the church gossiped. What a wonderful church experience that would be. The sad fact is that bad news travels quickly. "Do not even listen to the gossiping tongue. If one comes to you with an evil report, ask him if he has been to the offending brother, as the Bible directs. If he has not, refuse even to hear him. **Nine-tenths of the church trials might be avoided, if all would, in the spirit of kindness and love, pursue the course marked out by Inspiration.** This can only be done by breaking down everything like a spirit of self-righteousness." ST, January 6, 1887

How many church trials would be eliminated if we only stopped gossiping and we were more careful about our manner of speech.

"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Eph 4:29-31

If our words will not edify the hearers, they are best to be left unspoken. It is interesting to see that the thought about grieving the Holy Spirit is mentioned in the midst of these verses. Apparently the Holy Spirit is grieved by this sort of conduct on the part of Christian believers. When the Holy Spirit is grieved too often, He will depart.

## Fashion

The love of fashion is a curse that is eating up a great number of people today. People use fashion to put on a façade for a variety of reasons; to be someone else; to impress others. These people are never happy or content with themselves. They are looking out for ways to decorate the body, in order to hide the inner misery. This will never work.

“Demoralizing extravagance prevails everywhere, and souls are going to ruin because of their love of dress and display. **The life of nine tenths of those who are devotees of fashion is a living lie.** Deception, fraud, is their daily practice; for they wish to appear that which they are not.” MYP 359

## Ministers Of The Gospel

What is their duty? What did the Apostle Paul do when he had pioneered a church in one city? He organized the church and went to a new area. This is God’s purpose and plan for ministers of the gospel. Their duty is not to constantly be sorting out problems in established churches, but are to reach out to new areas. “God has not given His ministers the work of setting the churches right. No sooner is this work done, apparently, than it has to be done over again. Church members that are thus looked after and labored for become religious weaklings. **If nine tenths of the effort that has been put forth for those who know the truth had been put forth for those who have never heard the truth,** how much greater would have been the advancement made! God has withheld His blessings because His people have not worked in harmony with His directions.” 7T 18

## Our Spiritual Life

Do we depend on our ministers to do all our study for us? Then the minister has failed in his duty. His duty is to educate the members to study for themselves.

**“Nine tenths of our people, including many of our ministers and teachers, are content with surface truths.”** RH, April 21, 1903 Let’s dig deeper into God’s Word.

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath

this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.” 1 John 3:2, 3

“This is our work. It is not enough to profess to be a child of God. He who has in him this hope will purify himself from all defilement. **But this is the work from which every day nine tenths of us excuse ourselves.** We seem to think that it does not matter if we get angry now and then, if we cheat now and then, if we are selfish and uncourteous.” YI, March 5, 1903. When she says “us” whom is she referring to? Is it to the world? Nominal Christians? Or to God’s church? I believe it is to God’s church.

If we have problems and trials we often have no one to blame but ourselves.

**“Nine-tenths of all our trouble comes from our esteeming ourselves too highly.** But just as soon as we begin to look and see how many virtues we can find in others with whom we associate, then we will not be so ready to see their defects, and we will dwell upon the good in their character in place of their faults. In doing this, we bind them closer to our hearts by the firm cords of love.” 1SAT 43

“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.” Phil 2:3,4

And finally, King “Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.” Acts 26:28. King Agrippa was ALMOST persuaded. Does that mean he was 90% persuaded? This was not enough. We need to be 100% persuaded. We must follow the leading of the Lord 100%. May God help us to surrender 100% to God, holding nothing back. **AMEN. Wendy Eaton, Canada**

### ALMOST PERSUADED

Almost persuaded now to believe;  
Almost persuaded Christ to receive.  
Seems now some soul to say,  
“Go Spirit, go Thy way,  
Some more convenient day  
On Thee I’ll call.”

Almost persuaded, come, come today;  
Almost persuaded; turn not away.  
Jesus invites you here,  
Angels are lingering near,  
Prayers rise from hearts so dear;  
O wanderer, come!

Almost persuaded; harvest is past;  
Almost persuaded; doom comes at last!  
“Almost” cannot avail;  
“Almost” is but to fail!  
Sad, sad that bitter wail,  
“Almost – but lost!”

**P.P.Bliss**





# Temptation On Three Levels

Baptism is a covenant with God through which we give testimony to heaven and earth that we turn our back to the world with all its lust and want to be followers of Jesus Christ, whose sacrifice for us personally we have accepted with gratitude and joy. The symbolic burial in water points to the fact that we are willing to die to our past life and sinful practices and live according to the principles of heaven. It is a resurrection to a new life in Christ.

This change that took place in our heart due to the work of the Holy Spirit is wonderfully explained by the apostle Paul in his epistle to the Galatians, *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."* Gal: 2:20

The whole of heaven rejoices over a soul that repents and decides to worship and serve God. But there is someone who is not at all happy and does everything possible to hinder that we may enjoy this new life.

