

REVIVAL NOW!

“Will You not revive us again, That Your people may rejoice in You.” Ps. 85:6

A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work. {1SM 121.1}

The descent of the Holy Spirit upon the church is looked forward to, as in the future; but it is the privilege of the church to have it now. Seek for it, pray for it, believe for it. We must have it, and Heaven is waiting to bestow it.—Letter 15, 1892, pp. 8-10. {5MR 335.1}

God rebukes His people for their sins, that He may humble them, and lead them to seek His face. As they reform, and His love revives in their hearts, His loving answers will come to their requests. He will strengthen them in reformatory action, lifting up for them a standard against the enemy. His rich blessing will rest upon them, and in bright rays they will reflect the light of heaven. Then a multitude not of their faith, seeing that God is with His people, will unite with them in serving the Redeemer. {RH, February 25, 1902 par. 16}

Revival Now!

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Introduction

Many years ago, when I lived in Ohio, we experienced a prolonged drought. Initially, extra watering of the grass and plants maintained some of the greenery around my home. Wherever the hose reached, it was green. But beyond that, the plants increasingly died off. Later, additional water restrictions came that eventually prohibited all watering. I adjusted my life accordingly. One of the extreme measures adopted to preserve a few plants was employing used bathwater to water them. By that time the lawn looked dead, the trees were losing their leaves and the unmerciful cloudless sky seemed to mock the many earnest pleas for rain. Then one day the life-giving, landscape-changing rains came. Where before everything around the house had been drab and dry, suddenly there was a spontaneous explosion of greenery all around. Needless to say, I was rejoicing and praising God.

Our church is experiencing a similar lack of life-giving spiritual "rain." Responding to the lack, denominational leaders, pastors and thousands of members have been crying to God for spiritual rain multiple times per day. Directives for prayer have been urged. Special meetings have been organized. Faithful members have come together to seek Heaven's blessings. Pastors have adjusted their preaching schedules to focus more on revival and the Holy Spirit. Prayer phone lines have stayed busy. Sabbath School Quarterlies focusing on revival have been prepared and carefully studied. Our presses have churned out many helpful books on the subject. The church has developed special web sites that provide much helpful information.

In spite of these sincere efforts, in too many cases the prayers going up have apparently gone unanswered. Yes, there was a bit of an answer here and there, but it wasn't the reviving rain that was anticipated—it wasn't the spontaneous downpour of new life and power that seemed to be promised in the Scriptures and the Spirit of Prophecy. Like my hose back in Ohio that maintained greenery wherever it could reach, limited by my willingness to get out and water, so the church has only experienced limited blessings, and

those blessings have often been constrained by the willingness of the pastor and members to continue busily pursuing them. What is needed is a spontaneous explosion of blessing similar to what came when the rains arrived when I lived in Ohio.

Why has the rain been withheld? It is promised in Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy. It has been experienced in the history of the church. It has been experienced at various times in our own denomination. But we would be hard pressed to say we are experiencing it now. So the question comes, “Why not now?” Is God unaware of the need? Is God unable to send the desired blessings? Is God unwilling to help for some reason?

The cry of “why” has often been raised. In the Old Testament the people questioned why God had seemingly ignored their fasting and afflicting of soul (Isa. 58:3; Mal. 3:14). The same question is still asked in our day.

In studying the Scriptures about God’s chosen people in the Old Testament I have been awed by God’s tender love, displayed against the backdrop of a rebellious and idolatrous people. God delivered them from Egypt, established them in the promise land, drove out their enemies, prospered them, gave them peace, and cared for them in ways that would have been unimaginable in Egypt. But regardless of God’s blessings, His chosen people frequently turned their backs on Him, joined themselves to idols, adopted heathen customs and came to live in ways that even repulsed their heathen neighbors. In response God sent messenger after messenger with messages of mercy, begging them to return to their privileged status as His treasured people. But they closed their ears, hardened their hearts and stubbornly chose to pursue happiness and well being in ways that were often contrary to what God was saying. A summary statement on their condition is found in 2 Chron. 36:15,16: “They mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against His people till there was no remedy.”

In considering the history of our denomination, we were also raised up by God and established in miracle ways. God has prospered us as a people. God has given us much peace and favor. He has also blessed us with a messenger who came with messages of love, mercy, admonishment, and much detailed information on how to know and experience the full blessings of God. We have been blessed.

In studying I have been reminded that the enemy of souls has constantly tried to sidetrack and derail us from following the pathway set out by God. In mercy God sent specific messages to help us get back on track. Sometimes the messages were heeded and resulted in renewed blessings and prosperity. Sometimes the messages were resisted—even rejected, and sad consequences followed. It seems we have minimized the importance of the messenger. I see a cautionary tale in Naaman’s experience, whose healing was dependent upon his completely obeying the message of the designated messenger. Are we following the messages of the designated messenger in our day?

The one giving the messages now rests in the grave, but the messages given retain their full force. In carefully reading those messages one begins to find answers on why the spiritual rain is not falling.

Here are some findings.

Our condition is worse than most of us believe!

“What greater deception can come upon human minds than a confidence that they are right when they are all wrong! {3T 252.4}

“I have been shown that many are flattering themselves that they are good Christians, who have not a ray of light from Jesus.” {3T 253.1}

Our rejection of the messages is a primary reason for our failings!

“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.” {3T 255.1}

“I have been shown that unbelief in the testimonies of warning, encouragement, and reproof is shutting away the light from God’s people. Unbelief is closing their eyes so that they are ignorant of their true condition.” {3T255.3}

There is much hope! God is willing and waiting to bring revival!

“A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work. There must be earnest effort to obtain the blessing of the Lord, not because God is not willing to bestow His blessing upon us, but because we are unprepared to receive it. Our heavenly Father is more willing to give His Holy Spirit to them that ask Him, than are earthly parents to give good gifts to their children.” {1 SM 121.1}

God has also given clear instructions on how to obtain revival.

But it is our work, by confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer, to fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised to grant us His blessing.” {1 SM 121.1}

In this booklet I endeavor to share what it means to pursue revival through confession, humiliation, repentance and earnest prayer. I have chosen to somewhat follow the sequence that was followed during the course of the revivals experienced in Battle Creek and South Lancaster in 1888 and 1889, that began with lifting up Christ.

In the booklet, I have chosen to share the Scriptures and Spirit of Prophecy quotations with little commentary of my own. To facilitate discussion, I have chosen to use line numbers instead of page numbers.

Some of the things shared are strong medicine. They were hard for me to read; they may be hard for you to read. They provide accurate information on our condition. Other quotations give clear direction on how to experience life-changing, revival-bringing transformation. So, keep reading!

We also learn that apart from Christ we don’t have the strength to overcome the slightest temptation. Only Christ has that power. So, please do not be discouraged as you read. Instead of lamenting your weakness, look to Jesus and rejoice that in obeying, new, transforming moral power will be yours!

And remember, in seeking revival we are not trying to work our way into heaven, for salvation from first to last is His gift. *The Compiler*

1 I. Accept God's Wonderful Gift Of Pardon And Righteousness

2 Believe Victory Is Possible

3 Rom. 6:14 "For sin shall not have dominion over you...."

4 1 John 3:6 "Whoever abides in Him does not sin."

5 Rom. 6:1,2 "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace
6 may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer
7 in it."

8 Eph. 1:4 "Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,
9 that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love."

10 Titus 2:13,14 "Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our
11 great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might
12 redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special
13 people, zealous for good works."

14 1Pet. 1:14-16 "As obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the
15 former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you
16 also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am
17 holy."

18 **Christ came to the world to counteract Satan's falsehood that God had**
19 **made a law which men could not keep.** Taking humanity upon Himself,
20 He came to this earth, and by a life of obedience showed that God has not
21 made a law that man cannot keep. **He showed that it is possible for man**
22 **perfectly to obey the law. Those who accept Christ as their Saviour,**
23 **becoming partakers of His divine nature, are enabled to follow His**
24 **example, living in obedience to every precept of the law.** Through the
25 merits of Christ, man is to show by his obedience that he could be trusted in
26 heaven, that he would not rebel. {FLB 114.2}

27 Before the believer is held out **the wonderful possibility of being like**
28 **Christ, obedient to all the principles of the law.** But **of himself man is**
29 **utterly unable to reach this condition.** The holiness that God's word
30 declares he must have before he can be saved **is the result of the working**
31 **of divine grace as he bows in submission to the discipline and**
32 **restraining influences of the Spirit of truth.** The part of the Christian is **to**
33 **persevere in overcoming every fault. Constantly he is to pray to the**
34 **Saviour to heal the disorders of his sin-sick soul.** He has not the wisdom
35 or the strength to overcome; these belong to the Lord, and He bestows them
36 on those who in humiliation and contrition seek Him for help. {AA 532.1}

37 Christ and his obedient children love one another. **Their tastes are**
38 **identical.** The true followers of Jesus are so abiding in him that **they love**
39 **that which he loves, and hate that which he hates.** One spirit pervades the
40 whole body. How then can the branches of the True Vine bear anything but
41 good fruit? If Christ's words abide in the Christian, how can he do
42 otherwise than work the works of Christ? He lives, he abides, in Christ, and
43 **like Christ ever has an eye single to the glory of God.** "If ye keep my
44 commandments [not profess to regard them, and then work contrary to
45 them], ye shall abide in my love." **You shall be united with One superior**
46 **in vital power and wisdom,** the weaker depending on the stronger,
47 "looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of your faith." {ST August 10,
48 1891, par. 1}

49

50

Acknowledge Your Total Inability

51 Jer. 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked;
52 who can know it?”

53 Jer. 13:23 “Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Then
54 may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil.”

55 John 8:34 “Whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.”

56 Eph. 2:1 “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and
57 sins....”

58 Our condition is **helpless and hopeless....** {ST January 4, 1883, par. 12}

59 There are **but two powers that control the minds of men—the power of**
60 **God and the power of Satan.** {Te 276.3}

61 **Man is Satan's captive and is naturally inclined to follow his**
62 **suggestions and do his bidding. He has in himself no power to oppose**
63 **effectual resistance to evil.** It is only as Christ abides in him by living
64 faith, influencing his desires and strengthening him with strength from
65 above, that man may venture to face so terrible a foe. Every other means of
66 defense is utterly vain. **It is only through Christ that Satan's power is**
67 **limited.** This is a momentous truth that all should understand. Satan is busy
68 every moment, going to and fro, walking up and down in the earth, seeking
69 whom he may devour. But the earnest prayer of faith will baffle his
70 strongest efforts. Then take ‘the shield of faith,’ brethren, ‘wherewith ye
71 shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.’ {5T 294.2}

72 Men need to learn that **the blessings of obedience, in their fullness, can be**
73 **theirs only as they receive the grace of Christ.** It is His grace that gives
74 man power to obey the laws of God. **It is this that enables him to break**
75 **the bondage of evil habit. This is the only power that can make him and**
76 **keep him steadfast in the right path.** {CCh 216.4}

77

78

Choose A Better Way

79 Php. 2:13 “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is
80 God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”

81 **“Through yielding to sin, man placed his will under the control of**
82 **Satan. He became a helpless captive in the tempter's power. God sent**
83 **His Son into our world to break the power of Satan, and to emancipate**
84 **the will of man.** He sent Him to proclaim liberty to the captives, to undo
85 the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free. By pouring the whole
86 treasury of heaven into this world, by giving us in Christ all heaven, God
87 has purchased the will, the affections, the mind, the soul, of every human
88 being. **When man places himself under the control of God, the will**
89 **becomes firm and strong to do right, the heart is cleansed from**
90 **selfishness, and filled with Christlike love.** The mind yields to the
91 authority of the law of love, and **every thought is brought into captivity**
92 **to the obedience of Christ. When the will is placed on the Lord's side,**
93 **the Holy Spirit takes that will and makes it one with the divine will.”**
94 {AUCR June 1, 1900, Art. A, par. 10}

95 **“It is impossible for us, of ourselves, to escape from the pit of sin in**
96 **which we are sunken. Our hearts are evil, and we cannot change them.**
97 "Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one." "The carnal mind
98 is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed
99 can be." Job 14:4; Romans 8:7. **Education, culture, the exercise of the**
100 **will, human effort, all have their proper sphere, but here they are**
101 **powerless.** They may produce an outward correctness of behavior, but **they**
102 **cannot change the heart; they cannot purify the springs of life. There**
103 **must be a power working from within, a new life from above, before**
104 **men can be changed from sin to holiness. That power is Christ.** His
105 grace alone can quicken the lifeless faculties of the soul, and attract it to
106 God, to holiness." {SC 18.1}

107

108

Humbly Confess Sin

109 Prov. 28:13 “He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever
110 confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.”

111 James 5:16 “Confess your trespasses to one another and pray for one
112 another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous
113 man avails much.”

114 1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our
115 sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

116 Ps. 34:18 “The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves
117 such as have a contrite spirit.”

118 **By prayer and confession of sin we must clear the King’s highway. As**
119 **we do this, the power of the Spirit will come to us.** We need the
120 Pentecostal energy. This will come, for the Lord has promised to send His
121 Spirit as the all-conquering power. {CCh 326.5}

122 **Those who have not humbled their souls before God in acknowledging**
123 **their guilt, have not yet fulfilled the first condition of acceptance. ...**

124 Confession of sin, whether public or private, should be heartfelt and freely
125 expressed. It is not to be urged from the sinner. It is not to be made in a
126 flippant and careless way, or forced from those who have no realizing sense
127 of the abhorrent character of sin. **True confession is always of a specific**
128 **character, and acknowledges particular sins.** They may be of such a
129 nature as to be brought before God only; they may be wrongs that should be
130 confessed to individuals who have suffered injury through them; or they
131 may be of a public character, and should then be as publicly confessed. But
132 all confession should be definite and to the point, acknowledging the very
133 sins of which you are guilty. {SC 38.1}

134

135

Repent And Turn From Sin

136 Acts 3:19 “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted
137 out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”

138 Acts 17:30 “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now
139 commands all men everywhere to repent.”

140 “Repentance includes sorrow for sin and a turning away from it. We shall
141 not renounce sin unless we see its sinfulness; **until we turn away from it**
142 **in heart, there will be no real change in the life.**” {SC 23.2}

143

144 Make An Unreserved Surrender

145 Joshua 22:5 “But take careful heed to do the commandment and the law
146 which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your
147 God, to walk in all His ways, to keep His commandments, to hold fast to
148 Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

149 Rom. 12:1 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that
150 you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is
151 your reasonable service.”

152 **True victory is gained only when the repentant sinner pledges himself**
153 **to unconditional obedience to God,**—only when he pledges himself to
154 honor God in every word, every business transaction, every act of his life.
155 {PH050}

156 It is through the truth, by the power of the Holy Spirit, that we are to be
157 sanctified,—transformed into the likeness of Christ. And **in order for this**
158 **change to be wrought in us, there must be an unconditional, whole-**
159 **hearted acceptance of the truth, an unreserved surrender of the soul to**
160 **its transforming power.** – {RH April 12, 1892 Par. 1}

161 **God will accept nothing less than unreserved surrender.** Half-hearted,
162 sinful Christians can never enter heaven. There they would find no
163 happiness; for they know nothing of the high, holy principles that govern
164 the members of the royal family. {RH May 16, 1907, par. 1}

165 **There are some who seem to be always seeking for the heavenly pearl.**
166 **But they do not make an entire surrender of their wrong habits. They**
167 **do not die to self that Christ may live in them.** Therefore they do not find
168 the precious pearl. They have not overcome unholy ambition and their love
169 for worldly attractions. They do not take up the cross and follow Christ in
170 the path of self-denial and sacrifice. **Almost Christians, yet not fully**
171 **Christians, they seem near the kingdom of heaven, but they cannot**
172 **enter there. Almost but not wholly saved, means to be not almost but**
173 **wholly lost.** {COL 118.1}

174

175 Receive Pardon And Christ’s Righteousness

176 Rom. 5:1 “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with
177 God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

178 Rom. 5:19 “For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so
179 also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.”

180 2Cor. 5:21 “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we
181 might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

182 **“What is justification by faith? It is the work of God in laying the glory**
183 **of man in the dust, and doing for man that which it is not in his power**
184 **to do for himself.** When men see their own nothingness, they are prepared
185 to be clothed with the righteousness of Christ.” {FLB 111.2}

186 **The thought that the righteousness of Christ is imputed to us, not**
187 **because of any merit on our part, but as a free gift from God, is a**
188 **precious thought. The enemy of God and man is not willing that this**
189 **truth should be clearly presented; for he knows that if the people**
190 **receive it fully, his power will be broken. {RH, December 24, 1908 par 2}**

191 It was possible for Adam, before the fall, to form a righteous character by
192 obedience to God's law. But he failed to do this, and **because of his sin our**
193 **natures are fallen and we cannot make ourselves righteous.** Since we are
194 sinful, unholy, we cannot perfectly obey the holy law. **We have no**
195 **righteousness of our own with which to meet the claims of the law of**
196 **God. But Christ has made a way of escape for us. He lived on earth**
197 **amid trials and temptations such as we have to meet. He lived a sinless**
198 **life. He died for us, and now He offers to take our sins and give us His**
199 **righteousness.** If you give yourself to Him, and accept Him as your
200 Saviour, then, **sinful as your life may have been, for His sake you are**
201 **accounted righteous. Christ's character stands in place of your**
202 **character, and you are accepted before God just as if you had not**
203 **sinned. {SC 62.2}**

204 All who have a sense of their deep soul poverty, who feel that they have
205 nothing good in themselves, may find righteousness and strength by looking
206 unto Jesus. He says, "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy-laden."
207 Matthew 11:28. He bids you exchange your poverty for the riches of His
208 grace. **We are not worthy of God's love, but Christ, our surety, is**
209 **worthy, and is abundantly able to save all who shall come unto Him.**
210 **Whatever may have been your past experience, however discouraging**
211 **your present circumstances, if you will come to Jesus just as you are,**
212 **weak, helpless, and despairing, our compassionate Saviour will meet**
213 **you a great way off, and will throw about you His arms of love and His**
214 **robe of righteousness.** He presents us to the Father clothed in the white
215 raiment of His own character. He pleads before God in our behalf, saying: I
216 have taken the sinner's place. Look not upon this wayward child, but look
217 on Me. Does Satan plead loudly against our souls, accusing of sin, and
218 claiming us as his prey, the blood of Christ pleads with greater power. {MB
219 8.2}

220 **Justification is the opposite of condemnation. God's boundless mercy is**
221 **exercised toward those who are wholly undeserving.** He forgives
222 transgressions and sins for the sake of Jesus, who has become the
223 propitiation for our sins. Through faith in Christ the guilty transgressor is
224 brought into favor with God and into the strong hope of life eternal. . . .
225 {CTr 150.4}

226 **Jesus sees the guilt of the past, and speaks pardon, and we must not**
227 **dishonor Him by doubting His love.** This feeling of guiltiness must be laid
228 at the foot of the cross of Calvary. . . . Jesus says, "Lay it all on Me. I will
229 take your sins; I will give you peace. **Banish no longer your self-respect,**
230 **for I have bought you with the price of My own blood. You are Mine.**
231 **Your weakened will I will strengthen; your remorse for sin I will**
232 **remove." {TMK 241.4}**

233

234

II. Be Transformed

235

Through Receiving God's Word

236 Ps. 119:11 "Your word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against
237 You."

238 John 17:17 "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth."

239 John 8:32 "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you
240 free."

241 Rom. 10:17 "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of
242 God."

243 Rom. 12:2 "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by
244 the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and
245 acceptable and perfect will of God."

246 2 Cor. 3:18 "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the
247 glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to
248 glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."