When Jesus was baptized to give us an example of the procedure to be followed in order to belong to His people, He was led to the desert to be tempted. His temptations are a sign of the way in which the devil works and what his final goal is: to take for himself the worship that belongs only to God.

Jesus was tempted in three areas and the same will happen to every person who was baptized in His name. Why? Because the Lord wants to sanctify us in all three levels: in body, soul and spirit.

The first temptation has to do with our body. The devil tries to convince us that we do not need to practice any self-denial or self-control. But we have focused on a goal and want to reach it. We want to make progress in our spiritual life and that our body may be the temple of the Holy Spirit. In order to achieve this we want to follow the guidelines the Lord has given us regarding health reform, both through His prophet and the work of the Holy Spirit in our soul. But the enemy comes constantly with his temptations attempting to make us fall.

Eve saw that the fruit of the forbidden tree was attractive to the eyes and she took and ate. But Jesus answered, *"It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."* Matthew 4:4; Deut. 8:3

He found the strength to overcome by His faith in the written word. God's word should be our daily nourishment if we want to be overcomers with God: *"It is written."*

What do we answer the devil when he comes to us with the same temptation? It is written, *"...put a knife to thy throat, if thou [be] a man given to appetite."* Proverbs 23:2.

Twice in the Holy Scriptures do we find a command the Lord gives

His prophets to take His word as nourishment, to eat up the word. Let us read Ezekiel 3:3 and Revelation 10:9, 10.

*“And he said unto me, Son of man, cause thy belly to eat, and fill thy bowels with this roll that I give thee. Then did I eat [it]; and it was in my mouth as honey for sweetness.” “And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take [it], and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. And I took the little book out of the angel’s hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.”* We should also eat the book so as to be able to stand and to proclaim its wonderful truths.

The second temptation has to do with our soul, the seat of our understanding, our intellect. The temptation is to make us use our own self-righteousness and presumption instead of faith. *“If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in [their] hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.”* Matthew 4:6 In other words, if you are a child of God you can do anything. The angels of God are at your side and will protect you. Cast yourself down from the temple, leave the church; follow your own ways. You know the truth, you have accepted Jesus, you were baptized in His name, God dwells in you, you already have eternal life, you are under grace, nothing can happen to you.

*“And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree [was] good for food, and that it [was] pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make [one] wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”* Genesis 3:3 -6.

But the Son of Man said, *“It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.”* Matthew 4:7. What do we answer when the devil comes to us with the same temptation? It is written, *“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”* Proverbs 3:5, 6.

The last temptation has to do with our spirit. What did the devil say to Jesus when He was in the desert? *“The devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showeth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.”* Matthew 4:8, 9.

The ultimate purpose of the enemy is to be worshiped like God the Father is. He wants to have power over us and tries to buy our worship with richness, glory and worldliness, but we have not set our hope in the treasures of this world, that are ephemeral.

Adam and Eve had to leave Paradise, but before they did the

Lord dressed them with the skin of animals. Jesus Christ died symbolically for them and covered their nakedness and the Lord promised them that he would put enmity between them and the serpent. They believed in the promise, and the system of sacrifice began. They were deeply moved by God’s love and mercy as they experienced the forgiveness of their sin and they did not worship the devil, but lived with the hope of the coming of the Redeemer. Therefore, they will be resurrected when Jesus Christ comes in the clouds of heaven.

What did Jesus tell the devil in the desert? *“Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.”* Matthew 4:10. This is a reference to the first commandment. In our heart there should be an altar where only God is worshiped, the God who created us, who took us out of Egypt, who bought us, cleansed and redeemed us through the blood of His Son, who made out of us new creatures. Today, at the threshold of Paradise, we worship only Him.

One of the last messages to mankind at the end of times is the well-known invitation, *“Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.”* Revelation 14:7. This also refers to one of God’s commandments, more precisely to the fourth commandment, *“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour... For [in] six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them [is], and rested the seventh day..”* Exodus 20:8-11.

What shall we do when the devil, as an angel of light comes out with another law to keep another day, which is a sign of his power and expects us in this way to worship him and to acknowledge that his throne is above God’s?

We should never forget what Satan’s purpose is, *“I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, ... I will be like the most High.”* Isaiah 14:13, 14. May the Lord help us, when that day comes, to be able to say, It is written, *“And hallow my Sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I [am] the Lord your God.”* Ezekiel 20:20. **Amen.**

**Teresa Corti**

(REVELATION 18:1-4)

## THE CONDITION OF THE CHURCH AND A CALL FOR REVIVAL AND REFORMATION.

1868

### THE CONDITION OF THE CHURCH

“These are the true feelings of many of our people. And Satan exults at his success in controlling the minds of so many who profess to be Christians. He has deceived them, benumbed their sensibilities, and planted his hellish banner right in their midst, and they are so completely deceived that they know not that it is he.” (2T:440).