249 **The Scriptures are the great agency in the transformation of character.**
250 Christ prayed, "Sanctify them through Thy truth; Thy word is truth." John
251 17:17. **If studied and obeyed, the word of God works in the heart,**
252 **subduing every unholy attribute.** The Holy Spirit comes to convict of sin,
253 and the faith that springs up in the heart works by love to Christ,
254 conforming us in body, soul, and spirit to His own image. Then God can use
255 us to do His will. The power given us works from within outwardly, leading
256 us to communicate to others the truth that has been communicated to us.
257 {COL 100.1}

258 **Received into the heart, the leaven of truth will regulate the desires,**
259 **purify the thoughts, and sweeten the disposition.** It quickens the faculties
260 of the mind and the energies of the soul. It enlarges the capacity for feeling,
261 for loving. {COL 101.1}

262 **The purity, the holiness, of the life of Jesus as presented from the Word**
263 **of God, possess more power to reform and transform the character**
264 **than do all the efforts put forth in picturing the sins and crimes of men**
265 **and the sure results. One steadfast look to the Saviour uplifted upon the**
266 **cross will do more to purify the mind and heart from every defilement**
267 **than will all the scientific explanations by the ablest tongue.** {TSB
268 108.2}

269 **The Bible is the storehouse that supplies their souls with nourishing**
270 **food.** They meditate upon the incarnation of Christ, they contemplate the
271 great sacrifice made to save them from perdition, to bring in pardon, peace,
272 and everlasting righteousness. The soul is aglow with these grand and
273 elevating themes. Holiness and truth, grace and righteousness, occupy the
274 thoughts. Self dies, and Christ lives in His servants. **In contemplation of**
275 **the word their hearts burn within them as did the hearts of the two**
276 **disciples while they went to Emmaus** and Christ walked with them by the
277 way and opened to them the scriptures concerning Himself. {CT 341.2}

278 **The work of transformation from unholiness to holiness is a continuous**
279 **work.** Day by day God labors for man's sanctification, and **man is to co-**
280 **operate with him by putting forth persevering efforts in the cultivation**

281 **of right habits.** The way in which we are to work out our own salvation is
282 plainly specified in the first chapter of Second Peter. Constantly we are to
283 add grace to grace, and as we do this, God will work for us upon the plan of
284 multiplication. **He is always ready to hear and answer the prayer of the**
285 **contrite heart, and grace and peace are multiplied to his faithful ones.**
286 **Gladly he grants them the blessings that they need in their struggle**
287 **against the evils that beset them.** Those who listen to the counsels of his
288 Word shall not want any good thing.” {RH March 15, 1906, par. 11}

289

290

Be Transformed

291

Through Secret Prayer

292 Ps. 46:10 “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the
293 nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

294 Hab. 2:10 “The Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence
295 before Him.”

296 Matt. 6:6 “But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have
297 shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your
298 Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.”

299 Prayer is a necessity; for it is the life of the soul. Family prayer, public
300 prayer, have their place; but **it is secret communion with God that**
301 **sustains the soul life.** {RH, December 31, 1908 par. 10}

302 You will **receive more strength by spending one hour each day in**
303 **meditation, and mourning over your failings and heart-corruptions,**
304 **and pleading for God’s pardoning love, and the assurance of sins**
305 **forgiven, than you would by spending many hours and days in studying**
306 the most able authors, and making yourself acquainted with every objection
307 to our faith, and the most powerful evidences in favor of our faith {RH,
308 January 19, 1864 par. 19}

309 “**When every other voice is hushed, and in quietness we wait before**
310 **Him, the silence of the soul makes more distinct the voice of God.** He
311 bids us, ‘Be still, and know that I am God.’ Ps. 46:10. Here alone can true
312 rest be found. And this is the effectual preparation for all who labor for
313 God. **Amid the hurrying throng, and the strain of life’s intense**
314 **activities, the soul that is thus refreshed will be surrounded with an**
315 **atmosphere of light and peace.** The life will breathe out fragrance, and
316 will reveal a divine power that will reach men’s hearts.” {DA 363.3}

317 **How shall this victory over the world be obtained? Go to your closet,**
318 **dear reader, and there plead with God: "Create in me a clean heart, O**
319 **God, and renew a right spirit within me."** Be in earnest; be sincere;
320 Jacob-like, wrestle in prayer. **Do not leave your closet until you feel**
321 **strong in God. Remain until unutterable longings for salvation are**
322 **awakened in your heart, and the sweet evidence is obtained of**
323 **pardoned sin. Then when you leave your closet, watch; and so long as**
324 **you watch and pray, the grace of God will appear in your life.** {ST,
325 November 18, 1886 par. 7}

326 **In no case neglect secret prayer; for it is the soul of religion.** If you
327 expect salvation, you must pray. Take time. Be not hurried and careless in

328 your prayers. **Intercede with God to work in you a thorough**
329 **reformation, that the fruits of the Spirit may dwell in you, and that, by**
330 **your godly life, you may shine as a light in the world.** When you
331 sincerely feel that without the help of God you perish, when you pant after
332 him as the hart panteth after the water-brooks, then will the Lord strengthen
333 you speedily, and you will have that peace that passeth understanding. {ST,
334 November 18, 1886 par. 8}

335 **Many, even in their seasons of devotion, fail of receiving the blessing of**
336 **real communion with God. They are in too great haste.** With hurried
337 steps they press through the circle of Christ's loving presence, pausing
338 perhaps a moment within the sacred precincts, but not waiting for counsel.
339 They have no time to remain with the divine Teacher. With their burdens
340 they return to their work. {Ed 260.3}

341 **These workers can never attain the highest success until they learn the**
342 **secret of strength. They must give themselves time to think, to pray, to**
343 **wait upon God for a renewal of physical, mental, and spiritual power.**
344 They need the uplifting influence of His Spirit. Receiving this, they will be
345 quickened by fresh life. The wearied frame and tired brain will be refreshed,
346 the burdened heart will be lightened. {Ed 260.4}

347

348

Be Transformed

349

Through Accepting God's Special Messages For Our Day

350 2 Chron. 20:20 "Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be
351 established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper."

352 Jer. 26:13 "Now therefore, amend your ways and your doings, and obey the
353 voice of the Lord your God; then the Lord will relent concerning the doom
354 that He has pronounced against you."

355 **The written testimonies are not to give new light, but to impress vividly**
356 **upon the heart the truths of inspiration already revealed.** Man's duty to
357 God and to his fellow man has been distinctly specified in God's word, yet
358 but **few of you are obedient to the light given.** Additional truth is not
359 brought out; but **God has through the Testimonies simplified the great**
360 **truths already given and in His own chosen way brought them before**
361 **the people to awaken and impress the mind with them, that all may be**
362 **left without excuse.** The Testimonies are not to belittle the word of God,
363 but to exalt it and attract minds to it, that the beautiful simplicity of truth
364 may impress all. {CCh 92.1}

365 There are not many of you that really know what is contained in the
366 Testimonies. ... It is **because you have neglected to acquaint yourselves**
367 **with God's inspired Book that He has sought to reach you by simple,**
368 **direct testimonies, calling your attention to the words of inspiration**
369 **which you had neglected to obey,** and urging you to fashion your lives in
370 accordance with its pure and elevated teachings. {CCh 92.5}

371 **I have been shown that unbelief in the testimonies of warning,**
372 **encouragement, and reproof is shutting away the light from God's**
373 **people.** Unbelief is closing their eyes so that they are ignorant of their true
374 condition. **They think the testimony of the Spirit of God in reproof is**

375 **uncalled for or that it does not mean them. Such are in the greatest**
376 **need of the grace of God and spiritual discernment, that they may**
377 **discover their deficiency in spiritual knowledge. { 2TT 289.1}**

378 Many who have backslidden from the truth assign as a reason for their
379 course that they do not have faith in the Testimonies. **The question now is:**
380 **Will they yield their idol which God condemns, or will they continue in**
381 **their wrong course of indulgence and reject the light God has given**
382 **them reproofing the very things in which they delight?** The question to be
383 settled with them is: Shall I deny myself and receive as of God the
384 Testimonies which reprove my sins, or shall I reject the Testimonies
385 because they reprove my sins? { 2TT 289.2}

386

387 **Be Transformed Through Dying To Self**

388 **Accept Being Broken**

389 Ps. 51:17 “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite
390 heart—these, O God, You will not despise. “

391 Ps. 34:18 “The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart....”

392 **We must fall upon the Rock and be broken before we can be uplifted in**
393 **Christ. Self must be dethroned, pride must be humbled, if we would**
394 **know the glory of the spiritual kingdom.** The Jews would not accept the
395 honor that is reached through **humiliation**. Therefore they would not
396 receive their Redeemer. He was a sign that was spoken against. {DA 56.5}

397 **You say, “The surrender of all my idols will break my heart.” This is**
398 **what is needed. In giving up all for God, you fall upon the rock and are**
399 **broken. Give up all for him without delay, for unless you are broken,**
400 **you are worthless. {ST, August 8, 1892 par. 2}**

401

402 **Agree To Dying To Self**

403 Luke 9:23 “Then He said to them all, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me,
404 let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For
405 whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for
406 My sake will save it.’”

407 1 Cor. 15:31 “I die daily.”

408 Rom. 6:1-4 “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace
409 may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer
410 in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ
411 Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him
412 through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by
413 the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

414 Jesus bade His followers take up the cross and bear it after Him. **To the**
415 **disciples His words, though dimly comprehended, pointed to their**
416 **submission to the most bitter humiliation,--submission even unto death**
417 **for the sake of Christ. No more complete self-surrender could the**
418 **Saviour's words have pictured. {DA 416.3}**

419 **It is because men are not more than half converted that the church is so**
420 **dead and lifeless. There are many who are and have been all their lives**

421 **half Christians.** Their names are in the Book of Life, and if they turn to the
422 Lord with full purpose of heart, they then respect the voice that says unto
423 them, “Seek ye My face,” and reply, “Thy face, Lord, will I seek,” and they
424 shall see God with a clear, elevated, spiritual sense. The religious sentiment
425 awakened in the heart is recognized as God’s call, and is obeyed. **Everyone**
426 **will be tested and tried in the very way that is the most trying.** Men
427 cannot trust to their own wisdom. **Self-sufficiency, if indulged, will be**
428 **their stumbling block. Self must die and not have a resurrection every**
429 **other day.** The words must be truly spoken, “I live, yet not I, but Christ
430 liveth in me.” **The “I” is a very hard personality to kill. “I” rises into life**
431 **in full proportions if given the least opportunity or encouragement.**
432 Then, confident in their own supposed wisdom, men forsake the right way.
433 {21MR 368.2,3}

434 **Why is it so hard to lead a self-denying, humble life? Because professed**
435 **Christians are not dead to the world. It is easy living after we are dead.**
436 {RH, January 6, 1863 par. 10}

437 The **new birth is a rare experience** in this age of the world. This **is the**
438 **reason why there are so many perplexities in the churches.** Many, so
439 many, who assume the name of Christ are unsanctified and unholy. They
440 **have been baptized, but they were buried alive. Self did not die, and**
441 **therefore they did not rise to newness of life in Christ.** {6BC 1075.7}

442 **We cannot retain self and yet be filled with the fullness of God. We**
443 **must be emptied of self.** If heaven is gained by us at last, it will be only
444 through the renunciation of self, and the receiving of the mind of Christ.
445 {ST November 21, 1892, par. 4}

446

447 Agree To Being Emptied Of Self

448 Rom. 8:12-13 “Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live
449 according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die;
450 but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”

451 Rom. 13:14 “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for
452 the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.”

453 2 Cor. 7:1 “Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse
454 ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the
455 fear of God.”

456 Gal. 5:24-25 “And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its
457 passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”

458 1 John 2:16-17 “For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of
459 the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And
460 the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of
461 God abides forever.”

462 **Man must be emptied of self before he can be, in the fullest sense, a**
463 **believer in Jesus.** When self is renounced, then the Lord can make man a
464 new creature. New bottles can contain the new wine. The love of Christ will
465 animate the believer with new life. In him who looks unto the Author and
466 finisher of our faith the character of Christ will be manifest. {DA 280 .4}
467 1898

468 **Those who work for God are daily to empty the heart of self, that they**
469 **may be cleansed of their hereditary and cultivated tendencies to wrong.**
470 They are to depend wholly upon Him who taught as never man taught.
471 **Unless the soul temple is daily emptied of self, and prepared for the**
472 **reception of the Holy Spirit, self will rule the entire being.** The words
473 and acts will be tarnished with selfishness. Christ will not appear in the life.
474 There will be seen a self-confidence that is wholly inappropriate. {18MR
475 168.3}

476 **Let every one empty himself of the spirit of self-importance and receive**
477 **the meekness of Christ.** {SpTB05 51.2}

478 **The Lord bids us empty our hearts of the selfishness which is the root**
479 **of alienation.** He longs to pour upon us His Holy Spirit in rich measure,
480 **and He bids us clear the way by self-renunciation. When self is**
481 **surrendered to God, our eyes will be opened to see the stumbling stones**
482 **which our un-Christlikeness has placed in the way of others.** All these
483 God bids us remove. {6T 43.2}

484 **We cannot retain self and yet be filled with the fullness of God. We**
485 **must be emptied of self.** If heaven is gained by us at last, it will be only
486 through the renunciation of self, and the receiving of the mind of Christ.
487 Pride and self-sufficiency must be crucified, and the vacuum supplied with
488 the Spirit and power of God. **Are we willing to pay the price required of**
489 **us for eternal life? Are we ready to sit down and count the cost, and**
490 **conclude that heaven is worth the sacrifice of dying to self, of having**
491 **our will brought into perfect conformity with the will of God? Until we**
492 **are willing, the transforming grace of God will not be manifested upon**
493 **us. When we present our emptied nature to God, he will by his Holy**
494 **Spirit supply the vacuum made by the renunciation of self, and give us**
495 **of his fullness.** {ST, November 21, 1892 par. 4}

496 No outward observances can take the place of simple faith and entire
497 renunciation of self. But **no man can empty himself of self. We can only**
498 **consent for Christ to accomplish the work.** Then the language of the soul
499 will be, Lord, take my heart; for I cannot give it. It is Thy property. Keep it
500 pure, for I cannot keep it for Thee. Save me in spite of myself, my weak,
501 unchristlike self. Mold me, fashion me, raise me into a pure and holy
502 atmosphere, where the rich current of Thy love can flow through my soul.
503 {COL 159.3}

504 It is not only at the beginning of the Christian life that this renunciation of
505 self is to be made. At every advance step heavenward it is to be renewed.
506 All our good works are dependent on a power outside of ourselves.
507 Therefore **there needs to be a continual reaching out of the heart after**
508 **God, a continual, earnest, heartbreaking confession of sin and**
509 **humbling of the soul before Him. Only by constant renunciation of self**
510 **and dependence on Christ can we walk safely.** {COL 159.4}

511 **When the heart is emptied of self, it will be ready for the baptism of the**
512 **Holy Spirit, and then you will be fitted to strengthen the sheep and**
513 **lambs of the flock of Christ; for self will be hid with Christ in God.** The
514 Spirit of Christ will be manifested in your daily life. {ST, August 1, 1892
515 par. 5}

516

517

Accept Necessary Trials

518 John 15:2 “Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and
519 every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.”

520 Ps. 51:7-8 “Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I
521 shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, That the bones
522 You have broken may rejoice”

523 Mal. 3:3 “He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the
524 sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the
525 Lord An offering in righteousness.”

526 2 Cor. 4:17 “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working
527 for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.”

528 James 1:2-4 “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,
529 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience
530 have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking
531 nothing.”

532 Rev. 3:19 “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous
533 and repent.”

534 Heb. 5:8 “Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience through the
535 things which He suffered.”

536 Christ desires nothing so much as to redeem His heritage from the dominion
537 of Satan. **But before we are delivered from Satan's power without, we**
538 **must be delivered from his power within.** The Lord permits trials in order
539 that we may be cleansed from earthliness, from selfishness, from harsh,
540 unchristlike traits of character. **He suffers the deep waters of affliction to**
541 **go over our souls in order that we may know Him and Jesus Christ**
542 **whom He has sent, in order that we may have deep heart longings to be**
543 **cleansed from defilement, and may come forth from the trial purer,**
544 **holier, happier.** Often we enter the furnace of trial with our souls darkened
545 with selfishness; but if patient under the crucial test, we shall come forth
546 reflecting the divine character. When His purpose in the affliction is
547 accomplished, "He shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy
548 judgment as the noonday." Psalm 37:6. {COL 174.3}

549 **Trials are essential in order that we may be brought close to our**
550 **heavenly Father, in submission to his will, that we may offer unto the**
551 **Lord an offering in righteousness.** God's work of refining and purifying
552 the soul **must go on until his servants are so humbled, so dead to self,**
553 **that when called into active service, they may have an eye single to the**
554 **glory of God. . . . The Lord brings his children over the same ground**
555 **again and again, increasing the pressure until perfect humility fills the**
556 **mind, and the character is transformed;** then they are victorious over
557 self, and in harmony with Christ and the Spirit of heaven. {RH April 10,
558 1894, par. 2}

559 **The very trials that test our faith most severely, and make it seem that**
560 **God has forsaken us, are designed to lead us nearer to Christ, that we**
561 **may lay all our burdens at his feet, and receive the peace he will give us**
562 **in exchange. . . . When you surrender yourself entirely to God, when**

563 **you fall all broken upon Jesus, you will be rewarded by a victory, the**
564 **joy of which you have never yet realized.** As you review the past with a
565 clear vision, you will see that at the very time when life seemed to you only
566 a perplexity and a burden, Jesus himself was near you, seeking to lead you
567 into the light. Your Father was by your side, bending over you with
568 unutterable love, afflicting you for your good, as the refiner purifies the
569 precious ore. When you have thought yourself forsaken, he has been near
570 you to comfort and sustain. We seldom view Jesus as he is, and are never so
571 ready to receive his help as he is to help us. {GW92 372.3}

572 Some seek to control their surroundings, thinking that if they are placed in
573 favorable positions, the bad traits in their character will not be developed.
574 But **God orders our surroundings, and he will place us where we shall**
575 **have test after test, to prove us and to reveal what is in our hearts.**
576 **Again and again we shall be brought into strait places, that it may be**
577 **known whether we are indeed crucified with Christ or full of self-love.**
578 How will this proving, testing process end with each of us? The prince of
579 darkness will put forth all his power to retain us in his possession; but we
580 have a mighty helper.—Review and Herald, June 3, 1884. {RH, June 3,
581 1884 par. 11}

582 The Father's presence encircled Christ, and **nothing befell Him but that**
583 **which infinite love permitted for the blessing of the world.** Here was His
584 source of comfort, and it is for us. He who is imbued with the Spirit of
585 Christ abides in Christ. **Whatever comes to him comes from the Saviour,**
586 **who surrounds him with His presence. Nothing can touch him except**
587 **by the Lord's permission.** All our sufferings and sorrows, all our
588 temptations and trials, all our sadness and griefs, all our persecutions and
589 privations, in short, all things work together for our good. All experiences
590 and circumstances are God's workmen whereby good is brought to us. {MH
591 488.4}

592 By God's mighty cleaver of truth we have been taken from the quarry of the
593 world and **brought into the workshop of the Lord to be prepared for a**
594 **place in his temple.** In this work the hammer and chisel must act their part,
595 and then comes the polishing. Rebel not under this process of grace. You
596 may be a rough stone, on which much work must be done before you are
597 prepared for the place God designs you to fill. **You need not be surprised**
598 **if with the hammer and the chisel of trial God cuts away your defects of**
599 **character.** He alone can accomplish this work. And **be assured that he**
600 **will not strike one useless blow. His every blow is struck in love,** for
601 your eternal good and happiness. He knows your defects, and **works to**
602 **restore, not to destroy.** He sends trials to you to make you strong to do and
603 to suffer for him. {RH, June 20, 1907 par. 4}

604 God's love for his church is infinite. His care over his heritage is unceasing.
605 **He suffers no affliction to come upon the church but such as is essential**
606 **for her purification,** her present and eternal good. **He will purify his**
607 **church even as he purified the temple at the beginning and close of his**
608 **ministry on earth. All that he brings upon the church is test and trial**
609 **comes that his people may gain deeper piety and more strength to carry**
610 **the triumphs of the cross to all parts of the world.** He has a work for all
611 to do. There must be constant enlargement and progress. The work must

612 extend from city to city, from country to country, and from nation to nation,
613 moving continually onward and upward, established, strengthened, and
614 settled. {KC 114.5}

615

616 Receive New Life And Power “In Christ”

617 John 15:4 “Abide in me, and I in you.”

618 Col. 1:27 “To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the
619 glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope
620 of glory.”

621 1 Cor. 3:16 “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the
622 Spirit of God dwells in you.”

623 Gal. 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but
624 Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in
625 the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

626 2Cor. 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old
627 things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

628 1 John 4:4 “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them,
629 because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”

630 **When the soul surrenders itself to Christ, a new power takes possession**
631 **of the new heart.** A change is wrought which man can never accomplish
632 for himself. **It is a supernatural work, bringing a supernatural element**
633 **into human nature.** The soul that is yielded to Christ becomes His own
634 fortress, which He holds in a revolted world, and He intends that no
635 authority shall be known in it but His own. A soul thus kept in possession
636 by the heavenly agencies is impregnable to the assaults of Satan. {DA
637 324.1}

638 The Lord Jesus loves His people, and **when they put their trust in Him,**
639 **depending wholly upon Him, He strengthens them. He will live through**
640 **them, giving them the inspiration of His sanctifying Spirit, imparting to**
641 **the soul a vital transfusion of Himself.** He acts through their faculties and
642 **causes them to choose His will and to act out His character.** With the
643 apostle Paul they then may say, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I
644 live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the
645 flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself
646 for me" (Galatians 2:20). . . . {TMK 78.4}

647 Jesus “has life in himself,” and **this life he offers to impart freely to souls**
648 **that are dead in trespasses and sins.** Yea, he shares with them his purity,
649 his honor, and exaltation. “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath
650 bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God.” The sapless
651 branch, ingrafted into the living vine, becomes a part of the vine. It lives
652 while united to the vine. **So the Christian lives by virtue of his union with**
653 **Christ.** The sinful and human is linked to the holy and divine. {RH,
654 September 11, 1883 par. 6}

655 **At the altar of self-sacrifice,—the appointed place of meeting between**
656 **God and the soul,—we receive from the hand of God the celestial torch,**
657 which searches the heart, revealing our great need of an abiding Christ.
658 **When we feel our heart need, when we long after the quickening**

659 **influence of the Holy Spirit, Christ draws nigh to us. Self is crucified.**
660 **Christ lives in us,** and the power of the Spirit attends our efforts; then the
661 soul is refined and elevated. Light from the heavenly sanctuary shines upon
662 us, and we are enabled to exert an influence which is a savor of life unto
663 life. **By a union with Christ, by living faith, we are privileged to enjoy**
664 **the efficacy of His mediation. We are crucified with Christ, buried with**
665 **Christ, risen with Christ, to walk in newness of life.** {ST October 11,
666 1899 Par. 14, 15}

667 “Without me ye can do nothing.” It is at the peril of the soul that so many
668 feel able to work in their own finite wisdom. **Without Christ we cannot**
669 **subdue a single sin nor resist the slightest temptation. It is connection**
670 **with a power that is almighty which will make us overcomers.** Then let
671 everyone who comes to Jesus walk humbly, and feel daily that he needs a
672 power out of and above himself, to soften his stony heart; that he needs to
673 be melted over, that the dross of self may be consumed. **The same power**
674 **that turned the water to wine at the marriage feast of Cana is able to**
675 **eradicate all evil from our nature, and to make us partakers of the**
676 **divine nature.** The very same power that made the leper clean can make the
677 heart pure, fit for the society of God, of angels, and of the redeemed host.
678 **Holy obedience will be found only in the righteousness which Christ**
679 **imparts to the believing soul.** “As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself,
680 except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.” And
681 **every soul that abides in Christ and has Christ abiding in him, is as**
682 **dear to God as is his own beloved Son.** Accepted in the Beloved, he is an
683 object of the Father’s tender care, and he will bear much fruit as the result
684 of his union with the True Vine. {ST August 10, 1891, par. 2}

685 **A union with Christ by living faith is enduring; every other union must**
686 **perish.** Christ first chose us, paying an infinite price for our redemption;
687 and the true believer chooses Christ as first and last and best in everything.
688 But **this union costs us something. It is a union of utter dependence, to**
689 **be entered into by a proud being.** All who form this union must feel their
690 need of the atoning blood of Christ. They must have a change of heart. They
691 must submit their own will to the will of God. There will be a struggle with
692 outward and internal obstacles. **There must be a painful work of**
693 **detachment as well as a work of attachment.** Pride, selfishness, vanity,
694 worldliness--sin in all its forms--must be overcome if we would enter into a
695 union with Christ. **The reason why many find the Christian life so**
696 **deplorably hard, why they are so fickle, so variable, is that they try to**
697 **attach themselves to Christ without first detaching themselves from**
698 **these cherished idols.** {5T 231.3}

699 Do you ask, “How am I to abide in Christ?” In the same way as you
700 received Him at first. “As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord,
701 so walk ye in Him.” “The just shall live by faith.” Colossians 2:6; Hebrews
702 10:38. You gave yourself to God, to be His wholly, to serve and obey Him,
703 and you took Christ as your Saviour. You could not yourself atone for your
704 sins or change your heart; but having given yourself to God, you believe
705 that He for Christ's sake did all this for you. By faith you became Christ's,
706 and by faith you are to grow up in Him--**by giving and taking. You are to**
707 **give all,--your heart, your will, your service,--give yourself to Him to**

708 obey all His requirements; and **you must take all,--Christ, the fullness of**
709 **all blessing, to abide in your heart, to be your strength, your**
710 **righteousness, your everlasting helper,--to give you power to obey.** {SC
711 69.2}

712

713 **Cooperate With The Holy Spirit**

714 Acts 1:8 “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon
715 you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and
716 Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

717 Eph. 5:18 “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be
718 filled with the Spirit.”

719 **The only power that can quicken the heart into activity is the power**
720 **which will give life to the dead—the Holy Spirit of God. . . .** Hang your
721 helpless soul upon your Mediator. In and through Him, and Him alone, you
722 can come to God. . . . {2MR 24.4}

723 **The Spirit was to be given as a regenerating agent, and without this the**
724 **sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail. The power of evil had**
725 **been strengthening for centuries, and the submission of men to this**
726 **satanic captivity was amazing. Sin could be resisted and overcome only**
727 **through the mighty agency of the third person of the Godhead, who**
728 **would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. It**
729 **is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the**
730 **world's Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure.**
731 **Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine**
732 **nature.** {RH November 19, 1908, Art. B, par. 5}

733 Transformation of character is wrought through the operation of the
734 **Holy Spirit, which works upon the human agent, implanting in him,**
735 **according to his desire and consent to have it done, a new nature.** The
736 image of God is restored to the soul, and **day by day he is strengthened**
737 **and renewed by grace, and is enabled more and more perfectly to**
738 **reflect the character of Christ in righteousness and true holiness.”** {RH
739 September 17, 1895, par. 7}

740 **Christ has promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to His church.... but like**
741 **every other promise, it is given on conditions.** There are many who
742 believe and profess to claim the Lord's promise; they **talk about Christ**
743 **and about the Holy Spirit, yet receive no benefit. They do not surrender**
744 **the soul to be guided and controlled by the divine agencies. We cannot**
745 **use the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is to use us. ...** But many will not submit to
746 this. They want to manage themselves. This is why they do not receive the
747 heavenly gift. **Only to those who wait humbly upon God, who watch for**
748 **His guidance and grace, is the Spirit given. This promised blessing,**
749 **claimed by faith, brings all other blessings in its train.”** {DA 672.2}

750

751 **Do Not Consult Your Feelings**

752 Jer. 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked;
753 who can know it?”

754 Rom. 10:17 "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of
755 God."

756 Prov. 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own
757 understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your
758 paths."

759 **If you look to yourself, you will see only weakness.** There is no Saviour
760 there. You will find Jesus away from yourself. You must look and live;
761 [look] to Him who became sin for us, that we might be cleansed from sin
762 and receive of Christ's righteousness. {DG 146.3}

763 **Satan may try to bind you to his car [chariot] as a helpless soul. But**
764 **shout in victory that Christ has made you a free man. Do not dishonor**
765 **God by one expression of inefficiency and inability to overcome fully,**
766 **entirely, and gloriously through Jesus Christ,** who has died to redeem
767 you, and make you a free man. **Conquer, yes, conquer. Put your will**
768 **every moment on the side of God's will. Think hopefully and**
769 **courageously.** In faith cry out against Satan, and looking unto Jesus who is
770 the author and finisher of your faith, say, "**Jesus, my Redeemer, I am**
771 **weak. I cannot do anything without Thy special help. I hang my**
772 **helpless soul on Thee.**" Then let your imagination dwell on the thought
773 **that you are in the presence of Jesus, walking with God, your life hid**
774 **with Christ in God.... Then you will not glorify Satan** by imagining
775 yourself weak and helpless. You will keep yourself uplifted into a pure and
776 holy atmosphere. You will receive the Holy Spirit as a comforter, as a
777 sanctifier.... You will have a calm, restful spirit in God. **You will say,**
778 **"Jesus lives, and because He lives I will live also. He has conquered**
779 **Satan in my behalf, and I will not be conquered by the devil once.** I will
780 not disgrace my Lord and Leader; but I will triumph in His holy name, and
781 come off more than conqueror." {OHC 41.3}

782 **If we believe in the power of Jesus' name, and present our petitions to**
783 **God in His name, we shall never be turned away....** Our help cometh
784 from God, who holds all things in His own hands. Our peace is in the
785 assurance that His love is exercised toward us. **If faith grasps this**
786 **assurance, we have gained all; if we lose this assurance, all is lost.** When
787 we surrender all we have and are to God and are placed in trying and
788 dangerous positions, coming in contact with Satan, **we should remember**
789 **that we shall have victory in meeting the enemy in the name and power**
790 **of the Conqueror.** Every angel would be commissioned to come to our
791 rescue when we thus depend upon Christ rather than that we should be
792 permitted to be overcome. {TMK 265.3}

793

794 An Instructive Testimony

795 One place we were laboring in America, **and there was every youth in our**
796 **college at South Lancaster, Massachusetts, converted as we were telling**
797 **them the simple story of the cross, to come to Jesus just as they were.**
798 Such an experience. **I missed the youth there one evening, and I**
799 **inquired, "Where are they? They have been here, but they are not here**
800 **now." Soon a whole class of them came in and took their seats. Then**
801 **they got up and began to bear their testimonies--I have done wrong to**

802 **such a neighbor**, I have done wrong to such a man, I have done this sin and
803 that and the other one--and another one stood up on his feet and bore his
804 confessions. **They said, "I wanted to come to this meeting knowing that**
805 **I had removed the last stumbling block before my feet and the feet of**
806 **others."** What a testimony they bore. . . . {10MR 308.1,2} Now here is the
807 word before us. "According to His divine power." **We have no strength,**
808 **we have nothing of ourselves, we are utter weakness. We cannot take**
809 **one step toward God unless His grace is working upon human hearts**
810 **and drawing us.** Just as soon as we take the first step toward His mercy
811 and grace He advances toward us, He advances with His pardon and grace.
812 He takes away the sins of the world, and imputes to us His righteousness.
813 {10MR 308.4} **Now we may think, "I did not feel just as I wanted to."**
814 In that very meeting **there was one that thought that he had received the**
815 **love of God as he never had received it before.** The next morning he
816 came to the meeting and he got up. I knew in a moment something was the
817 matter. The light was not in his countenance. **Said he, "Somehow I don't**
818 **feel as I did last night.** Somehow I don't feel a nearness to God. **I lost the**
819 **blessing.**" {10MR 309.1} **"Where did you lose it, Brother R? Where did**
820 **you lose it?" "I can't tell."** "You slept through the night and God guarded
821 you all night. Then what is the matter this morning?" **Well, he did not**
822 **know. I will tell you. You have not educated yourself to believe in God**
823 **whatever feelings you have.** Feeling is not your God, and it is no use for
824 you to offer sacrifice on the altar of feeling, for feeling and faith are just as
825 distinct from each other as heaven and earth, as the east is from the west.
826 {10MR 309.2} "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of
827 things not seen." **Now faith walks the narrow plank, and walks till it**
828 **comes to the end, then steps right off onto nothing, as it were. Yet it is**
829 **everything. It is a mighty upholder. You walk the plank of faith and**
830 **you cannot see another step to go. You need not consult how you feel.**
831 **Feeling has nothing to do with it.** Do I believe in God, that He is my God,
832 and that His promises will be verified to me? Then I go right about my
833 work. **I never look or examine whether I have feeling or have no feeling.**
834 **I know what my duty is from the expressed will of God, and it is for me**
835 **to do it and do it intelligently.** {10MR 309.3}

836

837 Receive Victory

838 2 Cor. 2:14 "Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in
839 Christ...."

840 2 Cor. 7:1 "Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse
841 ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the
842 fear of God."

843 **In order to gain the victory over every besetment of the enemy, we must**
844 **lay hold on a power that is out of and beyond ourselves. We must**
845 **maintain a constant, living connection with Christ, who has power to**
846 **give victory to every soul that will maintain an attitude of faith and**
847 **humility....** As those who hope to receive the overcomer's reward, we must
848 press forward in the Christian warfare, though at every advance we meet
849 with opposition.... As overcomers, we are to reign with Christ in the
850 heavenly courts, and we are to overcome through the blood of the Lamb and

851 the word of our testimony. “Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the
852 temple of my God.” {SD 370.4}

853 **None will enter the holy city, the paradise of God, but as conquerors,—**
854 **those who have separated themselves from the world, and stood in**
855 **defense of the faith once delivered to the saints, and have fought the**
856 **good fight of faith, looking constantly to “Jesus, the author and finisher**
857 **of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross,**
858 **despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of**
859 **God.”** {RH August 25, 1885, par. 16}

860 **Let us take the robe of His righteousness woven in the loom of heaven.**
861 **There is not a thread of humanity in that robe. It is the robe of Christ’s**
862 **righteousness. Let us put it on right here.** We want life. We want to give
863 the example of what Christ is and what we may be. Oh, that we might
864 manifest God to a fallen world. **We may be purified so that we may wear**
865 **the robe of Christ’s righteousness, and the crown of immortality.** God
866 grant that this may be our lot; for Jesus loves us with a love that is infinite.
867 He does not want that one of us should perish, but that everyone may have
868 that life that measures with the life of God. God grant that we may secure
869 that blessed inheritance—Ms. 12, 1894. (MR 900.11) {1SAT 249.1}

870

871 III. Adopt Christ’s Lifestyle Of Obedience And Service

872

Take Christ’s Yoke

873 Matt. 11:28-30 “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I
874 will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek
875 and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is
876 easy, and my burden is light.”

877

878

Do Not Take On False Yokes

879 Gal. 5:1 “Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us
880 free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.”

881 John 8:36 “Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.”

882 Does He not tell us the truth when He says, “My yoke is easy”? **If we**
883 **manufacture yokes for ourselves, as many are doing, we shall find them**
884 **extremely galling;** but if we take the yoke that Christ has prepared for us,
885 and become meek and lowly in heart, self will be hid with Christ in God.
886 This is the correct position for us to occupy. {2SAT 275.1}

887 We often think we are having a hard time in bearing burdens, and it is too
888 often the case, because **God has not made any provision for us to carry**
889 **these burdens;** but when we bear His yoke and carry His burdens, we can
890 testify that the yoke of Christ is easy and His burdens are light, because He
891 has made provision for these. {5BC 1091.2}

892 **Jesus invites you to lay down the yoke you have been bearing, which has**
893 **been galling your neck ... the load of self-love, covetousness, pride,**
894 **passion, jealousy, and evil surmising.** Yet how closely do men clasp these
895 curses, and how loath are they to give them up. {4T 240.3}

896

897

899 1 John 5:3 "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.
900 And His commandments are not burdensome."

901 This yoke, [which] you are afraid [to] put upon your neck because you fear
902 it will gall, Jesus says is easy. The **burden you dare not touch—it is light**.
903 All that is required on your part is to resolutely lay hold upon it, and **you**
904 **will find it a support rather than a grievous burden**. That cross which
905 seems to you so inconvenient an instrument to lift, which seems too heavy
906 to be raised, when you cheerfully lay hold upon it and lift it, **it will lift you**
907 **and be a support and strength to you....** {UL 376.4}

908

909

What is God's Yoke?

910

It Is A Yoke Of Obedience

911 John 6:38 "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but
912 the will of Him who sent Me."

913 John 13:17 "If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."

914 The **yoke and the cross are symbols representing the same thing**,—the
915 giving up of the will to God. {5BC 1090.8}

916 What is "My yoke"? **It is perfect submission to God.** {1SAT 152.3}

917 "When you give up your own will, your own wisdom, and learn of Christ,
918 you will find admittance into the kingdom of God. He **requires entire,**
919 **unreserved surrender**. Give up your life for Him to order, mold, and
920 fashion. Take upon your neck His yoke. **Submit to be led and taught by**
921 **Him**. Learn that unless you become as a little child, you can never enter the
922 kingdom of heaven. {1SM 110.2}

923 Holiness is not rapture: **it is an entire surrender of the will to God**; it is
924 living by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God; it is doing the
925 will of our heavenly Father; it is **trusting God in trial, in darkness as well**
926 **as in the light**; it is walking by faith and not by sight; it is **relying on God**
927 **with unquestioning confidence**, and resting in His love. {AA 51.2}

928 **Holiness is constant agreement with God.** {ST, June 21, 1905 par. 3}

929

930

It Is Also A Yoke of Service

931 Matt. 10:8 "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out
932 demons. Freely you have received, freely give."

933 Matt. 20:26-28 "And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your
934 slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve...."

935 The **yoke is an instrument of service**. Cattle are yoked for labor, and the
936 yoke is essential that they may labor effectually. **By this illustration Christ**
937 **teaches us that we are called to service as long as life shall last**. We are
938 to take upon us His yoke, that we may be co-laborers with Him. {ST June
939 29, 1904 Par. 3}

940 If you will seek the Lord and be converted every day; if you will of your
941 own spiritual choice be free and joyous in God; if with gladsome consent of
942 heart to His gracious call, you come wearing the yoke of Christ,—**the yoke**
943 **of obedience and service**,—all your murmurings will be stilled, all your

944 difficulties will be removed, all the perplexing problems that now confront
945 you will be solved. {MB 101.3}

946 Whatever business engagements men may yoke up with, if Christians, they
947 must wear the yoke of duty to Christ. This is their allegiance. They are to
948 consider themselves bound by superior obligations. The **Master, Jesus**
949 **Christ, has placed His yoke upon the neck of every disciple. The life**
950 **service is pledged to Him in accepting His yoke. Anything that will mar**
951 **or hinder his perfect service to God is to be broken off,** whatever its
952 nature or character may be. . . . {HP 201.4}

953

954 This Yoke Is To Be Worn In Meekness And Lowliness

955 Ps. 25:9 “The meek will he guide ... the meek will he teach his way.”

956 Ps. 37:11 “But the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves
957 in the abundance of peace.”

958 Ps. 149:4 “He will beautify the meek with salvation.”

959 Matt. 5:5 “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”

960 **We are to take his yoke** of submission, restraint, and obedience, **in**
961 **meekness and lowliness of heart.** Those who yoke up with Christ will find
962 rest and peace. {GH, December 1, 1899 par. 6}

963 Meekness is a precious, Christian attribute. The meekness and lowliness of
964 Christ are only learned by wearing Christ's yoke. . . . **That yoke signifies**
965 **entire submission.** {HP 236.2}

966 In our separation from God, in our pride and darkness, we are constantly
967 seeking to elevate ourselves, and we forget that **lowliness of mind is**
968 **power.** Our Saviour's power was not in a strong array of sharp words that
969 would pierce through the very soul; **it was His gentleness and His plain,**
970 **unassuming manners that made Him a conqueror of hearts.** Pride and
971 self-importance, when compared with lowliness and humility, are indeed
972 weakness. {3T 477.1}

973 The **meekness and lowliness of Christ is the Christian's power.** It is
974 indeed more precious than all things which genius can create or wealth can
975 buy. {CH 403.1}

976 Jesus expects that **his gentleness and condescension will be reproduced**
977 **in those whom he blesses.** Jesus came to our world, and chose the lowliest
978 life, took the humblest position, leaving us an example that we should
979 follow in his steps. The The Majesty of heaven **was meek and lowly in**
980 **heart, and he expects all his followers to catch his spirit** of meekness and
981 lowliness.... {ST August 22, 1895 Par. 1}

982 In the world the Christian will **be slighted and dishonored,** and will
983 **consent to be least of all and servant of all.** He will **submit to be injured,**
984 **to be spitefully used and persecuted,** but wearing the yoke of Christ he
985 will find rest unto his soul, and the yoke will not be galling. {ST August 22,
986 1895 Par. 5}

987 Meekness is a precious grace, **willing to suffer silently, willing to endure**
988 **trials.** Meekness **is patient and labors to be happy under all**
989 **circumstances.** Meekness is **always thankful** and makes its own songs of

990 happiness, making melody in the heart to God. Meekness **will suffer**
991 **disappointment and wrong, and will not retaliate.** {3T 335.1}

992

993

This Yoke Is Easy To Carry

994 John 16:33 “Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

995 James 1:2-4 “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,
996 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience
997 have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking
998 nothing.”

999 2 Cor. 4:17 “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working
1000 for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.”

1001 It was the **spirit of uncomplaining submission in which our Saviour did**
1002 **His duty that made His yoke easy** and His burden light. He conformed to
1003 the law of obedience and service, and **the same principle that made Him**
1004 **so useful everywhere, He requires His followers to obey.** In this way
1005 every man must be educated before he can love God supremely and his
1006 neighbor as himself. {ST, June 16, 1898 par. 9}

1007 When you **find your work hard**, when you **complain of difficulties and**
1008 **trials**, when you say that **you have no strength** to withstand temptation,
1009 that **you cannot overcome** impatience, and that **the Christian life is uphill**
1010 **work, be sure that you are not bearing the yoke of Christ;** you are
1011 bearing the yoke of another master. {CG 267.3}

1012

1013

What Does This Mean On A Practical Basis?