“Like ancient Israel the church has dishonoured her God by departing from the light, neglecting her duties, and abusing her high and exalted privilege of being peculiar and holy in character. Her members have violated their covenant to live for God and Him only. They have joined with the selfish and world-loving. Pride, the love of pleasure, and sin have been cherished, and Christ has departed. His spirit has been quenched in the church. Satan works side by side with professed Christians; yet they are so destitute of spiritual discernment that they do not detect him. (2T:441-442).

“The people of God were represented to me as in a backslidden state. They have not an eye single to the glory of God. Their own glory is prominent. They seek to glorify themselves and yet call themselves Christians.” (2T:444).

### THE CALL

“I have tried in the fear of God to set before His people their danger and their sins, and have endeavoured to the best of my feeble powers, to arouse them. I have stated startling things, which if they had believed, would have caused them distress, and terror, and lead them to zeal in repenting of their sins and iniquities. I have stated before them that, from what was shown me, but a small number now professing to believe the truth would eventually be saved---not because they could not be saved, but because they would not be saved in God’s own appointed way.” (2T:445)

“I have been looking over the Testimonies given for Sabbath-keepers and I am astonished at the mercy of God and His care for His people in giving them so many warnings, pointing out their dangers, and presenting before them the exalted position which He would have them occupy. If they would keep themselves in His love and separate from the world, He would cause His special blessings to rest upon them and His light to shine round about them. Their influence for good might be felt in every branch of the work and in every part of the gospel field. But if they fail to meet the mind of God, if they continue to have so little sense of the exalted character of the work as they have had in the past, their influence and example will prove a terrible curse.” (2T:483).

Come Out  
Of Her  
My People  
Part 5

"I have waited anxiously, hoping that God would put His spirit upon some and use them as instruments of righteousness to awaken and set in order His church. I have almost despaired as I have seen, year after year, a greater departure from that simplicity which God has shown me should characterize the life of His followers. There has been less and less interest in, and devotion to, the cause of God. I ask: Wherein have those who profess confidence in the Testimonies sought to live according to the light given in them? Wherein have they regarded the warnings given? Wherein have they heeded the instructions they have received?"

"I saw that great changes must be wrought in the hearts and lives of very many before God can work in them by His power for the salvation of others. They must be renewed after the image of God, in righteousness and true holiness. (2T:484).

1873

### THE CONDITION OF THE CHURCH

"What greater deception can come upon human minds than a confidence that they are right when they are all wrong! The message of the True Witness finds the people of God in a sad deception, yet honest in that deception. They know not that their condition is deplorable in the sight of God. While those addressed are flattering themselves that they are in an exalted spiritual condition, the message of the True Witness breaks their security by the startling denunciation of their true condition of spiritual blindness, poverty, and wretchedness. The testimony, so cutting and severe, cannot be a mistake, for it is the True Witness who speaks, and His testimony must be correct." (3T:252-253).

"I have been shown that the greatest reason why the people of God are now found in this state of spiritual blindness is that they will not receive correction. Many have despised the reproofs and warnings given them. The True Witness condemns the lukewarm condition of the people of God, which gives Satan great power over them in this waiting, watching time." (3T:255).

"The testimony of the True Witness is not a smooth message. The Lord does not say to them, you are about right; you have borne chastisement and reproof that you never deserved; you have been unnecessarily discouraged by severity; you are not guilty of the wrongs and sins for which you have been reproved .

"THE TRUE WITNESS DECLARES THAT WHEN YOU SUPPOSE YOU ARE REALLY IN A GOOD CONDITION OF PROSPERITY, YOU ARE IN NEED OF EVERYTHING." (3T:257).

### THE CALL

"What disposition will these make of the message of the True Witness to the Laodiceans? THERE CAN BE NO DECEPTION HERE. This message must be borne to a lukewarm church by

God's servants. It must arouse His people from their security and dangerous deception in regards to their real standing before God. This testimony, if received, will arouse to action and lead to self-abasement and confession of sins." (3T:259).

"The people of God must see their wrongs and arouse to zealous repentance and a putting away of those sins which have brought them into such a deplorable condition of poverty, blindness, wretchedness, and fearful deception. I was shown that the pointed testimony must live in the church. This alone will answer to the message to the Laodiceans. Wrongs must be reproved, sin must be called sin, and iniquity must be met promptly and decidedly, and put away from us as a people." (3T:260)

1875

### THE CONDITION OF THE CHURCH

"Satan's chief work is at the headquarters of our faith. He spares no pains to corrupt men in responsible positions and to persuade them to be unfaithful to their several trusts." (4T:210-211)

"These men who have been trusted to keep the fort have well-nigh betrayed it into the hands of the enemy.