1014 1 John 2:6 “He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just
1015 as He walked.”

1016 Mic. 6:8 “He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord
1017 require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your
1018 God.”

1019 Isa. 66:2 “But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite
1020 spirit, and who trembles at My word.”

1021 Take hold of the arm of God, and say, “**I am nothing, and Thou art**
1022 **everything.** Thou hast said, 'Without me ye can do nothing.' **Now, Lord, I**
1023 **must have Thee abiding in me, that I may abide in Thee.**” Then advance
1024 step by step, by living faith abiding in Jesus Christ. **This is wearing His**
1025 **yoke**, the yoke of obedience (MS 85, 1901). {5BC 1092.1}

1026 **Lowliness of heart, that meekness which is the fruit of abiding in**
1027 **Christ, is the true secret of blessing.** ... It was through the desire for self-
1028 exaltation that sin entered into the world, and our first parents lost the
1029 dominion over this fair earth, their kingdom. **It is through self-abnegation**
1030 **that Christ redeems that which was lost. And He says we are to**
1031 **overcome as He did.** Through humility and self-surrender we may become
1032 heirs with Him, when the “meek shall inherit the earth.” [49] – {SD 303.5}

1033

1034

1035

1036

We Will Be Blessed In Obeying

1037 Rom. 8:37 “Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors....”

1038 1 Cor. 15:57 “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our
1039 Lord Jesus Christ.”

1040 **The blessings connected with Christ’s invitation can be realized and**
1041 **enjoyed by those only who wear Christ’s yoke.** Accepting this invitation,
1042 you withdraw your sympathy, your affections, from the world, and place
1043 them where you can enjoy the blessing of close fellowship and communion
1044 with God. By coming to Christ, you bind up your interests with his. {RH
1045 October 23, 1900 Par. 10}

1046 **There is rest for the soul in wearing Christ's yoke, in lifting Christ's**
1047 **burdens.** It seems a contradiction to say that **there is no rest for the soul**
1048 **except that which is found in continuous and devoted service. But this is**
1049 **true.** Happiness comes in willing, obedient service, where all the powers of
1050 our being are moving in happy, healthy, harmonious action in obeying our
1051 Captain's orders. **The more responsible the task assigned to Christ's**
1052 **soldiers, the more the soul exults in the Saviour's love and approval.**
1053 **The soul realizes a freedom in the performance of the weightiest and**
1054 **most taxing duties.** Youth Instructor, December 22, 1886

1055 Oh, **what wonderful blessings and opportunities God has in store for**
1056 **those who wear Christ's yoke!** Trouble comes to us because we
1057 manufacture yokes for ourselves, refusing to wear the yoke of Christ.
1058 {PUR, January 15, 1903 par. 3}

1059 **None but God can subdue the pride of man’s heart. We cannot save**
1060 **ourselves. We cannot regenerate ourselves.** In the heavenly courts **there**
1061 **will be no song sung, “To me that loved myself, and washed myself,**
1062 **redeemed myself, unto me be glory and honor, blessing and praise.”** But
1063 this is the keynote of the song that is sung by many here in this world. They
1064 do not know what it means to be meek and lowly in heart, and they do not
1065 mean to know this if they can avoid it. **The whole gospel is comprised in**
1066 **learning of Christ His meekness and lowliness.** { 20MR 117.2 }

1067

1068

IV. What Is The Condition of God’s People

1069 Iniquity Separated God’s Chosen People From Him In The Past

1070 Isa. 1:4 “Alas, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity....”

1071 Isa. 1:11 “To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?”

1072 Isa. 1:15 “When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you;
1073 Even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of
1074 blood.”

1075 Isa. 59:1-2 “Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, That it cannot save;
1076 Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated
1077 you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you.”

1078 Jer. 5:30-31 “An astonishing and horrible thing has been committed in the
1079 land; The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule by their own
1080 power; and My people love to have it so. But what will you do in the end.”

1081 2Chron. 36:15,16 “And the Lord God of their fathers sent warnings to them
1082 by His messengers, rising up early and sending them, because He had

1083 compassion on His people and on His dwelling place. But they mocked the
1084 messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until
1085 the wrath of the Lord arose against His people till there was no remedy.”

1086

1087 Blessings Were Promised And Fulfilled

1088 Zech. 13:1,2 “In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of
1089 David....”

1090 Acts 2:41-43 “... that day about three thousand souls were added....”

1091 Acts 5:14 “And believers were increasingly added to the Lord,
1092 multitudes....”

1093 What was the result of the outpouring of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost?
1094 The **glad tidings of a risen Saviour were carried to the uttermost parts**
1095 **of the inhabited world.** As the disciples proclaimed the message of
1096 redeeming grace, hearts yielded to the power of this message. The **church**
1097 **beheld converts flocking to her from all directions.** Backsliders were
1098 reconverted. Sinners united with believers in seeking the pearl of great
1099 price. Some who had been the bitterest opponents of the gospel became its
1100 champions. ... **Every Christian saw in his brother a revelation of divine**
1101 **love and benevolence.** One interest prevailed; one subject of emulation
1102 swallowed up all others. The **ambition of the believers was to reveal the**
1103 **likeness of Christ’s character and to labor for the enlargement of His**
1104 **kingdom.** {AA 48.1}

1105

1106 What Happened In The Church Over Time?

1107 Rev. 2:4 “Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first
1108 love.”

1109 After the descent of the Holy Spirit, when the disciples went forth to
1110 proclaim a living Saviour, their one desire was the salvation of souls. They
1111 rejoiced in the sweetness of communion with saints. **They were tender,**
1112 **thoughtful, self-denying, willing to make any sacrifice for the truth’s**
1113 **sake. In their daily association with one another, they revealed the love**
1114 **that Christ had enjoined upon them.** By unselfish words and deeds they
1115 strove to kindle this love in other hearts. {AA 547.3}

1116 But **gradually a change came. The believers began to look for defects in**
1117 **others. Dwelling upon mistakes, giving place to unkind criticism, they**
1118 **lost sight of the Saviour and His love.** They became **more strict in**
1119 **regard to outward ceremonies,** more particular about the theory than the
1120 practice of the faith. **In their zeal to condemn others, they overlooked**
1121 **their own errors.** They lost the brotherly love that Christ had enjoined,
1122 and, **saddest of all, they were unconscious of their loss.** They did not
1123 realize that happiness and joy were going out of their lives and that, having
1124 shut the love of God out of their hearts, they would soon walk in darkness.
1125 {AA 548.1}

1126

1127 What Is The Situation In Our Day?

1128 Rev. 3:14-16 “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot.”

1129 2 Tim 4:3 “For the time will come when they will not endure sound
1130 doctrine.”

1131 Titus 1:16 “They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being
1132 abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.”

1133 **Today there are few who are heartily serving God. The most of those**
1134 **who compose our congregations are spiritually dead in trespasses and**
1135 **sins. They come and go like the door upon its hinges.** For years they have
1136 complacently listened to the most solemn, soul-stirring truths, but they have
1137 not practiced them. **They are less and less sensible of the preciousness**
1138 **and value of truth, because they neglect the practice of those things**
1139 **which are pleasing in the sight of God.** The stirring testimonies of reproof
1140 and warning do not arouse them. The sweetest melodies that come from
1141 God through human lips—justification by faith, and the righteousness of
1142 Christ—do not bring forth from them a response of love and gratitude. {RH
1143 April 4, 1893 Par. 4}

1144 We are living in a most solemn time. In the last vision given me, I was
1145 shown the startling fact that but **a small portion of those who now profess**
1146 **the truth will be sanctified by it and be saved.** Many will get above the
1147 simplicity of the work. They will conform to the world, cherish idols, and
1148 become spiritually dead. The humble, self-sacrificing followers of Jesus
1149 will pass on to perfection, leaving behind the indifferent and lovers of the
1150 world. {1T 608.3}

1151 **Sins of a grave character are in our borders, and unless there is an**
1152 **awakening such as we have not seen for some time which will convict**
1153 **and convert professed Sabbath keepers, they will die in their sins;** and
1154 the punishment of Sodom and Gomorrah will be light in comparison with
1155 those who have had great light and precious opportunities, but have been
1156 worldly minded, corrupt in thoughts and practices, and have not purified
1157 their souls by obeying the truth. {PC 343.5}

1158 **This is no time now to make excuses and blame others for our**
1159 **backslidings; no time now to flatter the soul: if circumstances had only**
1160 **been more favorable, how much easier for us to work the work of God.**
1161 **We must tell even those who profess the truth that they must cease to**
1162 **offend God by their sinful excuses. Jesus has provided for every**
1163 **emergency. If they will walk where he leads the way, he will make**
1164 **rough places plain.** {PC 345.2}

1165 It is a solemn statement that I make to the church that **not one in twenty**
1166 **whose names are registered upon the church books are prepared to**
1167 **close their earthly history, and would be as verily without God and**
1168 **without hope in the world as the common sinner. They are professedly**
1169 **serving God, but they are very earnestly serving mammon. This half**
1170 **and half work is a constant denying of Christ rather than a confessing**
1171 **of Christ.** So many have brought their own unsubdued spirit, unrefined,
1172 **their spiritual taste is perverted by their own immoral, debasing**
1173 **corruptions, symbolizing the world in spirit, in heart, in purpose,**
1174 **confirming themselves in lustful practices, and are full of deception**
1175 **through and through in their professed Christian life; living as sinners**
1176 **claiming to be Christians.** PC 347.5}

1177 The **only hope for our churches of today is to repent and do their first**
1178 **work.** The name of Jesus does not kindle the heart with love. A mechanical,
1179 formal orthodoxy has taken the place of deep, fervent charity and
1180 tenderness to one another. **Will any give heed to the solemn admonition,**
1181 **“Turn ye, turn ye; for why will ye die?” Fall upon the rock and be**
1182 **broken; then let the Lord Jesus prepare you, mould and fashion you, as**
1183 **a vessel unto honor. Well may the people fear and tremble under these**
1184 **words: “Except thou repent, I will come unto thee quickly, and will**
1185 **remove thy candlestick out of his place.”** What then? “If therefore the light
1186 that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!” {PC 349.2}

1187 The church is like the unproductive tree, which, receiving the dew, and rain,
1188 and the sunshine, **should have produced an abundance of fruit, but on**
1189 **which the divine Searcher finds nothing but leaves.** Solemn thought for
1190 our churches, solemn indeed for every individual. Marvelous is the patience
1191 and forbearance of God, but “except thou repent,” it shall be exhausted; **the**
1192 **churches, our institutions, will go from weakness to weakness, from**
1193 **cold formality to deadness while they are saying, “I am rich and**
1194 **increased in goods, and have need of nothing.”**

1195 **There is to be in the churches a wonderful manifestation of the power**
1196 **of God, but it will not move upon those who have not humbled**
1197 **themselves before the Lord and opened the door of the heart by**
1198 **confession and repentance.** In the manifestation of that power which
1199 lightens the earth with the glory of God, **they will see only something**
1200 **which in their blindness they think dangerous, something which will**
1201 **arouse their fears, and they will brace themselves to resist it.** {RH Dec.
1202 23, 1890 Par. 17, 18}

1203

1204 V. God’s Remedy And The Pathway To Revival

1205 What Is Our Greatest And Most Urgent Need?

1206 Ps. 85:6 “Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in
1207 You?”

1208 Hab. 3:2 “O Lord, revive Your work in the midst of the years! ... In wrath
1209 remember mercy.”

1210 **A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of**
1211 **all our needs.** To seek this should be our first work. There **must be earnest**
1212 **effort to obtain the blessing of the Lord, not because God is not willing**
1213 **to bestow His blessing upon us, but because we are unprepared to**
1214 **receive it.** Our heavenly Father is more willing to give His Holy Spirit to
1215 them that ask Him, than are earthly parents to give good gifts to their
1216 children. But it is our work, **by confession, humiliation, repentance, and**
1217 **earnest prayer, to fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised**
1218 **to grant us His blessing.** A revival need be expected **only in answer to**
1219 **prayer.** {1SM 121.1}

1220 A revival and a reformation must take place, under the ministration of the
1221 Holy Spirit. **Revival and reformation are two different things. Revival**
1222 **signifies a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of the powers of mind**
1223 **and heart, a resurrection from spiritual death. Reformation signifies a**
1224 **reorganization, a change in ideas and theories, habits and practices.**

1225 Reformation will not bring forth the good fruit of righteousness unless it is
1226 connected with the revival of the Spirit. **Revival and reformation are to**
1227 **do their appointed work, and in doing this work they must blend.**—The
1228 Review and Herald, February 25, 1902. {1SM 128.1}

1229

1230 We Must Seek God

1231 2 Chron. 7:14 “If My people who are called by My name will humble
1232 themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways,
1233 then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

1234 Our heavenly Father is more willing to give His Holy Spirit to them that ask
1235 Him, than are earthly parents to give good gifts to their children. But **it is**
1236 **our work, by confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer,**
1237 **to fulfill the conditions** upon which God has promised to grant us His
1238 blessing. A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer. {1SM 121.1}

1239 **Humiliation, confession and most earnest prayer will bring about that**
1240 **which all the devising of men, be they high or low, cannot accomplish.**
1241 {11MR 100.1}

1242

1243 Seeking God Includes Confession,

1244 Repentance, Humiliation and Earnest Prayer

1245 1John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our
1246 sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

1247 Pr. 28:13 “He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses
1248 and forsakes them will have mercy.”

1249 James 5:16 “Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one
1250 another, that you may be healed.”

1251 **It was by the confession and forsaking of sin, by earnest prayer and**
1252 **consecration of themselves to God, that the early disciples prepared**
1253 **for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. The same work,**
1254 **only in greater degree, must be done now.** {RH March 2, 1897 Par. 4}

1255 Confession would break up the fallow ground of the heart; it would rid you
1256 of your pride and self-complacency. **While you neglect this work, wonder**
1257 **not that the Holy Spirit has not softened your heart and led you into all**
1258 **truth.** God could not have blessed you without sanctioning sin and
1259 confirming you in unbelief. **You have been deceiving yourselves and**
1260 **deceiving others, and the Holy Spirit will never by its work or witness**
1261 **make God a liar.** {RH, December 16, 1890 par. 24}

1262

1263 VI. What Needs Confessing (A)

1264 [Compiler’s Note: The things needing confessing include activities that (1)
1265 dishonor God, (2) prevent or limit our ability to have a quality relationship
1266 with God, (3) prevent or limit our ability to witness for God, (4) physically,
1267 emotionally or otherwise harm, or create negative feelings towards, or
1268 between, others, created in the image of God, or (5) reflect squandered
1269 opportunities. Some things that seem innocent may not be so innocent when
1270 understood correctly, as Susanna Wesley put it: “Whatever weakens your

1271 reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of
1272 God, or takes off your relish of spiritual things; in short, whatever increases
1273 the strength and authority of your body over your mind, that thing is sin to
1274 you, however innocent it may be in itself."

1275

1276 Why Is There A Lack Of Power In The Church?

1277 2 Tim. 3:2-5 "For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money,
1278 boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
1279 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self- control, brutal, despisers of
1280 good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of
1281 God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such
1282 people turn away."

1283 The question is often asked, **Why is there not more power in the church?**
1284 **Why not more vital godliness? The reason is, the requirements of God's**
1285 **word are not complied with in verity and in truth;** God is not loved
1286 supremely, and our neighbor as ourselves. ... Outward forms take the place
1287 of the inner work of grace. They are whited sepulchers,—beautiful without,
1288 as far as claims to piety and a profession of the truth are concerned, but
1289 within full of uncleanness. **The theory of the truth has converted the**
1290 **head, but the soul temple has not been cleansed from its idols.** {RH
1291 August 28, 1879 Par. 1 }

1292 **God, in his dealings with his people in the past, shows the necessity of**
1293 **purifying the church from wrongs that exist among them.** One sinner
1294 may diffuse darkness which will exclude the light of God from the entire
1295 congregation. **When the people realize that darkness is settling upon**
1296 **them, and they do not know the cause, then they should earnestly seek**
1297 **God in great humility and self-abasement, until the wrongs which**
1298 **grieve God's Spirit are searched out and put away from among them.**
1299 **The true people of God, who have the spirit of the work of the Lord**
1300 **and the salvation of souls at heart, will ever view sin in its real, sinful**
1301 **character. They will always be on the side of faithful and plain dealing**
1302 **with sins which easily beset the people of God.** {RH September 23, 1873
1303 Par. 1,2 }

1304

1305 What Is An Idol?

1306 Ex. 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before Me."

1307 Hos. 4: 17 "Ephraim is joined to idols, let him alone."

1308 1 John 5:21 "Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen."

1309 **He claims the undivided affections; and anything which tends to absorb**
1310 **the mind and divert it from God assumes the form of an idol.** The true
1311 and living God is crowded out of the thoughts and heart, and the soul
1312 temple is defiled by the worship of other gods before the Lord. {RH, July 8,
1313 1880 par. 13 }

1314 **An idol is anything that human beings love and trust in instead of**
1315 **loving and trusting in the Lord their Maker. Whatever earthly thing**
1316 **men desire and trust in as having power to help them and do them**
1317 **good, leads them away from God, and is to them an idol.** Whatever

1318 divides the affections, or takes away from the soul the supreme love of God,
1319 or interposes to prevent unlimited confidence and entire trust in God,
1320 assumes the character and takes the form of an idol in the soul temple. {3SM
1321 330.2}

1322

1323 Self Is The Greatest Idol

1324 2 Tim. 3:2 “For men will be lovers of themselves....”

1325 **Many love self supremely.** They seek their own enjoyment, disregarding
1326 the good of others. **Those in whose hearts love of self is strong will hate**
1327 **those who refuse to sustain them in a wrong course of action.** {10MR
1328 54.1}

1329 **There is a cause for the great weakness in our churches, and that cause**
1330 **is hard to remove. It is self.** Men have none too much will, but they must
1331 have it wholly sanctified to God. They need to fall on the Rock and be
1332 broken. Self must be crucified in every one who shall enter the gates of the
1333 city of God. **The fierce spirit which rises up in the hearts of some in the**
1334 **church when anything does not please them, is the spirit of Satan, and**
1335 **not the spirit of Christ.** Is it not fully time that we return to our first love,
1336 and be at peace among ourselves? We must show ourselves to be not only
1337 Bible readers, but Bible believers. If we are united to Christ, we shall be
1338 united to one another. {SpTA01b 11.1}

1339

1340 How Is The Love Of Self Manifested?

1341 Selfishness

1342 Definition: “Regarding one's own interest chiefly or solely; influenced in
1343 actions by a view to private advantage.”—*Dictionary definitions from Noah*
1344 *Webster's 1828 Edition unless indicated otherwise.*

1345 Jer. 8:10 “Therefore I will give their wives to others, and their fields to
1346 those who will inherit them; because from the least even to the greatest
1347 every one is given to covetousness; from the prophet even to the priest
1348 everyone deals falsely.”

1349 Ezek. 33:31 “...with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts
1350 pursue their own gain.”

1351 Luke 12:15 “And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness,
1352 for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.””

1353 1 John 3:17 “But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in
1354 need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in
1355 him?”

1356 Prov. 11:24 “There is one who scatters, yet increases more; And there is one
1357 who withholds more than is right, But it leads to poverty.”