They have opened the gates to a wily foe, who has sought to destroy them.

"Men of experience have seen stealthy hands slipping the bolts that Satan might enter; yet they have held their peace with apparent indifference as to the results. Some have been glad to see this, as it seemed a extenuation of their past neglect, which made it a necessity to call for others to fill the posts of responsibility that they had abused and neglected. This lack of watchfulness on the part of these newer incumbents seemed to excuse the former for their own want of faithfulness, as it showed that others were fully as derelict in duty. These persons do not realize that God holds them responsible for every advantage gained by the foe who is admitted to the fort. The desolation and ruin following lie at the door of the unfaithful sentinels, who by their neglect, become agents in the hands of the adversary to win souls to destruction." (4T:211-212)

### THE CALL

"We must put on the armor and be prepared to successfully resist all the attacks of Satan. His malignity and cruel power are not sufficiently estimated. When he finds himself foiled upon one point he takes new ground and fresh tactics, and tries again, working wonders in order to deceive and destroy the children of men." (4T:212).

1879

## THE CONDITION OF THE CHURCH

“Some in these churches are in constant danger because the cares of this life and worldly thought so occupy the mind that they do not think upon God or heaven and the needs of their own souls. They rouse from their stupor now and then, but fall back again in deeper slumber. Unless they shall fully rouse from their slumbers, God will remove the light and blessings He has given them. He will in His anger remove the candlestick out of its place. He has made these churches the depository of His Law.” (4T:286)

### THE CALL

“If they reject sin, and by active, earnest piety show stability and submission to the precepts of Gods word, and are faithful in the discharge of religious duty, they will help to establish the candlestick in its place, and will have the evidence that the Lord of hosts is with them and the God of Jacob is their refuge.” (4T:286)

1881

## THE CONDITION OF THE CHURCH

“Thank God, all will not be rocked to sleep in the cradle of carnal security. There will be faithful ones who will discern the signs of the times. While a large number professing present truth will deny their faith by their works, there will be some who endure until the end.

“The same spirit of selfishness, of conformity to the practices of the world, exist in our day as in Noah’s. Many who profess to be children of God follow their worldly pursuits with an intensity that gives a lie to their profession... My soul is burdened as I see the great want of spirituality among us. The fashions and customs of the world, pride, love of amusement, love of display, extravagance in dress, in houses, in lands--these are robbing the treasury of God, turning to the gratification of self the means which should be used to send forth the light of truth to the world.” (5T:10).

“The abominations for which the faithful ones were sighing and crying were all that could be discerned by finite eyes, but by far the worse sins, those which provoked the jealousy of a pure and holy God, were unrevealed... It is with reluctance that the Lord withdraws His presence from those who have been blessed with great light and who have felt the power of the word in ministering to others. They were once His faithful servants, favoured with His presence and guidance; but they departed from Him and led others into error, and therefore are brought under the divine displeasure.” (5T:211-212)

### THE CALL

“Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be

a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. These are the conditions upon which we may be acknowledged as the sons of God--separation from the world and renunciation of those things which delude, and fascinate, and ensnare.” (5T:13).

Thirty-seven years on from 1844, when some followed Jesus into the Most Holy Place, where the first stage of the three stage judgment begins, the wedding feast has begun and the King is in attendance examining the wedding guests.

(MATTHEW 22:1-14).

“But they made light of it, and went their ways, (v5) and when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: (v11) And he said unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. (v12) For many are called, but few are chosen.” (v14)

The condition of the church and the calls from 1852 to 1881 so far, is sound evidence that the Seventh-day Adventist Church leadership and mostly (98 percent, actually) have made light of the marriage feast invitation, and have gone their own ways, and are SPEECHLESS, RIGHT NOW!!!

Does this also apply to our church? The I.M.S. S.D.A.R.M CHURCH? Are we also speechless? Do we have on our wedding garments? NOW? **AMEN**

*John Warncken, Australia.*

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# The Greatest Weapon In Perilous Times

“No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.” Isaiah 54:17

## Hard Times

We are living in harsh, wearisome, and distressful times. The world is relentlessly disintegrating before our eyes! For many it is gallingly painful, unpleasant, and oppressive. For many it is almost hopeless, as a strongly censorious hand preys heavily upon unwary souls; unyielding, irreverent, and depraved. In essence it's repulsively ugly! Ah! But God has given each of us something to staunchly fend off these despised and incalculable factors. Yes, a weapon! The Spirit of Prophecy has said, that” God's Word is our weapon of warfare” (AA 307). God's word is, furthermore, a “weapon without which victories cannot be gained.” (TM 466) Also, “God's word was Jesus' never failing weapon.” (9T 68)