1358 **The sin which is indulged to the greatest extent, and which separates us**
1359 **from God and produces so many contagious spiritual disorders, is**
1360 **selfishness.** There can be **no returning to the Lord except by self-denial.**
1361 **Of ourselves we can do nothing; but, through God strengthening us, we**
1362 **can live to do good to others, and in this way shun the evil of**
1363 **selfishness....** {2T 132.1}

1364 **All sin is selfishness. Satan's first sin was a manifestation of selfishness.**
1365 He sought to grasp power, to exalt self. A species of insanity led him to
1366 seek to supersede God. And the temptation that led Adam to sin was Satan's
1367 declaration that it was possible for man to attain to something more than he
1368 already enjoyed, possible for him to be as God Himself. The **sowing of**
1369 **seeds of selfishness in the human heart was the first result of the**
1370 **entrance of sin into the world.**{WB, September 9, 1902 par. 3}

1371 **Constant, self-denying benevolence is God's remedy for the cankering**
1372 **sins of selfishness and covetousness.** God has arranged systematic
1373 benevolence to sustain His cause and relieve the necessities of the suffering
1374 and needy. He **has ordained that giving should become a habit**, that it
1375 may counteract the dangerous and deceitful sin of covetousness. **Continual**
1376 **giving starves covetousness to death.** Systematic benevolence is designed
1377 in the order of God to tear away treasures from the covetous as fast as they
1378 are gained, and to consecrate them to the Lord, to whom they belong...
1379 {AH 370.4}

1380 Some rich men feel like murmuring because the work of God is extending
1381 and there is a demand for money. They say that there is no end to the calls
1382 for means. One object after another is continually arising, demanding help.
1383 To such we would say that **we hope the cause of God will so extend that**
1384 **there will be greater occasion, and more frequent and urgent calls, for**
1385 **supplies from the treasury to prosecute the work.** {3T 389.3}

1386 Those **churches who are the most systematic and liberal in sustaining**
1387 **the cause of God are the most prosperous spiritually.** ... Unlimited effort
1388 is demanded at this time when moral darkness is covering the world.
1389 Worldliness and covetousness are eating out the vitals of God's people.
1390 They should understand that **it is His mercy which multiplies the**
1391 **demands for their means.** {3T 405.1}

1392

1393

Sin Of Unbelief

1394 Definition: "Disbelief of the truth of the gospel, rejection of Christ as the
1395 Savior of men ... distrust of God's promises and faithfulness, etc."

1396 Matt. 13:58 "Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their
1397 unbelief."

1398 Heb. 3:12 "Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of
1399 unbelief in departing from the living God;"

1400 Heb. 3:19 "So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief."

1401 The sin of unbelief, by which their confidence in the Son of God was
1402 destroyed, led Israel far astray. **At the very time when they should have**
1403 **been praising God and magnifying the name of the Lord, talking of His**
1404 **goodness, telling of His power, they were found in unbelief, and full of**
1405 **murmuring and complaint.** The deceiver was seeking through every
1406 means possible to sow discord among them, to create envy and hatred in
1407 their hearts against Moses, and to stir up rebellion against God. **By listening**
1408 **to the voice of the great deceiver they were led into affliction, trial, and**
1409 **destruction.**—Manuscript 65, 1895 (Signs of the Times, Apr. 25, 1895).
1410 {CTr 108.4}

1411

1412

Self-Exaltation

1413 Definition: "The act of raising [oneself] high."

1414 Isa. 14:14 "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the
1415 Most High."

1416 Dan. 5:20 "But when his heart was lifted up, and his spirit was hardened in
1417 pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from
1418 him."

1419 1 Peter 5:6 "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God,
1420 that He may exalt you in due time."

1421 If Satan can get us to enshroud ourselves in garments of self-righteousness,
1422 then we will not wear the robe of Christ's righteousness. **Self-exaltation
1423 and pride of position and self-importance were the sins of Satan** in
1424 heaven. **True religion dies out of the heart when these take possession**
1425 and are developed in the character. {21MR 330.3}

1426 **The reason that more power does not attend the proclamation of the
1427 truth for this time, is that there is too much reliance placed upon the
1428 ability of man, too much trust in the talent and tact of the workers,** and
1429 not enough reliance upon the arm of Infinite Power. The gospel of truth is
1430 not preached in demonstration of the Spirit and in the power of God. **Self is
1431 ready to take the credit if any measure of success attends the work, self
1432 is flattered, self is exalted, and the impression is not made upon minds
1433 that God is all and in all.** Signs Of The Times, April 7, 1890. {ST, April 7,
1434 1890 par. 2}

1435

1436

Self-Sufficiency And Excessive Confidence In Ourselves

1437 Definition: "An overweening opinion of one's own strength or worth;
1438 excessive confidence in one's own competence or sufficiency."

1439 Prov. 16:5 "Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord"

1440 Prov. 16:18 "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a
1441 fall."

1442 Jer. 9:23-24 "Thus says the Lord: 'Let not the wise man glory in his
1443 wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man
1444 glory in his riches; But let him who glories glory in this, that he understands
1445 and knows Me, that I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgment,
1446 and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,' says the Lord."

1447 **The most hopeless, the most incurable of all sins is pride, self-
1448 sufficiency. This sin stands in the way of all advancement, all growth in
1449 grace. It has caused the ruin of thousands and thousands of souls. A
1450 man may be a great sinner, but if he realizes that he has sinned against God,
1451 if he repents and confesses his sin, and strives to make restitution for
1452 the past, he will receive forgiveness.** {ST, April 9, 1902 par. 1}

1453 From the light which God has given me, I know that **the Lord would do
1454 far more for us as a people if we would walk in humility before him. ...**

1455 We want you to be constantly moving onward and upward; but **that which
1456 hinders your progress in a large degree is your self-esteem, the high**

1457 **opinion that you entertain of your own ability. If there was ever a place**
1458 **where self needed to die, it is here. Let us see the death struggle. Let us**
1459 **hear the dying groans.** Review and Herald, June 18, 1889. {RH, June 18,
1460 1889 par. 2}

1461 The Word of **God forbids our attaching undue importance to our works,**
1462 **but it nowhere forbids self-respect.** There is a conscious dignity of
1463 character which is not pride or self-esteem, but is the safeguard of youth. He
1464 is impressed that he has a reputation to sustain, a character to lose or to
1465 keep. {18MR 259.2}

1466

1467 Self-Complacency

1468 Definition: “Self-satisfaction especially when accompanied by unawareness
1469 of actual dangers or deficiencies.”—*Miriam-Webster Dictionary*

1470 Zeph. 1:12 “And it shall come to pass at that time that I will search
1471 Jerusalem with lamps, and punish the men who are settled in complacency,
1472 who say in their heart, ‘The LORD will not do good, nor will He do evil.’”

1473 Amos 6:1 “Woe to you who are at ease in Zion.”

1474 Rev. 2:23 “I will give to each one of you according to your works.”

1475 **God sends to the church the greatest blessing he can give them in a**
1476 **knowledge of themselves. Satan is alluring them to sin that they may be**
1477 **lost; God gives a clear presentation of their sins that they may repent**
1478 **and be saved. The greatest danger of the world is, that sin does not**
1479 **appear sinful. This is the greatest evil existing in the church; sin is**
1480 **glossed over with self-complacency.** Blessed indeed are they who possess
1481 a sensitive conscience; who can weep and mourn over their spiritual poverty
1482 and wanderings from God; who are poor in spirit and can receive the
1483 reproof God sends them; and who, with confessions and brokenness of
1484 heart, will take their places, all penitent, in humiliation at the cross of
1485 Christ. {ST, June 15, 1876 par. 5}

1486 Oh, **how many flatter themselves that they have goodness and**
1487 **righteousness, when the true light of God reveals that all their lives they**
1488 **have only lived to please themselves!** Their whole conduct is abhorred of
1489 God. How many are alive without the law! In their gross darkness **they**
1490 **view themselves with complacency; but let the law of God be revealed**
1491 **to their consciences, as it was to Paul, and they would see that they are**
1492 **sold under sin** and must die to the carnal mind. Self must be slain. {3T
1493 475.1}

1494

1495 Indulging Appetite

1496 Definition: An ungodly “gratified ... desire for food or drink.”

1497 Php. 3:19 “whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose
1498 glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.”

1499 1 Cor. 6:19 “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy
1500 Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?”

1501 **We need to learn that indulged appetite is the greatest hindrance to**
1502 **mental improvement and soul sanctification.** With all our profession of

1503 health reform, many of us eat improperly. Indulgence of appetite is the
1504 greatest cause of physical and mental debility, and lies largely at the
1505 foundation of feebleness and premature death. **Let the individual who is**
1506 **seeking to possess purity of spirit bear in mind that in Christ there is**
1507 **power to control the appetite.** {9T 156.2}

1508 **The subject of health reform has been presented in the churches; but**
1509 **the light has not been heartily received.** The selfish, health-destroying
1510 indulgences of men and women have counteracted the influence of the
1511 message that is to prepare a people for the great day of God. **If the**
1512 **churches expect strength, they must live the truth which God has given**
1513 **them.** If the members of our churches disregard the light on this subject,
1514 they will reap the sure result in both spiritual and physical degeneracy. And
1515 the influence of these older church members will leaven those newly come
1516 to the faith. **The Lord does not now work to bring many souls into the**
1517 **truth, because of the church members who have never been converted,**
1518 **and those who were once converted, but who have backslidden. What**
1519 **influence would these unconsecrated members have on new converts?**
1520 Would they not make of no effect the God-given message which His people
1521 are to bear?—Testimonies for the Church 6:370, 371, 1900 {CD 455.2}

1522 **Again and again I have been shown that God is trying to lead us back,**
1523 **step by step, to His original design,—that man should subsist upon the**
1524 **natural products of the earth. Among those who are waiting for the**
1525 **coming of the Lord, meat-eating will eventually be done away; flesh**
1526 **will cease to form a part of their diet.** We should ever keep this end in
1527 view, and endeavor to work steadily toward it. **I can not think that in the**
1528 **practice of flesh-eating we are in harmony with the light which God has**
1529 **been pleased to give us.** All who are connected with our health institutions
1530 especially should be educating themselves to subsist on fruits, grains and
1531 vegetables. If we move from principle in these things, **if we as Christian**
1532 **reformers educate our own taste, and bring our diet to God's plan, then**
1533 **we may exert an influence upon others in this matter, which will be**
1534 **pleasing to God.** {TSDF 64.5}

1535 **Vegetables, fruits and grains should compose our diet. Not an ounce of**
1536 **flesh-meat should enter our stomachs.** The eating of flesh is unnatural.
1537 We are to return to God's original purpose in the creation of man. {TSDF
1538 78.3}

1539 Now in regard to milk and sugar: **I know of persons who have become**
1540 **frightened at the health reform, and said they would have nothing to do**
1541 **with it, because it has spoken against a free use of these things.** Changes
1542 should be made with great care; and we should move cautiously and wisely.
1543 **We want to take that course which will recommend itself to the**
1544 **intelligent men and women of the land. Large quantities of milk and**
1545 **sugar eaten together are injurious.** They impart impurities to the system.
1546 Animals from which milk is obtained are not always healthy. They may be
1547 diseased. A cow may be apparently well in the morning and die before
1548 night. Then she was diseased in the morning, and her milk was diseased, but
1549 you did not know it. The animal creation is diseased. Flesh meats are
1550 diseased. **Could we know that animals were in perfect health, I would**
1551 **recommend that people eat flesh meats sooner than large quantities of**

1552 **milk and sugar. It would not do the injury that milk and sugar do.**
1553 Sugar clogs the system. It hinders the working of the living machine.—
1554 Testimonies for the Church 2:368, 369, 1870 {CD 330.3}

1555

1556 **Pernicious And Addictive Reading Material**

1557 Rom. 12:9 “Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to
1558 what is good.”

1559 Php. 4:8 “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things
1560 are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure,
1561 whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if
1562 there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on
1563 these things.”

1564 I have a straightforward testimony to bear in regard to [pictures illustrating
1565 the birthplace of Shakespeare, or for pictures similar to the illustration of
1566 heathen goddesses that was used to fill the space on the first page of a ...
1567 Review and Herald.]. We are to extol neither idolatry nor men who did not
1568 choose to serve God. Years ago reproof was given our editors in regard to
1569 advocating the reading of even such books as Uncle Tom’s Cabin, Aesop’s
1570 Fables, and Robinson Crusoe. Those who begin to read such works usually
1571 desire to continue to read novels. **Through the reading of enticing stories**
1572 **they rapidly lose their spirituality. This is one of the principal causes of**
1573 **the weak, uncertain spirituality of many of our youth.** {19MR 43.2}

1574 **A love for fictitious reading should be broken up at once; and rigid**
1575 **rules should be enforced to hold the mind in a proper channel. The**
1576 **pernicious practice of story-reading is one of the means employed by**
1577 **Satan to destroy souls. The mind that is occupied with exciting stories**
1578 **loses all relish for solid reading** that would improve the memory and
1579 strengthen the intellect. {ST May 19, 1887 Par. 3}

1580 I am acquainted with many sad examples of the evil effects of this baneful
1581 practice. I have known persons of well-balanced minds, whom God had
1582 endowed with mental powers of no ordinary character, to take up the
1583 reading of romance; and **the more they indulged the appetite for this**
1584 **kind of mental food, the greater was the demand. The imagination**
1585 **constantly craved its accustomed stimulus, as the inebriate longs for his**
1586 **wine or tobacco.** Their mental and moral powers were weakened and
1587 perverted. **They lost their interest in the Scriptures, and their relish for**
1588 **prayer; and they were as truly ruined, mentally and spiritually, as is**
1589 **the liquor drinker or the tobacco devotee. Novel-readers are mental**
1590 **inebriates; and they need to sign a pledge of total abstinence as verily as**
1591 **does the victim of any other form of intemperance.** {ST May 19, 1887
1592 Par. 4}

1593

1594 **Robbing God**

1595 Definition: “Feliciously taking [money] from the person of another.”

1596 Mal. 3:8 “Will a man rob God? Yet you say, ‘In what way have we robbed
1597 You?’ In tithes and offerings.”

1598 Prov. 3:9,10 “Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the
1599 firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and
1600 your vats will overflow with new wine.”

1601 Mal. 3:10 “Try Me now in this,” says the LORD of hosts, “If I will not open
1602 for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing that
1603 there will not be room enough to receive it.”

1604 Men are robbing God; and with self-complacency they look up and say,
1605 “Wherein have we robbed thee?” The answer comes from him, “In tithes
1606 and in offerings.” **There are men in the ranks of Sabbath-keepers who
1607 are holding fast their earthly treasure. It is their god, their idol; and
1608 they love their money, their farms, their cattle, and their merchandise
1609 better than they love their Saviour,** who for their sakes became poor, that
1610 they, through his poverty, might be made rich. They exalt their earthly
1611 treasures, considering them of greater value than the souls of men. **Will
1612 such have the “Well done” spoken to them? No; never.** The irrevocable
1613 sentence, “Depart,” will fall upon their startled senses. Christ has no use for
1614 them. They have been slothful servants, hoarding the means God has given
1615 them, while their fellow-men have perished in darkness and error. {RH,
1616 March 14, 1878 par. 2}

1617 When the Lord's portion, which He has reserved as His own in tithes and
1618 offerings, is used for common purposes while the church is displaying a
1619 love of self-indulgence and selfish gratification, **the Lord will not, cannot
1620 bless churches and will withdraw His Spirit from all who serve
1621 themselves and dishonor God.** {21MR 185.1}

1622 **None need fear that their liberality would bring them to poverty.
1623 Obedience to God's commandments would surely result in prosperity.**
1624 "Thou shalt lend unto many nations, " he said, "but thou shalt not borrow;
1625 and thou shalt reign over many nations, but they shall not reign over thee."
1626 {RH, September 17, 1889 par. 12}

1627

1628 **Making The Sabbath A Delight**
1629 **In Our Eating**

1630 Ex. 20:8 “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.”

1631 Ezek. 20:12 “Moreover I also gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between
1632 them and Me, that they might know that I am the Lord who sanctifies
1633 them.”

1634 Isa. 58:13-14 “If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing
1635 your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day
1636 of the Lord honorable, and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor
1637 finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words, then you shall
1638 delight yourself in the Lord; and I will cause you to ride on the high hills of
1639 the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father.

1640 The mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

1641 Speak not lightly of the restrictions placed upon Israel in Sinai regarding the
1642 cooking of manna. **The Lord has placed barriers around his Sabbath,
1643 that it may not be regarded with the least carelessness or irreverence.**
1644 When the Lord said, "Tomorrow is the rest of the holy Sabbath: bake that

1645 which ye will bake today, and see the that ye will see the," **he meant that**
1646 **Friday should be our preparation day, in which we are to do all our**
1647 **cooking.** The Sabbath is not to be a day when tidbits shall be prepared or
1648 cooked. If it is really essential to have beans on the Sabbath, let them be
1649 cooked on Friday, and kept warm in the oven. They need not be eaten cold
1650 unless preferred. But **let no remarks be made as though it were a very**
1651 **light thing whether or not we regard the special requirements of God in**
1652 **regard to the Sabbath.** {RH, June 8, 1897 par. 3}

1653 God meant what He said when He gave these directions, and shall we, who
1654 are presenting to the people the claims of the divine law, break that law
1655 ourselves, merely to please the appetite? God forbid. **There has sometimes**
1656 **been almost as much cooking done on the Sabbath as on other days;**
1657 **and the blessing of God has been shut out by our failure to honor Him**
1658 in keeping the Sabbath according to the commandment.— Undated
1659 Manuscript 88. {13MR 293.3}

1660 **We should not provide for the Sabbath a more liberal supply or a**
1661 **greater variety of food than for other days. Instead of this the food**
1662 **should be more simple, and less should be eaten, in order that the mind**
1663 **may be clear and vigorous to comprehend spiritual things.** Overeating
1664 befores the brain. The most precious words may be heard and not
1665 appreciated, because the mind is confused by an improper diet. By
1666 overeating on the Sabbath, many have done more than they think to
1667 dishonor God. {CG 532.1}

1668 **While cooking upon the Sabbath should be avoided, it is not necessary**
1669 **to eat cold food.** In cold weather let the food prepared the day before be
1670 heated. And **let the meals, though simple, be palatable and attractive.**
1671 **Provide something that will be regarded as a treat, something the**
1672 **family do not have every day.** {CG 532.2}

1673

1674

In Our Dressing

1675 Many need instruction as to how they should appear in the assembly for
1676 worship on the Sabbath. They **are not to enter the presence of God in the**
1677 **common clothing worn during the week. All should have a special**
1678 **Sabbath suit,** to be worn when attending service in God's house. While we
1679 should not conform to worldly fashions, we are not to be indifferent in
1680 regard to our outward appearance. We **are to be neat and trim, though**
1681 **without adornment.** The children of God should be pure within and
1682 without. {CG 531.2}

1683

1684

In Our Activities

1685 Isa. 58:13 "If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your
1686 pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, The holy day of the
1687 Lord honorable, And shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, Nor
1688 finding your own pleasure, Nor speaking your own words...."

1689 It is **displeasing to God for Sabbathkeepers to sleep during much of the**
1690 **Sabbath. They dishonor their Creator in so doing, and, by their**
1691 **example, say that the six days are too precious for them to spend in**

1692 **resting.** They must make money, although it be by robbing themselves of
1693 needed sleep, which they make up by sleeping away holy time. They then
1694 excuse themselves by saying: "The Sabbath was given for a day of rest. I
1695 will not deprive myself of rest to attend meeting, for I need rest." Such
1696 make a wrong use of the sanctified day. {CCh 270.4}

1697 **All who love God should do what they can to make the Sabbath a**
1698 **delight, holy and honorable.** They cannot do this by seeking their own
1699 pleasure in sinful, forbidden amusements. Yet they can do much to exalt the
1700 Sabbath in their families and make it the most interesting day of the week.
1701 We should devote time to interesting our children. A change will have a
1702 happy influence upon them. We can walk out with them in the open air; we
1703 can sit with them in the groves and in the bright sunshine, and give their
1704 restless minds something to feed upon by conversing with them upon the
1705 works of God, and can inspire them with love and reverence by calling their
1706 attention to the beautiful objects in nature. {CG 536.1}

1707

1708

In Closing The Sabbath

1709 **As the sun goes down, let the voice of prayer and the hymn of praise**
1710 **mark the close of the sacred hours, and invite God's presence through**
1711 **the cares of the week of labor.** {CG 536.3} Thus parents can make the
1712 Sabbath, as it should be, the most joyful day of the week. They can lead
1713 their children to regard it as a delight, the day of days, the holy of the Lord,
1714 honorable. {CG 537.1}

1715

1716

In Guarding The Sabbath

1717 It is the grossest presumption for mortal man to venture upon a compromise
1718 with the Almighty in order to secure his own petty, temporal interests. **It is**
1719 **as ruthless a violation of the law to occasionally use the Sabbath for**
1720 **secular business as to entirely reject it;** for it is making the Lord's
1721 commandments a matter of convenience. CCh 269.2}

1722 The words and thoughts should be guarded. **Those who discuss business**
1723 **matters and lay plans on the Sabbath, are regarded of God as though**
1724 **they engaged in the actual transaction of business.** To keep the Sabbath
1725 holy, we should not even allow our minds to dwell upon things of a worldly
1726 character. {CCh 269.3}

1727 Our brethren **cannot expect the approval of God while they place their**
1728 **children where it is impossible for them to obey the fourth**
1729 **commandment.** They should endeavor to make some arrangement with the
1730 authorities whereby the children shall be excused from attendance at school
1731 upon the seventh day. **If this fails, then their duty is plain, to obey God's**
1732 **requirements at whatever cost.** {CCh 268.4}

1733

1734

Proper Reverence For God's House

1735 Hab. 2:20 "The Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence
1736 before Him."

1737 **The house of God is often desecrated, and the Sabbath violated by**
1738 **Sabbath-believers' children. In some cases they are even allowed to run**

1739 **about the house, play, talk, and manifest their evil tempers in the very**
1740 **meetings where the saints should worship God in the beauty of holiness.**
1741 **And the place that should be holy, and where a holy stillness should**
1742 **reign, and where there should be perfect order, neatness, and humility,**
1743 **is made to be a perfect Babylon, “confusion.” This is enough to bring**
1744 **God’s displeasure and shut His presence from our assemblies. {CG**
1745 **540.4}**

1746 **It is too true that reverence for the house of God has become almost**
1747 **extinct. Sacred things and places are not discerned; the holy and**
1748 **exalted are not appreciated.** Is there not a cause for the want of fervent
1749 piety in our families? ... Would it not be well for us often to read the
1750 directions given by God Himself to the Hebrews, that we who have the light
1751 of the glorious truth shining upon us may imitate their reverence for the
1752 house of God? We have abundant reason to maintain a fervent, devoted
1753 spirit in the worship of God. **We have reason even to be more thoughtful**
1754 **and reverential in our worship than had the Jews. But an enemy has**
1755 **been at work to destroy our faith in the sacredness of Christian**
1756 **worship. {2TT 198.2}**

1757

1758 **Wasting Time And Money On Little Idols**

1759 Matt. 13:22 “Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears
1760 the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke
1761 the word, and he becomes unfruitful.”

1762 **How much means are spent for things that are mere idols, things that**
1763 **engross the thoughts and affections, little ornaments that require**
1764 **attention to be kept free from dust and placed in order.** The moments
1765 spent in arranging these little idols might be spent in speaking a word in
1766 season to some soul, awakening an interest to inquire, “What shall I do to
1767 be saved?” These little things take the time that should be devoted to prayer,
1768 seeking the Lord, and grasping by faith the promises.... {Ev 344.3}

1769 **When I see how much might be done in such countries as I am now in,**
1770 **my heart burns within me to show to those who profess to be the**
1771 **children of God how much money they are wasting on dress, on**
1772 **expensive furniture, or selfish pleasures, in excursions merely for**
1773 **selfish gratifications.** All this is embezzling the Lord’s goods, using to
1774 please self that means that is wholly His and which should be devoted to
1775 His service.—Letter 42a, 1893. {Ev 344.4}

1776 Your room may contain many little ornaments placed there for admiration;
1777 **but if you would have an eye single to the glory of God, you would do**
1778 **well to pack away these little idols. In handling, dusting, and replacing**
1779 **them, many precious moments are spent that might be employed in**
1780 **needful work.** But if these trinkets are not to be stored away, then you have
1781 another lesson to learn. Be expeditious. Do not dreamily take up every
1782 article, and keep it in your hand, as though loath to lay it down. It is the
1783 duty of those who are slow in their movements to improve in this respect.
1784 The Lord has said, “Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the
1785 Lord.” {Ev 480.3}

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VII. What Needs Confessing (B)
Vanity And The Love Of Display
In Dress

Ex. 28:2 “And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty.”

1Peter 3:3-4 “Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel— rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.”

As I have seen those of our faith becoming worldly, my heart has been saddened. **Some of those who profess to believe that they have the last message of mercy to give to the world, follow the fashions as far as they think their profession of faith will allow them to do. And their influence leads others astray.** Their lack of Christlikeness is apparent to all. **The Lord is dishonored by their conformity to the fashions of this degenerate age. Outward display is contradictory to our profession of faith.** I entreat my sisters to guard against the tendency to dress in accordance with the demands of fashion. {RH November 17, 1904 Par. 3}

Satan invented the fashions in order to keep the minds of women so engrossed with the subject of dress that they could think of but little else. {4T 629.2}

Obedience to fashion is pervading our Seventh-day Adventist churches and is doing more than any other power to separate our people from God. I have been shown that our church rules are very deficient. All exhibitions of pride in dress, which is forbidden in the word of God, should be sufficient reason for church discipline. If there is a continuance, in face of warnings and appeals and entreaties, to still follow the perverse will, it may be regarded as proof that the heart is in no way assimilated to Christ. Self, and only self, is the object of adoration, and one such professed Christian will lead many away from God. {4T 647.2}

Those who have bracelets, and wear gold and ornaments, had better take these idols from their persons and sell them, even if it should be for much less than they gave for them, and thus practice self-denial. Time is too short to adorn the body with gold or silver or costly apparel. {3SM 248.1}

We do not discourage neatness in dress. Correct taste is not to be despised nor condemned. Our faith, if carried out, will lead us to be so plain in dress, and zealous of good works, that we shall be marked as peculiar. But **when we lose taste for order and neatness in dress, we virtually leave the truth; for the truth never degrades, but elevates. When believers are neglectful of their dress, and are coarse and rough in their manners, their influence hurts the truth.** “We are,” said the inspired apostle, “made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.” All heaven is marking the daily influence that the professed followers of Christ exert upon the world. **My sisters, your dress is telling either in favor of Christ and the sacred truth or in favor of the world. Which is it? Remember that we must all answer to God for the influence we exert.** {RH November 17, 1904 Par. 10}

1835 **Simplicity of dress will make a sensible woman appear to the best**
1836 **advantage.** We judge of a person's character by the style of dress worn. A
1837 modest, godly woman will dress modestly. **A refined taste, a cultivated**
1838 **mind, will be revealed in the choice of a simple, appropriate attire. The**
1839 **young women who break away from the slavery of fashion will be**
1840 **ornaments to society. The one who is simple and unpretending in her**
1841 **dress and in her manners shows that she understands that a true**
1842 **woman is characterized by moral worth. How charming, how**
1843 **interesting, is simplicity in dress, which in comeliness can be compared**
1844 **with the flowers of the field.** {RH November 17, 1904 Par. 11 }

1845

1846

In Houses And Lands

1847 1 Tim. 6:9 "But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare,
1848 and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction
1849 and perdition."

1850 The voice of Providence is calling upon all who have the love of God in
1851 their hearts to arouse to this great emergency. Never was there a time when
1852 so much was at stake as today. **Never was there a period in which greater**
1853 **energy and self-sacrifice were demanded of God's commandment-**
1854 **keeping people. If there was ever need of economy and self-denial, it is**
1855 **now. There should be no extravagance in dress, no useless expenditure**
1856 **for self-indulgence or display.** Let our means and our labors be devoted to
1857 the cause of God, to save souls for whom Christ died. {RH December 7,
1858 1886 Par. 13 }

1859 **Should we dress in plain, modest apparel without reference to the**
1860 **fashions; should our tables at all times be set with simple, healthful**
1861 **food, avoiding all luxuries, all extravagance; should our houses be built**
1862 **with becoming plainness, and furnished in the same manner, it would**
1863 **show the sanctifying power of the truth, and would have a telling**
1864 **influence upon unbelievers. But while we conform to the world in these**
1865 **matters, in some cases apparently seeking to excel worldlings in fanciful**
1866 **arrangement, the preaching of the truth will have but little or no effect.**
1867 Who will believe the solemn truth for this time, when those who already
1868 profess to believe it contradict their faith by their works? It is not God who
1869 has closed the windows of heaven to us, but it is our own conformity to the
1870 customs and practices of the world. {CD 90.2 }

1871

1872

Untidiness

1873 Deut. 23:14 "For the Lord your God walks in the midst of your camp, to
1874 deliver you and give your enemies over to you; therefore your camp shall be
1875 holy, that He may see no unclean thing among you, and turn away from
1876 you."

1877 **I then saw a lack of cleanliness among Sabbathkeepers. I saw that God**
1878 **was purifying unto Himself a peculiar people. He will have a clean and**
1879 **a holy people in whom he can delight. I saw that the camp must be**
1880 **cleansed, or God would pass by** and see the uncleanness of Israel and
1881 would not go forth with their armies to battle. He would turn from them in
1882 displeasure, and our enemies would triumph over us and we be left weak, in

1883 shame and disgrace. {3SM 273.2}

1884 **I saw that God would not acknowledge an untidy, unclean person as a**
1885 **Christian. His frown was upon such.** Our souls, bodies, and spirits are to
1886 be presented blameless by Jesus to his Father, and **unless we are clean in**
1887 **person, and pure, we cannot be presented blameless to God.** {3SM
1888 273.3}

1889 **I saw that the houses of the saints should be kept tidy and neat, free**
1890 **from dirt and filth and all uncleanness.** I saw that the house of God had
1891 been desecrated by the carelessness of parents with their children and by the
1892 untidiness and uncleanness there. **I saw that these things should meet**
1893 **with an open rebuke, and if there was not an immediate change in some**
1894 **that profess the truth in these things they should be put out of the**
1895 **camp....** {3SM 274.1}

1896

1897

Greed And Oppression

1898 Prov. 22:22-23 “Do not rob the poor because he is poor, Nor oppress the
1899 afflicted at the gate; for the Lord will plead their cause, And plunder the
1900 soul of those who plunder them.”

1901 **Extravagance, overreaching, extortion, are corrupting the faith of**
1902 **many and destroying their spirituality. The church is in a great degree**
1903 **responsible for the sins of her members. She gives countenance to evil if**
1904 **she fails to lift her voice against it.** {PK 651.2}

1905 **As we bring ourselves into right relationship with God, we shall have**
1906 **success wherever we go; and it is success that we want, not money—**
1907 **living success, and God will give it to us because He knows all about our**
1908 **self-denial.** He knows every sacrifice that we make. You may think that
1909 your self-denial does not make any difference, that you ought to have more
1910 consideration and so on. But it makes a great difference with the Lord.
1911 **Over and over again I have been shown that when individuals begin to**
1912 **reach out after higher and still higher wages, something comes into**
1913 **their experience that places them where they stand no longer on**
1914 **vantage ground. But when they take the wage that carries on the face of**
1915 **it the fact that they are self-sacrificing, the Lord sees their self-denial**
1916 **and He gives them success and victory.** This has been presented to me
1917 over and over again. The Lord that seeth in secret will reward openly for
1918 every sacrifice that His tried servants have been willing to make.—
1919 Manuscript 12, 1913. {2SM 179.3}

1920 It was **the demand for large wages among the workers at Battle Creek**
1921 **that helped to spoil the spirit of the work there....** The cause of present
1922 truth was founded in self-denial and self-sacrifice. This selfish, grasping
1923 spirit is entirely opposed to its principles. It is like the deadly leprosy, which
1924 in time will disease the whole body. I am afraid of it. **We need to take heed**
1925 **lest we outgrow the simple, self-sacrificing spirit that marked our work**
1926 **in its early years.—Selected Messages 2:197. {PM 248.6}**

1927 **The Lord has not stirred hearts to give for the advancement of the**
1928 **cause, and selfishness has leavened the churches. Unfaithful**
1929 **stewardship has been revealed in the payment of large wages to men**
1930 **who have made God’s work and cause a matter of merchandise by**

1931 **which to enrich themselves. Those at the very heart of the work have**
1932 **displeased the Lord, and he has turned away from his people.**
1933 Temptations came to the people, and back sliding was the result. **If they**
1934 **had called together the men of the conference and demanded an**
1935 **investigation of matters - which it was their right to do - decisive**
1936 **measures would have been taken to stop the existing evil. But this was**
1937 **not done.** Had they changed the order of things, and brought in the same
1938 principles which were revealed in the work when the first buildings were
1939 erected, the spirit of self-sacrifice would have been retained, and the work
1940 have moved onward and upward. **God's people would have understood**
1941 **that the way and work of the Lord can not prosper when his people are**
1942 **unwilling to sacrifice self.** {SpM 149.1}

1943

1944

Quarreling And Disunity

1945 Definition: "Contention; dispute in angry words; breach of concord; a
1946 caviling or finding fault; disagreement."

1947

1948

In the Family

1949 Eph. 5:25 "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church
1950 and gave Himself for her."

1951 Eph. 5:33 "Let the wife see that she respects her husband."

1952 Col. 3:18 "Wives submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord."

1953 1 Pet. 3:7 "Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, ... that
1954 your prayers may not be hindered."

1955 If the Word of God is obeyed, **the home will be the center of the highest**
1956 **kind of missionary work, but those who are at a disagreement in the**
1957 **home life, do not practice the words of the Lord, and will never be fit to**
1958 **enter the heavenly mansions, unless they are transformed by the grace**
1959 **of Christ.** If the Lord should permit them to enter heaven, they would not
1960 be happy, for they would find something that would not please them.
1961 **Someone would be in heaven whom they had never loved on earth, and**
1962 **they would want them banished from the place of bliss.** If we are
1963 sanctified, refined, and made meet for the society of the saints in this life,
1964 we shall be fitted for heaven. If we manifest the character of Christ here, we
1965 shall have a heaven to go to heaven in, and shall be cheered by glimpses of
1966 our eternal home, which Jesus has gone to prepare. {13MR 78.2}

1967 Whatever will make the character lovely in the home will make it lovely in
1968 the heavenly mansion, and **by your home life Jesus will measure your**
1969 **religious life.** The grace of Christ can make your home a place of peace and
1970 rest, but unless you heed His Word and cherish His Spirit, you are none of
1971 His. **God requires you to be sanctified wholly in your home life.** The
1972 religion of Christ is not a religion to be reserved for certain places and
1973 occasions, and then laid aside at home. **The truth as a sanctifier is needed**
1974 **more in the home than in any other place.** Every thought, every impulse,
1975 every word and deed, is to be sanctified by the power of the truth. {13MR
1976 80.1}

1977 The **traits of character you cherish in life will not be changed by death**
1978 **or by the resurrection. You will come up from the grave with the same**
1979 **disposition you manifested in your home** and in society. Jesus does not
1980 change the character at His coming. The work of transformation must be
1981 done now. Our daily lives are determining our destiny. **Defects of**
1982 **character must be repented of and overcome through the grace of**
1983 **Christ, and a symmetrical character must be formed while in this**
1984 **probationary state, that we may be fitted for the mansions above.**
1985 {13MR 82.1}

1986

1987

In The Church

1988 Rom. 12:18 "If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably
1989 with all men."

1990 1 Cor. 1:10 "Now I plead with you ... that there be no divisions among
1991 you."

1992 James 3:16 "For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every
1993 evil thing are there."

1994 John 17:21 "...that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in
1995 You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You
1996 sent Me."

1997 A **sleepy**, Christless church, **quarreling** and **surmising evil**, will have no
1998 reward, and **need look for no revival, unless its members repent**, and do
1999 the first works. {RH June 26, 1888 Par. 9}

2000 **Many who profess to gather with Christ are scattering from Him. This**
2001 **is why the church is so weak. Many indulge freely in criticism and**
2002 **accusing.** By giving expression to suspicion, jealousy, and discontent, they
2003 yield themselves as instruments to Satan. Before they realize what they are
2004 doing, the adversary has through them accomplished his purpose. The
2005 impression of evil has been made, the shadow has been cast, the arrows of
2006 Satan have found their mark. **Distrust, unbelief, and downright infidelity**
2007 **have fastened upon those who otherwise might have accepted Christ.**
2008 **Meanwhile the workers for Satan look complacently upon those whom**
2009 **they have driven to skepticism, and who are now hardened against**
2010 **reproof and entreaty. They flatter themselves that in comparison with**
2011 **these souls they are virtuous and righteous. They do not realize that**
2012 **these sad wrecks of character are the work of their own unbridled**
2013 **tongues** and rebellious hearts. It is through their influence that these
2014 tempted ones have fallen. {COL 340.3}

2015 There is **no more effectual hindrance to growth in grace than this**
2016 **disposition to criticize and condemn others.** We have in our experience
2017 **seen this accusing spirit gradually enter the hearts of church-members**
2018 **until it had leavened nearly the entire church**, and the result was that
2019 little of real godliness or of the spirit of Christ remained.--HS 212, 213.
2020 {PaM 268.3}

2021 **Envy, evil surmising, backbiting, and faultfinding,--let these not be**
2022 **named among Christ's disciples. These things are the cause of the**
2023 **present feebleness of the church.** We have a perfect Pattern, even the life
2024 of Christ. It is to be our eager desire to do as he has done, to live as he lived,

2025 that others, by seeing our good works, may be led to glorify God. {RH, May
2026 10, 1906 par. 13}

2027 **An earnest effort should be made in every church to put away**
2028 **evilspeaking and a censorious spirit as among the sins productive of the**
2029 **greatest evils in the church.** Severity and faultfinding must be rebuked as
2030 the workings of Satan. Mutual love and confidence must be encouraged and
2031 strengthened in the members of the church. Let all, in the fear of God and
2032 with love to their brethren, close their ears to gossip and censure. Direct the
2033 talebearer to the teachings of God's word. Bid him obey the Scriptures and
2034 carry his complaints directly to those whom he thinks in error. **This united**
2035 **action would bring a flood of light into the church and close the door to**
2036 **a flood of evil. Thus God would be glorified, and many souls would be**
2037 **saved.** {5T 609.3}

2038 **He in whose heart Christ abides recognizes Christ abiding in the heart**
2039 **of his brother. Christ never wars against Christ.** Christ never exerts an
2040 influence against Christ. **Christians are to do their work, whatever it**
2041 **may be, in the unity of the Spirit,** for the perfecting of the whole body.
2042 {ML 276.5}

2043 One great reason why our brethren and sisters have no more confidence
2044 toward God in prayer, is, that **nearly all neglect to follow the words of**
2045 **Jesus in preserving harmony between brethren.** They **allow various**
2046 **wrongs to exist** with members of the church, **which create bitter envy and**
2047 **strife; and while these differences exist, God neither hears nor answers**
2048 **their prayers,** and darkness comes over the mind, because they have
2049 neglected the duty so plainly pointed out by our Redeemer. {RH, April 15,
2050 1880 par. 9}

2051 **The success of our work depends upon our love to God and our love to**
2052 **our fellowmen.** When there is harmonious action among the individual
2053 members of the church, **when there is love and confidence manifested by**
2054 **brother to brother, there will be proportionate force and power in our**
2055 **work for the salvation of men.** Oh, how greatly we need a moral
2056 renovation! Without the faith that works by love, you can do nothing. May
2057 the Lord give you hearts to receive this testimony. {TM 188.1}

2058

2059 **Hindering Amusements**

2060 Definition: "A pleasurable occupation of the senses...."

2061 2 Tim. 3:4 "...lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God."

2062 Php. 4:8 "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatever things are
2063 noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things
2064 are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if
2065 there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things."

2066 Ps. 101:3 "I will set nothing wicked before my eyes;"

2067 **Any amusement in which you can engage asking the blessing of God**
2068 **upon it in faith will not be dangerous.** But **any amusement which**
2069 **disqualifies you for secret prayer, for devotion at the altar of prayer, or**
2070 **for taking part in the prayer meeting is not safe,** but dangerous. {AH
2071 513.3}

2072 In every school **Satan** has tried to make himself the guide of the teachers
2073 who instruct the students. It is he who **has introduced the idea that selfish**
2074 **amusements are a necessity.** Students sent to school for the purpose of
2075 receiving an education to become evangelists, ministers and missionaries to
2076 foreign countries, **have received the idea that amusements are essential**
2077 **to keep them in physical health, while the Lord has presented before**
2078 **them that the better way is to embrace in their education manual labor**
2079 **in the place of amusements.** This amusement question, if practiced, will
2080 soon become a passion that gives disrelish to useful, healthful exercise of
2081 mind and body, which makes students useful to themselves and others.
2082 {SpM 49.4}

2083 **When the students at the school went into their match games and**
2084 **football playing, when they became absorbed in the amusement**
2085 **question, Satan saw it a good time to step in and make of none effect**
2086 **the Holy Spirit of God in molding and using the human subject.** {1888
2087 1211.1}

2088 **Ask yourself, What bearing has the question of amusements on my**
2089 **religious life, on my character as a Christian? Do the games in which**
2090 **you participate, fit you to engage in prayer and in the service of God?**
2091 **Do they aid you to bring as much zeal and earnestness into the Lord's**
2092 **work as you put into the games you play?** Have not these amusements in
2093 which you have engaged, absorbed your interest so that you have not been
2094 able to put as much fervor into the learning of your lessons as you should
2095 have done? Which is to have the supremacy,--the service of God, or the
2096 service of self? Let every student closely examine the ground on which he is
2097 standing. {YI, May 17, 1894 par. 7}

2098

2099

Cheap Conversation

2100 Eph. 5:4 "Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which
2101 are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks."