## Weapon Of Prayer

Ah! Yes! But, God too, has given us a superbly potent, spiritual weapon; a formidable, fierce and “**blood-tipped**” **weapon!** It has been forged and sheathed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ! It is **earnest and fervent prayer; pleading and trembling prayer!** (Math 6: 6-15) Prayer is an incredibly and dreadfully powerful weapon! Understanding comes through the mind, the brain! “He who planted the ear, shall he not hear? He who formed the eye, shall he not see?” (Psalm 94:9). Luther said, “God hears our thoughts.” God still hears our thoughts because the Holy Spirit is in us! It goes like this, “the sheep hear My voice and follow Me.” To follow Him leads to “attention in action!” You see, the Spirit reads our minds! We need, therefore, **healthy minds;** alert, sound, energetic, attentive, attuned, zealous... and holy! But, many minds today are clouded, depressed, corrupt, drugged, warped, senile, capricious, diseased... Godless!

## What Is Prayer?

But now, what in essence is prayer? Well, it's a voice in need which appeals for and to the One who hears. You see, prayer brings us up to God! The Holy Spirit is the connecting Spirit. Prayer, moreover, is talking to God. God likes to hear His children pray. An earthly father likes to hear his children pray, too. God, furthermore, has a heart to love. (Jer. 31:3). He has hands to help and hold us (Isaiah 41:10). Unquestionably, He has eyes to watch over us (2 Chron. 16:9). Do you believe it? Assuredly, He is an Infinite God. Everything is open to Him. One cannot hide! His angels are hovering in the world like no satellite can mimic.

Ah! He has feet to run to us, and compassion, for He ran to Adam! (Luke 15:20). He has a mouth to speak (Math 4:4). You see, His Word recreates us. Through the Word we are recreated! (Psalm 42: 5, 11). When you do wrong, He looks up to you in love, and says, "I want to forgive you, and for you to be with Me in the Kingdom of Heaven."

He, in addition has a bosom to embrace us (Isa 40:11). You see, when a child does something wrong, do not furiously confront him but show love and compassion, for this is what is needed. Indeed He has arms to enclose us (Deut 33:27).

Oh! His thoughts encourage us (Psalm 40:5). God, still, does not have any bad thoughts. Ah! But we often have bad thoughts about others, yet God is full of kindness, and forgives. But, corruptible and eccentric man is always running away from God!

But, God's soul still delights in us! (Isa 42:1). God is childishly happy when a sinner comes to Him! He has sympathetic ears to listen to us (Psalm 116:2). In fact His ears are invitingly open at all times! Prayer is the most powerful weapon there is because it brings us to God and binds us with Him! Tennyson, the author, wrote that, "a wingless bird is monstrous!" Prayerlessness, too, is monstrous in the sight of God! You see, prayer is where we find our strength and which helps us to obey; and we "mount up with wings like eagles." (Isaiah 40:31)

## SIX REASONS FOR PRAYER:

**1. WE ARE IN AUDIENCE:** with One who created the earth. It is, therefore, a great honor, for you can talk to Him! You can walk right into that throne room and talk to Him; the One who put the stars in the Heavens; who knows all things; who opens the door to the throne of Grace. (Heb 4:14). In a time of need you can come in boldly because Jesus Christ is there!

**2. GOD COMES TO MAN:** so that man can come to Him! Ah! But if we neglect the privilege of prayer, we then neglect the blood that bought that privilege. For you see, we are in a fierce battle. When you step out of Satan's Kingdom, and you enter the Kingdom of God, you enter the battleground, and not the "playground" anymore!

**3. WHEN TROUBLE BEGINS:** you need the arm of God. Why? Satan and his cohorts, his angels, begin the battle with us here on planet earth. (Eph 6:12). Sis. Ellen White said, "the end is near." Well, it is here now!

**4. TEACHES HOW TO FIGHT:** we fight with the Word of God in prayer! Satan fearfully trembles when he sees the weakest saint on his knees. He knows how powerful prayer is. We cannot go into the battle, and into prayer unarmed! "It's not safe to cast away your weapons when going into battle." (7T 190).

**5. PRAYER – A DETERRENT TO SIN IN OUR LIVES:** when

praying, confess and forsake your sins to God; that He may hear you! (Psalm 66:18; Isa 59:1.2). God cannot live in a dirty heart! God holds up a mirror of our lives. He tells us regarding our sins, and convicts us of our sins. The work of the Holy Spirit brings our sins up to our mind so that we can confess them.

If you have a car battery with a loose or corroded terminal, it blocks the power to the engine. The same with the Lord. If you do not confess and forsake your sins, it blocks the power from Him to you.

So, confess and forsake them! He cannot live in a dirty heart; a heart that is corroded and powerless. So, confess and forsake them... forget them!!!!

**6. VACUUMS THE HEART:** compassionately and delicately ask God, the Father in prayer to give you the power to be convicted of sin and confess them... all! When there's a vacuum in the heart, and it is clean, then God comes in through the Holy Spirit. Ah! But the devil comes back worse off than before with twice the power when the sins remain unconfessed and unforsaken after the sins were revealed and convicted of by the Holy Spirit. Clearly then... when sin goes out... God comes in! Ask, therefore, for the Holy Spirit to come into your life. Remember, God forgives. (1 John 1:29)

## Tailored Conduct

We speak often of sin and see it manifested about us, rearing its ugly head at every turn of our lives. But just what is sin?

Oh! It has many definitions; impiety, blasphemy, infringement, felony, villainy, iniquity, misconduct, immorality, badness, violation, profanity, vice, crime, debauchery, turpitude, profligacy, peccancy, degradation... and it gets worse, and worse and goes on and on! Sin is, in fact, and for our purpose a **transgression of the Law... The Ten Commandments!** (Exodus 20:1-17). Sin is not lawlessness. For if there is no law, there is no transgression! You see, it is a standard, a measure, by which we can follow and "tailor" our conduct according to **His will and the sacred Law!** So, again, by confessing our sins, we can enjoy maximum fellowship with God and have joy with God... and live! Prayer can do it! Blend it into your life! Stop wrestling with it! The Lord Jesus is the **Master Tailor!**

## What's The Difference?

Prayer makes a difference. What is meant by this? Well, I cannot tell you exactly how it works. It is not an empirical formula, for a scientist it merely cannot be analyzed in a test tube or by "gene mapping." Why is this so? Again, it's a mystery and perhaps, a personal matter, or phenomenon.

I can emphatically say, however, that by prayer:

1) **Circumstances change.**

- 2) **Guidance comes.**
- 3) **Our needs are met.**
- 4) **Desire to help others occurs.**
- 5) **The craggy landscape of the face changes!**

You see, again, I cannot explain it scientifically, although science has found its biologic and beneficent effects accentuated by exercising prayer; unconsciously, but powerfully created. Scientists, in awe, not only openly cite prayer today, but use terms such as meditation, or visualizing, but nevertheless in essence it is effectual, humble prayer offered up to and deifying God! Nevertheless, God knows... and He cares!

Ah! Yet, at times I offer up a high-blooded prayer for people that are seriously ill, and "lieth at the point of death"... and they abruptly die! Ministers, in all earnestness, pray for life and often people ultimately die, some peacefully, some violently. Must we then stop praying? Heavens, no! But, "pray without ceasing." (1Thess. 5:17). Many ministers, and sometimes I, do not understand death, but am reminded in the Scriptures making it abundantly clear; "in death there is no remembrance"(Ps 6:5; 13:3); "passed from death to life" (John 3:14)(1Thess 13-17; 4:14); "not dead but sleep"(Luke 8:52; 9:27); "our friend Lazarus sleeps" (John 11:11). "Why make ye this ado, and weep? The child is not dead but sleepeth."(Mark 5:39) "The wages of sin is death." (Romans 6:23), etc., etc.

## 911

Prayer, furthermore, can exist in the state of the heart. To illustrate, in times of desperation in our lives, (let's say a heart attack) one calls the telephone number so well known -- 911! Your heart attack is out of control. You are hysterical, so you dial 911. Immediately, a dispatcher answers; he knows our circumstances and where the call is coming from; our name, telephone number and address. With just the urgency in one's voice, paramedics and the police are on the way! God hears our prayers and passionately elicits a response also.

Oh! There are so many times of desperation in our lives, moments of serious trouble, grief, confusion, even panic.

But, God, too, knows our circumstances, through His angels and His Son, Jesus. God hears our prayers and says, "I'm there!" He already brings the remedy, the antidote for your problem; and a safe vaccine. When the faithful three young men were violently thrown into the furnace, they were miraculously delivered immediately. You see, when one calls on the name of the Lord, He is there. He will "not forsake thee!" "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."(Psalm 23:4). The Divine Shepherd is always at hand. Peter, like all of the disciples was powerless. Their faith was often wavering. Peter's brief trek on the surface of the water bore this out (Math 17:20).

## Bending To The Will

My dear brethren and friends in Christ – pray that you will discern God's will! If you decide to follow Him, you will begin to understand and to discern the Holy Spirit and its power. (John 7:17) Moreover, He sees that you want to understand!(Colossians 1:9). (see Colossians 1:9-14 for the Apostle Paul's prayer for the Colossian Christians and understanding).

When Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane He prayed to His Father, "not as I will, but as thou wilt."(Matt. 26:39). We want God to see our will, and through fervent prayer, we will know what the will of God is in our lives, and thusly, we build a personal and healthful relationship with Him and with the word of God. We will, thereby, know what to pray for! Ah! But not only to understand and discern Him, but passionately pray to do God's will!