2102 **The tenor of the conversation reveals the treasure of the heart. The**
2103 **cheap, common talk, the words of flattery, the foolish witticism, spoken**
2104 **to create a laugh, are the merchandise of Satan, and all who indulge in**
2105 **this talk are trading in his goods.** {CT 340.2}

2106 **All frivolity, all cheapness of conversation, all jesting and joking,**
2107 **weakens the soul, and weans the heart from prayer.** Like Paul, the true
2108 followers of Christ will ever bear about in the body the dying of the Lord
2109 Jesus; they cannot keep in mind the sufferings of Christ for them, and yet be
2110 light and trifling. {GW92 233.1}

2111 **But few realize that they drive away the Spirit of God with their selfish**
2112 **thoughts and feelings, their foolish, trifling talk. . . .** If the grace of Christ
2113 were planted in their hearts, and striking its roots down deep into good soil,
2114 they would bear fruit of an altogether different character. {SD 316.4}

2115 **There are those whom the truth finds coarse, rough, odd, boastful,** who
2116 take advantage of their neighbors if they can, in order to benefit themselves.
2117 They err in many ways, yet **when the truth is believed by them from the**
2118 **heart, it will work an entire change in their life. They will immediately**
2119 **commence the work of reformation.** The pure influence of truth will

2120 elevate the whole man. In his business deal with his fellow men he will
2121 have the fear of God before him, and will love his neighbor as himself, and
2122 will deal just as he would wish to be dealt by. **His conversation will be**
2123 **truthful, chaste and of such an elevating character that unbelievers**
2124 **cannot take advantage, or say evil of him justly, neither be disgusted**
2125 **with his uncourteous ways and unbecoming speech.** He will carry the
2126 sanctifying influence of the truth into his family, and let his light so shine
2127 before them that they by seeing his good works may glorify God. He will in
2128 all the walks of life exemplify the life of Christ. {4bSG 156.1}

2129

2130

Compromise

2131 Deut. 18:9 “You shall not learn to follow the abominations of those
2132 nations.”

2133 There is still, as with ancient Israel, **a constant tendency among the**
2134 **professed people of God to depart from the Lord's instructions, and to**
2135 **imitate the customs and practices of worldlings.** ... The Christianity
2136 which will yield to the influence of the world, and conform itself to their
2137 principles and customs, is looked upon with favor by men who are the
2138 enemies of God. But when the necessity for holiness of heart and life is
2139 presented, then the world feels that its rights are endangered. **When the**
2140 **church rebukes fashionable follies, demoralizing amusements,**
2141 **extravagance, and self-indulgence; when Christianity is spiritual,**
2142 **positive, earnest, and aggressive,--then the opposition of the world will**
2143 **be excited.** {ST, September 15, 1881 par. 3}

2144

2145

Love Of Position And Authority

2146 Matt. 20:26 “Whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your
2147 servant.”

2148 **It is a dangerous work to invest men with authority to judge and rule**
2149 **their fellowmen. Not to you nor to any other man has been given power**
2150 **to control the actions of God's people, and the effort to do this must be**
2151 **no longer continued.** God has been dishonored by the education that has
2152 been given to the churches in Southern California in looking to one man as
2153 conscience and judgment for them. **God has never authorized any man to**
2154 **exercise a ruling power over his fellow workers; and those who have**
2155 **allowed a dictatorial spirit to come into their official work need to**
2156 **experience the converting power of God upon their hearts.** They have
2157 placed man where God should be. {SpM 413.4}

2158 **It is a wrong education to teach our people to lean on human aids,**
2159 **instead of going to the Lord in prayer.** The enemy of souls has been the
2160 instigator of this, that minds might become obscured. The people are not to
2161 be instructed differently. **God's people are to meet together in counsel,**
2162 **but no leader or worker is to take the position that God's children are**
2163 **to make no move until he is first consulted.** Those who bear
2164 responsibilities in the work are to co-operate with heavenly angels in
2165 teaching men and women to look to God as the source of their strength.
2166 {SpM 415.3}

2167 There are **some who desire to be a ruling power, and who need the**
2168 **sanctification of submission. God brings about a change in their lives,**
2169 **and perhaps places before them duties that they would not choose.** If
2170 they are willing to be guided by Him, He will give them grace and strength
2171 to perform the objectionable duties in a spirit of submission and
2172 helpfulness. They are being qualified to fill places where their disciplined
2173 abilities will make them of the greatest service. {8MR 423.1}

2174

2175

Partial Surrender

2176 Rom. 12:1 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that
2177 you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is
2178 your reasonable service.”

2179 2 Cor. 8:5 “...they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the
2180 will of God.”

2181 **Until the heart is surrendered unconditionally to God, the human agent**
2182 **is not abiding in the true vine, and can not flourish in the vine, and bear**
2183 **rich clusters of fruit.** God will not make the slightest compromise with sin.
2184 If he could have done this, Christ need not have come to our world to suffer
2185 and die. No conversion is genuine which does not change both the character
2186 and the conduct of those who accept the truth. The truth works by love, and
2187 purifieth the soul. {1888 1310.2}

2188 There are many who **do not make an entire surrender. They do not die to**
2189 **self that Christ may live in them. They adopt His name, they wear His**
2190 **badge, but they are not partakers of His nature.** They have not overcome
2191 their unholy ambition and their love for the world. They **do not take up the**
2192 **cross and follow Christ in the path of self-denial and self-sacrifice.**
2193 Almost Christians, yet not fully Christians, they seem near the kingdom of
2194 heaven, but they can not enter there. **Almost, but not wholly saved, means**
2195 **to be wholly lost.** {ST January 6, 1904 par. 3}

2196 When you give up your own will, your own wisdom, and learn of Christ as
2197 He has invited you, then you shall find entrance to the kingdom of God.
2198 **Entire, unreserved surrender He requires. Give up your life for Him to**
2199 **order, mold, and fashion; take upon your neck His yoke; submit to be**
2200 **led and taught as well as to lead and teach; learn that unless you**
2201 **become as a little child you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.**
2202 **Abide in Him, to be and do only what He wills. These are the conditions**
2203 **of discipleship.** {21MR 231.4}

2204 O parents, for the sake of yourselves, and your children, ... Set your own
2205 hearts in order, and work earnestly for your children. **An unreserved**
2206 **surrender to God will sweep away the barriers that have so long defied**
2207 **the approaches of heavenly grace. When you take up the cross and**
2208 **follow Christ, when you bring your lives into conformity to the will of**
2209 **God, your children will be converted.** The world will take knowledge of
2210 them that they have been with Jesus and have learned of him. In word and
2211 deed they will bear witness to the power of Christ's grace. {RH, July 15,
2212 1902 par. 13}

2213

2214

Failing To Love God's Body The Church

2215 Matt. 5:14 "You are the light of the world"

2216 1 Tim. 3:15 "I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct
2217 yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the
2218 pillar and ground of the truth."

2219 Eph. 5:25-26 "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the
2220 church and gave Himself for her, that He might present her to Himself a
2221 glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she
2222 would be holy and without blemish."

2223 During ages of spiritual darkness the church of God has been as a city set on
2224 a hill. From age to age, through successive generations, the pure doctrines
2225 of heaven have been unfolding within its borders. **Enfeebled and defective
2226 as it may appear, the church is the one object upon which God bestows
2227 in a special sense His supreme regard. It is the theater of His grace, in
2228 which He delights to reveal His power to transform hearts.** {AA 12.1}

2229 **The church is God's fortress, his city of refuge, which he holds in a
2230 revolted world. Any betrayal of her sacred trust is treachery to him
2231 who has bought her with the precious blood of his only begotten Son.**
2232 {RH December 4, 1900, par. 5}

2233 **God wants His people to be united in the closest bonds of Christian
2234 fellowship; confidence in our brethren is essential to the prosperity of
2235 the church;** union of action is important in a religious crisis. One imprudent
2236 step, one careless action, may plunge the church into difficulties and trials
2237 from which it may not recover for years. **One member of the church filled
2238 with unbelief may give an advantage to the great foe that will affect the
2239 prosperity of the entire church, and many souls may be lost as the
2240 result. Jesus would have His followers subject one to another; then God
2241 can use them as instruments to save one another;** for one may not discern
2242 the dangers which another's eye is quick to perceive; but if the undiscerning
2243 will in confidence obey the warning, they may be saved great perplexities
2244 and trials. {3T 446.1}

2245

2246

Failing To Fulfill Our Distinctive Mission

2247 Isa. 5:1-4 "Now let me sing to my Well-beloved a song of my Beloved
2248 regarding His vineyard: My Well-beloved has a vineyard on a very fruitful
2249 hill. He dug it up and cleared out its stones, and planted it with the choicest
2250 vine. He built a tower in its midst, and also made a winepress in it; So He
2251 expected it to bring forth good grapes, but it brought forth wild grapes.
2252 "And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge, please,
2253 between Me and My vineyard. What more could have been done to My
2254 vineyard that I have not done in it? Why then, when I expected it to bring
2255 forth good grapes, did it bring forth wild grapes."

2256 Matt. 21:19 "And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found
2257 nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, 'Let no fruit grow on you ever
2258 again.' Immediately the fig tree withered away."

2259 John 4:35 “Do you not say, “There are still four months and then comes the
2260 harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for
2261 they are already white for harvest.”

2262 Luke 10:2 “Then He said to them, “The harvest truly is great, but the
2263 laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers
2264 into His harvest.”

2265 **God has not been unmindful of the good deeds, the self-denying acts, of**
2266 **the church in the past.** All are registered on high. **But these are not**
2267 **enough. These will not save the church when she ceases to fulfill her**
2268 **mission. Unless the cruel neglect and indifference manifested in the past**
2269 **shall cease, the church, instead of going from strength to strength, will**
2270 **continue to degenerate into weakness and formality.** Shall we let this be?
2271 Is the dull torpor, the mournful deterioration in love and spiritual zeal, to be
2272 perpetuated? Is this the condition in which Christ is to find His church? {5T
2273 611.2}

2274 It is **not yet too late to redeem the neglects of the past. Let there be a**
2275 **revival of the first love, the first ardor. Search out the ones you have**
2276 **driven away, bind up by confession the wounds you have made.** Come
2277 close to the great Heart of pitying love, and let the current of that divine
2278 compassion flow into your heart and from you to the hearts of others.... {5T
2279 612.3}

2280 What **can we expect but deterioration in religious life, when the people**
2281 **listen to sermon after sermon, and do not put into practice the**
2282 **instruction given?** The ability God has given, if not exercised, will
2283 degenerate, and men and women unemployed, will become as tools that rust
2284 from inaction. {RH February 28, 1893, par. 3}

2285 **When men use their powers as God directs them to, their talents will**
2286 **increase, their ability will enlarge, and they will have heavenly wisdom**
2287 **in seeking to save those who are lost. But while the church-members**
2288 **are listless, and neglectful of their God-given responsibility, how can**
2289 **they expect to receive the treasure of heaven to impart to others?** When
2290 professed Christians feel no burden to enlighten the minds of those who are
2291 in darkness; **when they fail to make use of the rich grace of Christ, and**
2292 **cease to impart the knowledge they have received, they become selfish,**
2293 **narrow, bigoted, and their capacity to receive more and more heavenly**
2294 **illumination decreases rather than increases.** They become less
2295 discerning, lose their appreciation of the richness of the heavenly
2296 endowment, and failing to value it themselves, they fail to present it to
2297 others. **It is only as God sees his professed people eager to be laborers**
2298 **together with him, that he can impart to them light and grace; for then**
2299 **they will make every interest secondary to the interest of his work and**
2300 **cause. With such workers the heavenly intelligences will co-operate.**
2301 **{RH April 4, 1893, par. 9}**

2302 The very **simplest modes of work should be devised, and set in operation**
2303 **among the churches. If members will cooperate with such a plan, and**
2304 **perseveringly carry it out, they will reap a rich reward, for their**
2305 **experience will grow brighter, their ability will increase through**
2306 **exercise, and souls will be saved through their efforts. But if, on the other**

2307 **hand, the churches are left to their inactivity, Satan will see that they**
2308 **are employed. He will pre-occupy the field, and give the members lines**
2309 **of work to do that will engage their energies, kill spirituality, and make**
2310 **them fall as dead weights upon the church. {PH007 11.2}**

2311 **Every follower of Christ is to do something in the work,** and not to do
2312 what you can, is to manifest indifference to the claims of Christ. **If you**
2313 **refuse to be a faithful steward working under the Master, then you are**
2314 **following the directions of another leader, and ranging yourself with**
2315 **those who are warring against God.** Christ said, "He that is not with me is
2316 against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad." **If we are**
2317 **not active in the service of Christ, we are ranking with those who are in**
2318 **positive hostility against him; for we are in the position of stumbling-**
2319 **blocks.** Every means of influence that God has given you should be
2320 employed to the utmost. {RH October 30, 1894, par. 8}

2321 **When we give ourselves wholly to God and in our work follow His**
2322 **directions, He makes Himself responsible for its accomplishment.** He
2323 would not have us conjecture as to the success of our honest endeavors. **Not**
2324 **once should we even think of failure. We are to co-operate with One**
2325 **who knows no failure. {COL 363.1}**

2326

2327

Failing To Share Our Distinctive Message

2328 Ezek. 33:6 "But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow
2329 the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes
2330 any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood
2331 I will require at the watchman's hand."

2332 Rev. 2:5 "...repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly
2333 and remove your lampstand from its."

2334 In a clear, determined voice the messenger said, "I ask you what you are
2335 doing? **O that you could comprehend! O that you could understand the**
2336 **importance of the warning and what it means to you and to the world!**
2337 If you did understand, if you were filled with the spirit of the One who gave
2338 His life for the life of the world, you would cooperate with Him, making
2339 earnest, self-sacrificing efforts to save sinners." {1SM 92.2}

2340 "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar,
2341 and the truth is not in him" (1 John 2:4). **A great awakening must come to**
2342 **the church. If we only knew, if we only understood, how quickly the**
2343 **spirit of the message would go from church to church. How willingly**
2344 **would the possessions of believers be given to support the work of God.**
2345 God calls upon us to pray and watch unto prayer. Cleanse your homes of
2346 [those things] which have consumed the money that ought to have flowed
2347 into the Lord's treasury. The light must go forth as a lamp that burneth.
2348 **Those who bear the message to the world should seek the Lord**
2349 **earnestly, that His Holy Spirit may be abundantly showered upon**
2350 **them. You have no time to lose. Pray for the power of God, that you**
2351 **may work with success for those nigh and afar off. {1SM 92.3}**

2352

2353

2354

These Hinder Another Outpouring!

2355 Another year has now passed into eternity with its burden of record; and the
2356 light which shone from heaven upon you was to prepare you to arise and
2357 shine, to show forth the praises of God to the world as his commandment-
2358 keeping people. **Your were to be living witnesses; but if no special**
2359 **endeavor of a high and holy character bears testimony before the**
2360 **world, if no higher effort has been made than that which is seen in the**
2361 **popular churches of the day, then the name of God has not been**
2362 **honored, and his truth has not been magnified before the world,** by
2363 presenting divine credentials in the people who have received great light. **If**
2364 **they have had no greater appreciation of the manifest power of God**
2365 **than to eat and drink, and rise up to play, as did ancient Israel, then**
2366 **how can the Lord trust his people with rich and gracious**
2367 **manifestations? If they act directly contrary in almost every respect to**
2368 **the known will of God, and are found in carelessness, in levity, in**
2369 **selfishness, in ambition and pride, corrupting their way before the**
2370 **Lord, how can he give them another outpouring of the Holy Spirit?**
2371 {RH, February 6, 1894 par. 5}

2372

2373 VIII. Confessing On A Practical Basis And Making Things Right

2374

Confess

2375 Lev. 5:5 "... he shall confess that he has sinned in that thing;"

2376 James 5:16 "Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one
2377 another...."

2378 **When there are set before us things that are a cross for us to take up,**
2379 **we can never be one with Christ until we have lifted the cross. It may**
2380 **be the cross of confession, the cross of repentance, the cross of**
2381 **humiliation; but whatever it may be, let us remember that in lifting it,**
2382 **we are one with Christ,** partakers of the divine nature. ... {RH May 18,
2383 1905 Par. 7}

2384 **When those in our churches commit sins, they should repent of them**
2385 **before God, and they should also repent of them before their brethren,**
2386 **asking the pardon that they will be willing to give.** Then the light that
2387 shines from the face of Christ will shine upon them. Let us clear the King's
2388 highway; let us plead with God until we know that we have received
2389 pardon. He will give it to us. But if you cover up your sin, you will have
2390 less and less sense of its sinfulness, and you will go on in the same line.
2391 {RH May 18, 1905 Par. 8}

2392 **If there are any differences between you and your brethren, for**
2393 **Christ's sake clear them away. Take up the stumbling-blocks. Clear the**
2394 **King's highway.** If you have done your neighbor a wrong, go to him, and
2395 try to make the matter right. Talk with God, and when you have done this,
2396 you will be able to talk in a Christlike manner to your brother. {GCB, April
2397 2, 1903 par. 13}

2398 If you have made mistakes or errors in judgment or in speech, or if you
2399 have used the precious talent of speech to proclaim the wrong-doings of
2400 others, may God help you to make a change. Humble your hearts before the

2401 Lord. **Do not feel that your brethren will lose confidence in you if you**
2402 **make confession of sin.** We are all finite. We are God's little children. **Do**
2403 **not feel that it would lower your dignity to confess your sins.** Christ
2404 says, "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not
2405 enter into the kingdom of heaven." We have separated ourselves from God.
2406 Let us draw near to Him. **Let us confess our sins, and let us be sure that**
2407 **we go to the bottom, and make thorough work for repentance. Will you**
2408 **do this? Will you prepare the way for God to bless you? ...** We may see
2409 it; we may have it. Let us not do anything that will hinder it from coming to
2410 us. {GCB, April 2, 1903 par. 14}

2411 **Let us not think that unless those who have injured us confess their**
2412 **wrongs, we are justified in withholding from them our forgiveness. ...**
2413 **We are to have a spirit of pity, of compassion toward those who have**
2414 **trespassed against us, whether or not they confess their faults.** If they
2415 fail to repent and make confession, their sins will stand registered in the
2416 books above to confront them in the day of judgment; but if they say, "I
2417 repent," then our duty is plain; we are freely to forgive from the heart their
2418 trespasses against us as we hope to be forgiven by our heavenly Father.
2419 **However sorely they may have wounded us, we are not to cherish our**
2420 **grievances and sympathize with ourselves over our injuries, but as we**
2421 **hope to be pardoned for our offenses against God, so must we pardon**
2422 **those who have done evil to us.** {YI June 1, 1893 Par. 3}

2423

2424

Make Things Right

2425 Ezek. 33:15 "If the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has
2426 stolen, and walks in the statutes of life without committing iniquity, he shall
2427 surely live; he shall not die."

2428 Let those who have committed wrong **give proof of their repentance by**
2429 **seeking to make full restitution,** let them in their after-life give evidence
2430 of a genuine reformation, and they will assuredly enjoy the peace of
2431 Heaven. {RH January 3, 1882 Par. 7}

2432 God requires repentance and confession, and restitution will always follow
2433 genuine repentance. **If you have prevaricated, if you have borne false**
2434 **witness, if you have misjudged and misinterpreted your brother, if you**
2435 **have misstated his words, ridiculed him, if you have injured his**
2436 **influence in any way, go right to the persons with whom you have**
2437 **conversed about him, with whom you have united in this work, and**
2438 **take all your injurious misstatements back.** Confess the wrong that you
2439 have done your brother; for **your sin will stand charged against you in the**
2440 **books of record until you do all that lies in your power to correct the**
2441 **evil your words have wrought.** When you have done all that God requires
2442 of you, pardon will be written against your name. {RH, May 28, 1889 par.
2443 13}

2444 **There are many who will not be blessed till they make restitution of the**
2445 **tithe which they have withheld.** God is waiting for you to redeem the past.
2446 The hand of the holy law is laid upon every soul who enjoys God's benefits.
2447 **Let those who have kept back their tithe make an accurate reckoning,**
2448 **and bring to the Lord that of which they have robbed His work.** Make

2449 restitution, and bring the Lord peace offerings. “Let him take hold of my
2450 strength, that he may make peace with me; and he shall make peace with
2451 me.” If you acknowledge that you have done wrong in misappropriating His
2452 goods, and freely and fully repent, He will forgive your transgression. {RH,
2453 December 10, 1901 par. 9}

2454

2455 Confessing And Making Things Right Requires Humbling

2456 James 4:10 “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift
2457 you up.”

2458 2 Chron. 7:14 “...will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and
2459 turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear”

2460 1 Pet. 5:6 “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that
2461 He may exalt you in due time.”