So, you see, we need to: understand, believe, and obey.... and again, to pray to do God's will. We can help God to understand us and our will, and then of course, to obey! Again, what did Jesus pray? "not as I will, but as thou wilt." Remember, the Bible, (God's Word), is the Master in knowledge, but the Father, too, is the Master in the living!! Hear Him through the Word. If you hear Him He will hear you!

## Problems With Prayer!

Ah! But there are some problems with prayer, and properly praying. What do you believe is the biggest problem of prayer? Yes, you may have guessed rightly. It's TIME! TIME! TIME! Time to pray. Everything else infringes on our time. We are entangled in our personal affairs! Everything except prayer has priorities: sleeping, work, the beach, shopping, T.V., telephone, computer, children, a new wife, oxen, land, etc. We need to be closer to God! If the wily devil can draw you away from prayer, you will never do the will of God! But, if you have a problem praying, then refer to the model prayer of Jesus in Mathew 6:6-9 and you can experience the power of prayer.

Another menacing problem with prayer is "wanderings." A recent study on wanderings of the mind was made with a reading of Tolstoy's tedious book, "War and Peace" with a group of students. The results revealed that 13% of the time in reading, wanderings of the mind occurred. The same, or perhaps more occurs in praying! The moment one begins praying, the devil enters and wanderings of the mind occur: unpaid bills, no work, children, separation, etc. It is a problem connecting! The mind erratically embarks on various, aimless wanderings!

How can we prevent wanderings and connect firmly with God? Well, it's quite elementary:

**Pray when mentally alert – not tired.**

**Not lying in bed, but on your knees (unless sick or crippled).**



**Not long prayers, but short, and not repetitious; and no nonsense please!**

**Choose a quiet place – no interruptions; a “closet,” you know where it is – privacy is necessary.**

**Shut out the world; children, husband, wife, and work (Jews wear a “shawl.”). Shut in with God!**

Now to whom do we pray? This is often fraught with confusion for some. Well, **you pray to your Father in Heaven.** “After this manner, therefore, pray ye: Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.” (Matt. 6:9). Pray to Him in the very best sentence structure you can imagine, and again, in secret. Remember, you are opening up your character and directly talking to God; all your fears, needs, praises, and thanks. Ah! Then listen to God – His voice! Your Father will reward you openly (John 14:13, 14). You cannot, thusly, disobey God through prayer in His name. How could you? Ah! You cannot, also, live a life your way and pray, because you are collaterally connected with Him! So, again, how could you?

## *Only One Thing!*

**God answers prayer!** Yes, He resolutely answers prayer. He gives us:

**Expectations ; and in unexpected ways.**

**He answers right away.**

**He answers us when we are ready.**

**He teaches us to be contented.**

The Apostle Paul had a worrisome thorn in his flesh. But, God gave him the grace to bear with it. God gives us grace, too, to bear with our “thorn;” to endure to the end, without any guilt, and to spur us on to lofty heights of grandeur and glory. We are, furthermore, dutifully privileged and, therefore, are to be very careful to give all glory and honor to Him. You see, there is a certain penetrating and fragrant sweetness that comes when we spend time with God. The victory can be ours! What are you waiting for?

It is the proper prayer time – and a due season of opportuness – mollissima fandi tempora (Lat)!!

Saint Frances of Assisi succinctly stated, “Lord make me a channel of thy peace, love, forgiveness, hope, light, joy, comfort, and understanding . What a shining list of “pearls”; a notable and stirring example for us to strive for!

Finally, there is only one thing that can save our fragile lives in an hour of desperation in a disintegrating world... **PRAYER! Amen.**

**John Theodorou, USA**



**Br. Oscar Oviedo in Vancouver, Canada**



**Sis. Mariā Rolih in Vancouver, Canada**

# THE MISSING HAIRNET



## CHILDREN'S CORNER

It all happened many, many years ago in Northern California. Mrs. Ellen G. White, the Lord's messenger, was living at Healdsburg only a few blocks from our new college. Since her husband, Elder James White, was now dead, Sister White invited several young ladies to live in her home as they attended school. Among these was one young lady of considerable ability who did some teaching at the school.

How this young lady enjoyed living in Sister White's home: It was a large, white, two-story, frame house, surrounded with garden and orchard. Sister White was a big-hearted, understanding mother to the girls who lived with her. All went well for a few months. Then it happened. As this girl went through Sister White's bedroom on some errand, she saw something on the dresser she wanted very much. She stopped and looked at it. The longer she lingered, the more she felt she just had to have it. She looked this way and that, and seeing no one around she reached out her hand and took it.

And what was it? A watch, or something valuable, you think? No. It was just a hairnet. The women at that time often wore a net over their hair. True, it was a well-made, silk hairnet. Sister White would not miss it, she thought, and it was just what she so much wanted.

Leaving Sister White's bedroom, with the hairnet in her closed hand, the young lady went to her bedroom and opening her trunk, put the net in the corner of the tray. She closed the trunk and went about her duties. But there was no song in her heart now. You know why.

A few hours later in the day, Sister White was preparing to go out, and entering her bedroom to get ready, she brushed her hair, and thought to put on the net, as was the custom of that day. But she could not find the net anywhere. It was not on the top of the dresser. She looked at the back of it, she looked under it, but could not find the missing article anywhere. Giving up, she did without it.

That evening at worship time the girls gathered with Sister White around the open fireplace. Often Sister White, in

connection with the worship, told a story of the early days. How they did enjoy these stories! But this evening, Sister White had a question to ask the girls.

"Have any of you seen my hairnet?" she asked. Continuing, she said, "It was right there on my dresser in the bedroom. When I went to get it, it was gone. It must be found. It could not go away by itself." But no one seemed to know about the hairnet, for no one responded. There was one girl there, however, who wished Mrs. White would not say anything about a hairnet. The matter was dropped.

A day or two later, as Sister White was passing through this girl's room, a voice spoke to her as she passed the trunk, "Lift the lid of that trunk!"

But it was not Sister White's trunk and she would not think of looking into someone else's trunk. Again the voice spoke to her, "Lift the lid of that trunk."

Now she recognized the voice to be that of an angel, and she obeyed and opened the trunk. In the tray was the missing hairnet. She left it there, closed the trunk, and went about her tasks.

That evening, as the family came together again for worship, the hairnet question came up. "Does anyone know where the hairnet is?" Sister White asked. "I am sure it can be found. It could not go away by itself." But there was no response, and no one seemed to know anything about the hairnet. Sister White did not press the matter further. One girl was worried and in her heart she determined to destroy the hairnet, lest Sister White should discover that she had taken it. How ungrateful this would seem!

A few days after this, Sister White was seated in the living room in front of the fire in the fireplace, busy with her writing. It may have been a personal testimony she was writing to someone, or she may have been working on some of the last chapters of Great Controversy. For several hours she had been busy with her pen and her hand was tired, her mind was tired, and her eyes were tired. She laid

her pen down and looked into the fireplace, and then just for a moment she was in vision. This was one of the shortest visions ever given to Sister White.

In this vision she saw the hand and arm of a girl. In the hand was a hairnet. She also saw on the table a kerosene lamp which was burning. She saw the hairnet held over the lamp and then lowered until the net touched the flame. In a flash of light, the silk net burned, and it was gone. The vision was over, and Sister White found herself in the living room by the open fire. Now she knew what had happened to the missing hairnet.

That evening when the family was together around the fireplace, Sister White again asked about the hairnet. Did not someone know what had happened to it? Someone must know about it. But nothing was said; no one seemed to know. Sister White dropped the matter.

A little later Sister White called aside the girl in whose trunk she had seen the hairnet. She told her about the voice that spoke to her. She told her what she saw when she opened the trunk. Then she told her about the short vision and of how she saw the hairnet burn up over the lamp.

The girl broke down in tears. "Yes, Sister White, I took it," she confessed. "I wanted it so much, and I did not think you would miss it, but when you began to press the matter I feared you would find out that I had taken it, so I held the net over a lamp and burned it up, just as you saw in the vision, and I said to myself, 'Now no one will ever know about the hairnet.'"

But someone was watching from up in heaven. The angels made a record of what took place, and God sent His angel down to this world with a vision for Sister White just about the hairnet. It was such a small thing for the Lord to bother about. God who created the earth and guides the planets, sent His angel down to this world with a vision for Sister White just about a hairnet a girl had taken. But it was a matter much more important than the value of the hairnet. Here was the soul of a young lady at stake.

She was a member of the church. She went to Sabbath School and to church. She was a Seventh-day Adventist, and she felt that she was all right. She did not realize that there were little sins in her life—sins which led her to steal and to deceive. But when she saw that God loved her so much that He sent His angel down to this world with a vision for Sister White just about the hairnet, then she began to see some things differently. Some of the seemingly little things now seemed much more important. How much the Lord must love her; how important the little things were!

Not only did this girl confess her sin of stealing and make the matter right with Sister White and with the Lord, but this experience became the turning point in her life.

This young lady gave her heart anew to God, and she lived a sweet, consistent Christian life. And that was why the vision was given to Sister White. It was to help men and women, and boys and girls to live sweet, consistent Christian lives that so many visions were given to Sister White. And the counsels were written out in the Spirit of Prophecy books to help everyone live good lives, and to get ready to meet Jesus.

## Baptism In New Caledonia



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