2462 See also Deut. 8:16; 2 Chron. 33:12; Isa. 57:15; 2 Cor. 7:10

2463 **The Lord cannot save men while they refuse to humble themselves**
2464 **under the reproofs and warnings that He sends, strenuously asserting**
2465 **their own will,** and following their own course of action. {UL 134.4}

2466 **Humiliation, confession and most earnest prayer will bring about that**
2467 **which all the devising of men, be they high or low, cannot accomplish.**
2468 {11MR 100.1}

2469 **At the very heart of the work there is necessity for sincere, true**
2470 **humiliation, which has not yet been seen.** God will vindicate every
2471 message He has given to His people. He will justify all His dealings with
2472 them. They have departed out of the way, and **the only course that can**
2473 **bring relief and hope and success in bearing the solemn message for**
2474 **this time is for them to humble themselves under the mighty hand of**
2475 **God.** {11MR 100.3} There is a careless, venturesome spirit which needs to
2476 be guarded. **It is humiliating for us to acknowledge that we have done**
2477 **wrong, but this is often necessary.** The effectual fervent prayer of a
2478 righteous man availeth much. **Prayer will draw down from heaven great**
2479 **blessings when those who claim to believe the truth shall come down**
2480 **from their stilts of self-exaltation and afflict their souls, even as Daniel**
2481 **afflicted his soul.** {11MR 100.4}

2482

2483 IX. Repent

2484 Joel 2:13 “So rend your hearts and not your garments....”

2485 Acts 17:30 “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now
2486 commands men everywhere to repent.”

2487 See also Matt. 3:2; Matt. 4:17; Acts 2:38; Acts 26:19,20

2488

2489 Repentance Is Necessary

2490 **The Old and New Testament Scriptures show us the only way in which**
2491 **this work should be done. Repent, repent, repent** was the message rung
2492 out by John the Baptist in the wilderness. Christ’s message to the people
2493 was “Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:5). And the

2494 apostles were commanded to preach everywhere that men should repent.
2495 {2SM 19.1}

2496 **There is no evidence of genuine repentance unless it works reformation.**
2497 If he restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, confess his sins, and
2498 love God and his fellow men, the sinner may be sure that he has passed
2499 from death unto life. {SC 59.1}

2500

2501 Repentance Is A Gift From God

2502 Rom. 2:4 “Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and
2503 longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to
2504 repentance?”

2505 The Spirit of God will answer the cry of every penitent heart; **for**
2506 **repentance is the gift of God**, and an evidence that Christ is drawing the
2507 soul to Himself. **We can no more repent of sin without Christ, than we**
2508 **can be pardoned without Christ**, and yet it is a humiliation to man with
2509 his human passion and pride to go to Jesus straightway, believing and
2510 trusting Him for everything which he needs. . . . {1NL 65.4}

2511

2512 Repentance Is More Than Feeling Sorry

2513 Some who cherish ... defects confess that they are doing wrong; but year
2514 after year passes, and finds them still in bondage to these sins. Each year the
2515 same acknowledgment is made, but no change appears in the life. **They**
2516 **confess, but they do not repent.** They do not realize how grievous their
2517 sins are in the sight of God. If they were really one with Christ, if his Spirit
2518 were dwelling in them, they would see the sinfulness of sin. Not only would
2519 they confess; but they would forsake that which God abhors. {YI March 5,
2520 1903 Par. 8}

2521 **How much, I ask, do you love his appearing? How much do you value**
2522 **eternal above temporal things?—Just as much as your works show, and**
2523 **no more.** Brethren and sisters, “the night is far spent, the day is at hand.” I
2524 call upon you to awake out of sleep. Let every church arouse and put away
2525 their pride and vanity and worldliness. Let them humble their hearts before
2526 God by repentance that they have lifted so few burdens for Christ. {RH
2527 December 7, 1886 Par. 9}

2528

2529 Remove What Hinders

2530 2 Chron. 6:37-40 “Yet when they come to themselves in the land where
2531 they were carried captive, and repent, and make supplication to You in the
2532 land of their captivity, saying, “We have sinned, we have done wrong, and
2533 have committed wickedness’; and when they return to You with all their
2534 heart and with all their soul in the land of their captivity, where they have
2535 been carried captive, and pray toward their land which You gave to their
2536 fathers, the city which You have chosen, and toward the temple which I
2537 have built for Your name: then hear from heaven Your dwelling place their
2538 prayer and their supplications, and maintain their cause, and forgive Your
2539 people who have sinned against You. Now, my God, I pray, let Your eyes
2540 be open and let Your ears be attentive to the prayer made in this place.”

2541 See also Lev. 26:40

2542 **By prayer and confession of sin** we must clear the King's highway. As we
2543 do this, the power of the Spirit will come to us. We need the Pentecostal
2544 energy. This will come, for the Lord has promised to send His Spirit as the
2545 all-conquering power. {CCh 326.5}

2546 There is need today of such a revival of true heart religion as was
2547 experienced by ancient Israel. **Repentance is the first step** that must be
2548 taken by all who would return to God. No one can do this work for another.
2549 We must **individually humble our souls** before God and **put away our**
2550 **idols**. When we have done all that we can do, the Lord will manifest to us
2551 His salvation. {PP 590.2}

2552

2553 Repentance Will Change Our Churches

2554 **Unless this converting power shall go through our churches, unless the**
2555 **revival of the Spirit of God shall come, all their profession will never**
2556 **make the members of the church Christians.** There are sinners in Zion
2557 who need to **repent of sins that have been cherished as precious**
2558 **treasures.** Until these sins are seen, and thrust from the soul, until every
2559 faulty, unlovely trait of character is transformed by the Spirit's influence,
2560 God cannot manifest Himself in power. There is more hope for the open
2561 sinner than for the professedly righteous who are not pure, holy, and
2562 undefiled. {RH February 7, 1957 Par. 9}

2563 Who is willing to take himself in hand? Who is willing to lay his finger
2564 **upon his cherished idols of sin**, and allow Christ to purify the temple by
2565 casting out the buyers and sellers? Who is prepared to allow Jesus to enter
2566 the soul and **cleans it from every thing that tarnishes or corrupts?** The
2567 standard is, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven
2568 is perfect." God calls upon men and women to empty their hearts of self.
2569 Then His Spirit can find unobstructed entrance. **Stop trying to do the work**
2570 **yourself. Ask God to work in and through you** until the words of the
2571 apostle become yours: "I live; ye not I, but Christ liveth in me." – {RH
2572 February 7, 1957 Par. 12}

2573

2574 X. Turn And Pray

2575 2Chron. 7:14 "If My people who are called by My name will humble
2576 themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways,
2577 then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

2578 Joel 2:17 "Let the priests, who minister to the Lord, weep between the
2579 porch and the altar; let them say, "Spare Your people, O Lord, and do not
2580 give Your heritage to reproach, that the nations should rule over them. Why
2581 should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

2582 The old standard bearers **knew what it was to wrestle with God in prayer,**
2583 **and to enjoy the outpouring of His Spirit.** But these are passing off from
2584 the stage of action; and who are coming up to fill their places? **How is it**
2585 **with the rising generation? Are they converted to God? Are we awake**
2586 **to the work that is going on in the heavenly sanctuary,** or are we waiting
2587 for some compelling power to come upon the church before we shall

2588 arouse? Are we hoping to see the whole church revived? That time will
2589 never come. {1SM 122.1}

2590 **God wants to be inquired of by his people, before he pours out his Holy**
2591 **Spirit upon the church.** How earnestly should every member pray and
2592 labor, and labor and pray for the deep movings of Spirit of God! – {RH
2593 June 26, 1888 Par. 8}

2594 There should be **more prayer and weeping, and more confession of sin to**
2595 **God and to one another.** Let the indifference be broken up, let the
2596 complaining and faultfinding cease, and the time heretofore worse than
2597 wasted in this manner be spent in prayers of living faith for the refreshing
2598 from the presence of the Lord. Let us arouse as one man, and unitedly call
2599 upon God to send down his grace upon the souls of his people, and to revive
2600 his work in the midst of the years. {GW92 224.4}

2601 **Prayer is both a duty and a privilege.** We must have help which God
2602 alone can give, and **that help will not come unasked.** If we are too self-
2603 righteous to feel our need of help from God, we shall not have his help
2604 when we need it most. **If we are too independent and self-sufficient to**
2605 **throw ourselves daily by earnest prayer upon the merits of a crucified**
2606 **and risen Saviour, we shall be left subject to Satan’s temptations.** {RH
2607 July 24, 1883 Par. 19}

2608 **I asked the angel why there was not more power in Israel. Said he, “Ye**
2609 **let go of the promises of God too quick.** Press your petitions to the throne,
2610 and hold on by faith. Believe ye receive the things ye ask for, and ye shall
2611 have them.” I was then pointed to Elijah. He was subject to like passions as
2612 we are, and he prayed earnestly. His faith endured the trial. Seven times he
2613 prayed before the Lord, and at last the cloud was seen. {19MR 130.1}

2614 I have been **shown angels of God all ready to impart grace and power to**
2615 **those who feel their need of divine strength. But these heavenly**
2616 **messengers will not bestow blessings unless solicited.** They have waited
2617 for the cry from souls hungering and thirsting for the blessing of God; often
2618 have they waited in vain. **There were, indeed, casual prayers, but not the**
2619 **earnest supplication from humble, contrite hearts.** Meeting after meeting
2620 has closed with but little manifestation of the Spirit and power of God. The
2621 **people seemed to be satisfied to reach no higher; they seemed to expect**
2622 **no revival of the work of God;** but with grief and disappointment angels
2623 turned from the scene of confusion where tents were being removed, and
2624 the people preparing to return to their homes without the blessing which
2625 Heaven was more than willing to give them. {RH July 24, 1883 Par. 21}

2626 The Lord needs men and women who carry with them into the daily life the
2627 light of a godly example, men and women whose words and actions show
2628 that Christ is abiding in the heart, teaching, leading, and guiding. He **needs**
2629 **men and women of prayer, who, by wrestling alone with God, obtain**
2630 **the victory over self, and then go forth to impart to others that which**
2631 **they have received from the Source of power.** God accepts those who
2632 crucify self, and makes them vessels unto honor. They are in His hands as
2633 clay in the hands of the potter, and He works His will through them. **Such**
2634 **men and women receive spiritual power. Christ lives in them, and the**
2635 **power of His Spirit attends their efforts.** They realize that they are to live

2636 in this world the life that Jesus lived—a life free from all selfishness; and
2637 He enables them to bear witness for Him that draws souls to the cross of
2638 Calvary.—The Signs of the Times, April 9, 1902. {DG 81.4}

2639

2640 X. Look Forward to the Outcome

2641 Zech. 8:22 “In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall
2642 grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, ‘Let us go with you, for we have
2643 heard that God is with you.’”

2644 **God rebukes His people for their sins, that He may humble them, and**
2645 **lead them to seek His face. As they reform, and His love revives in their**
2646 **hearts, His loving answers will come to their requests.** He will strengthen
2647 them in reformatory action, lifting up for them a standard against the
2648 enemy. His rich blessing will rest upon them, and in bright rays they will
2649 reflect the light of heaven. **Then a multitude not of their faith, seeing that**
2650 **God is with His people, will unite with them in serving the Redeemer.**
2651 {RH, February 25, 1902 par. 16}

2652 1 Pet. 2:9 “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy
2653 nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him
2654 who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light....”

2655 **Christ’s love in the heart, revealing through the life its wondrous**
2656 **power—this is the greatest miracle that can be performed before a**
2657 **fallen, quarreling world.** Let us try to work this miracle, not in our own
2658 power, but in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, whose we are and whom
2659 we serve. **Let us put on Christ, and the miracle-working power of His**
2660 **grace will be so plainly revealed in the transformation of character that**
2661 **the world will be convinced that God has sent His Son into the world to**
2662 **make men as angels in character and life.** {OFC 273.2}

2663 The religion of Christ **means more than the forgiveness of sin; it means**
2664 **taking away our sins, and filling the vacuum with the graces of the Holy**
2665 **Spirit. It means divine illumination, rejoicing in God. It means a heart**
2666 **emptied of self, and blessed with the abiding presence of Christ.** When
2667 Christ reigns in the soul, there is **purity, freedom from sin. The glory, the**
2668 **fullness, the completeness of the gospel plan is fulfilled in the life.** The
2669 acceptance of the Saviour brings a glow of perfect **peace, perfect love,**
2670 **perfect assurance.** The beauty and fragrance of the character of Christ
2671 revealed in the life testifies that God has indeed sent His Son into the world
2672 to be its Saviour. . . . {LHU 292.6}

2673 **The Lord Jesus is making experiments on human hearts through the**
2674 **exhibition of His mercy and abundant grace. He is effecting**
2675 **transformations so amazing that Satan, with all his triumphant**
2676 **boasting, with all his confederacy of evil united against God and the**
2677 **laws of His government, stands viewing them as a fortress impregnable**
2678 **to his sophistries and delusions.** They are to him an incomprehensible
2679 mystery. The angels of God, seraphim and cherubim, the powers
2680 commissioned to cooperate with human agencies, look on with
2681 astonishment and joy, that fallen men, once children of wrath, are through
2682 the training of Christ developing characters after the divine similitude, to be

2683 sons and daughters of God, to act an important part in the occupations and
2684 pleasures of heaven. {TM 18.1}

2685 **To His church, Christ has given ample facilities, that He may receive a**
2686 **large revenue of glory from His redeemed, purchased possession.** The
2687 **church, being endowed with the righteousness of Christ, is His**
2688 **depository, in** which the wealth of His mercy, His love, His grace, is to
2689 appear in full and final display. ... **The gift of His Holy Spirit, rich, full,**
2690 **and abundant, is to be to His church as an encompassing wall of fire,**
2691 **which the powers of hell shall not prevail against.** In their untainted
2692 purity and spotless perfection, Christ looks upon His people as the reward
2693 of all His suffering, His humiliation, and His love, and the supplement of
2694 His glory--Christ, the great center from which radiates all glory. "Blessed
2695 are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb." {TM
2696 18.2}

2697

2698

Final Thoughts

2699

Believe God Will Bring Revival

2700 We have the **assurance** that in this age of the world the Holy Spirit will
2701 work with **mighty power**, unless by our unbelief, we limit our blessings,
2702 and thus lose the advantages we might obtain. ... {SW December 5, 1899
2703 Par. 1}

2704 Dating from the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was to be poured forth on
2705 sons and daughters, on servants and handmaidens; in **every** hill country,
2706 **every** lowland, every valley, humble workmen for the Lord are to be raised
2707 up. The divine sacred influence of the Holy Spirit working in our world is to
2708 be **as signs and wonders**, because God's people are **a peculiar people, an**
2709 **holy nation, shining amid moral darkness** as **living** stones in the Lord's
2710 building. {SW December 5, 1899 Par. 2}

2711 The descent of the Holy Spirit upon the church is looked forward to, as in
2712 the future; but it is **the privilege of the church to have it now**. Seek for it,
2713 pray for it, believe for it. **We must have it, and Heaven is waiting to**
2714 **bestow it**.—Letter 15, 1892, pp. 8-10. (To Elder S.N. Haskell, June 25,
2715 1892.) {5MR 335.1}

2716

2717

Be Assured That Satan Cannot Hinder Revival

2718 There is **nothing that Satan fears so much as that the people of God**
2719 **shall clear the way by removing every hindrance**, so that the Lord can
2720 pour out His Spirit upon a languishing church and an impenitent
2721 congregation. If Satan had his way, there would never be another
2722 awakening, great or small, to the end of time. But we are not ignorant of his
2723 devices. It is possible to resist his power. **When the way is prepared for**
2724 **the Spirit of God, the blessing will come**. Satan can no more hinder a
2725 shower of blessing from descending upon God's people than he can close
2726 the windows of heaven that rain cannot come upon the earth. **Wicked men**
2727 **and devils cannot hinder the work of God**, or shut out His presence from
2728 the assemblies of His people, if they will, with subdued, contrite hearts,

2729 confess and put away their sins, and in faith claim His promises. {1SM
2730 124.2}

2731

2732 Take Ownership For The Lack of Revival

2733 The **only reason for our lack of power with God is to be found in**
2734 **ourselves.** If the inner life of many who profess the truth were presented
2735 before them, they would not claim to be Christians. {Pr 263.3}

2736 There is **no lack of power on His part, but there is a lack of faith and of**
2737 **humility on the part of His people. Many of us would not know how to**
2738 **use that power if we were to receive it.** Let us learn of the great Teacher,
2739 what it means to walk in humility, as Christ walked in humility. Ms. 49,
2740 1908. (MR 900.19) {1SAT 396.3}

2741

2742 Earnestly Seek Revival

2743 It is our work, **by confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest**
2744 **prayer, to fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised to grant**
2745 **us His blessing.** {1SM 121.1}

2746 There **should be a different kind of labor from what we too often see....**
2747 **There should be more prayer and weeping, and more confession of sin**
2748 **to God and to one another. Let the indifference be broken up, let the**
2749 **complaining and faultfinding cease,** and the time heretofore worse than
2750 wasted in this manner be spent in prayers of living faith for the refreshing
2751 from the presence of the Lord. Let us arouse ... and unitedly call upon God
2752 to send down his grace upon the souls of his people, and to revive his work
2753 in the midst of the years. {GW92 224.4}

2754

2755 Experience Revival

2756 **God works mightily for a faithful people who obey His word without**
2757 **questioning or doubt.** The Majesty of heaven, with His army of angels,
2758 leveled the walls of Jericho without human aid. The armed warriors of
2759 Israel had no cause to glory in their achievements. All was done through the
2760 power of God. **Let the people give up self and the desire to work after**
2761 **their own plans, let them humbly submit to the divine will, and God**
2762 **will revive their strength and bring freedom and victory to His**
2763 **children.** {4T 164.1}

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Key to Abbreviations

1888: Ellen G. White 1888 Materials	OFC: Our Father Cares
AA: Acts of the Apostles, The	OHC: Our High Calling
AH: Adventist Home, The	PaM: Pastoral Ministry
AUCR: [Australasian] Union Conference Record	PC: Paulson Collection
AUGleaner: Atlantic Union Gleaner	PH: Pamphlet
5BC: Bible Commentary Vol. 5	PK: Prophets and Kings
4bSG: Spiritual Gifts, Vol. 4b	PM: Publishing Ministry, The
BEcho: Bible Echo	PP: Patriarchs and Prophets
BTS: Bible Training School	Pr: Prayer
CCh: Counsels for the Church	PUR: Pacific Union Recorder
CD: Counsels on Diet and Foods	RH: Review and Herald
CG: Child Guidance	1SAT: Sermons and Talks Vol. 1 (2SAT for Vol. 2)
CH: Counsels on Health	SC: Steps to Christ
ChS: Christian Service	SD: Sons and Daughters of God
COL: Christ Object Lessons	1SM: Selected Messages Vol. 1 (2SM for Book 2, etc.)
CT: Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students	SpM: Spalding and Magan Collection
CTr: Christ Triumphant	1SP: Spirit of Prophecy, The Vol. 1 (2SP for Vol. 2, etc.)
CTBH: Christian Temperance (EGW) and Bible Hygiene (James White)	SPTA01b: Special Testimonies, Series A (Nos. 1-12)
DA: Desire of Ages	SpTB05: Special Testimonies, Series B (Nos. 1-19)
DG: Daughters of God	SSW: Sabbath-School Worker
Ed: Education	ST: Signs of the Times
EV: Evangelism	SW: The Southern Watchman
EW: Early Writings	1T: Testimonies for the Church Vol. 1 (2T for Vol. 2, etc.)
FLB: Faith I Live By, The	Te: Temperance
GCB: General Conference Bulletin	TM: Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers
GW: Gospel Workers	TMK: That I May Know Him
HP: In Heavenly Places	TSB: Testimonies on Sexual Behaviour, Adultery, and Divorce
KC: Kress Collection, The	TSDf: Testimony Studies on Diet and Foods
LHU: Lift Him Up	1TT: Testimony Treasures, Vol. 1 (2TT for Vol. 2, etc.)
LLM: Loma Linda Messages	UL: Upward Look, The
MB: Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing	WB: Workers' Bulletin, The
MH: Ministry of Healing, The	YI: Youth's Instructor, The
ML: My Life Today	
MR: Manuscript Releases (2MR for Vol. 2, etc.)	
1NL: Notebook Leaflets, Vol. 1 (2NL for Vol. 2)	