

"BLESSED are THEY that DO His COMMANDMENTS...THEY which
ARE WRITTEN in the LAMB'S BOOK OF LIFE..."
REV. 21:27 & 22:14.

Holiness unto Jehovah

CHARITY

BROTHERLY KINDNESS

GODLINESS

PATIENCE

TEMPERANCE

KNOWLEDGE

VIRTUE

FAITH



"For there is NO RESPECT of PERSONS
with God." Romans 2:11. Acts 10:34.

CHURCH

REVELATIONS



CHAPTER XI.

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THE TWO WITNESSES.

THE suppression of the Scriptures under the dominion of Rome, the terrible results of that suppression, and the final exaltation of the word of God, are vividly portrayed by the prophetic pencil. To John the exile on lonely Patmos was given a view of the 1260 years during which the papal power was permitted to trample upon God's word and oppress his people. Said the angel of the Lord: "The holy city [the true church] shall (they) tread under foot forty and two months. And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sack-cloth." Rev.11:2,3. The periods here mentioned are the same, alike representing the time in which God's faithful witnesses remained in a state of obscurity.

The two witnesses represent the Old and New Testament Scriptures. Both are important testimonies to the origin and perpetuity of the (law) of God. (Both) are witnesses also to the plan of salvation. The types, sacrifices, and prophecies of the Old Testament point forward to a Saviour to come. The Gospels and Epistles of the New Testament tell of a Saviour who has come in the exact manner foretold by type and prophecy.

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"Of all the gifts that heaven can bestow upon man, fellowship with Christ in His sufferings is the most weighty trust and the highest honor."

"These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth." Rev.11:4. Said the psalmist, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." PS. 119:105.

The papal power sought to hide from the people the word of truth, and set before them (false) witnesses to (contradict) its testimony. When the Bible was proscribed by religious and secular authority; when its testimony was perverted, and every effort made that men and demons could invent to turn the minds of the people from it; when those who dared proclaim its sacred truths were hunted, betrayed, tortured, buried in dungeon cells, martyred for their faith, or compelled to flee to mountain fastnesses and to dens and caves of the earth,--then indeed did the faithful witnesses prophesy in sackcloth.

But men cannot with impunity trample upon the word of God. The Lord had declared concerning his two witnesses, "If any man will hurt (them) (fire) proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies; and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed." Rev.11:5. The (meaning) of this fearful denunciation is set forth in the closing chapter of the book of Revelation: "I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophesy of this book, If any man shall (add) unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book. And if any man shall take away from the (words) of the book of this prophesy, God shall take away his part (out) of the book of life, and (out) of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

"In the book of God's remembrance every deed of righteousness is immortalised. There every temptation resisted, every evil overcome, every word of tender pity expressed, is faithfully chronicled. And every act of sacrifice, every suffering and sorrow endured for Christ's sake, is recorded."

Such are the **warnings** which God has given to guard men against changing in any manner that which he has revealed or commanded. These solemn denunciations apply to all who by their influence lead men to lightly regard the (law) of God. They should cause those fear and tremble who flippantly declare it a matter of little consequence whether we obey God's law or not. All who exalt their own opinions above the written word, all who would **change the plain meaning of Scriptures** to suit their own convenience, or for the sake of conformity to the world, are taking upon themselves a fearful responsibility. The **written word, the law of God,** will (measure) the character of every man, and (condemn) all whom this (unerring test) shall declare wanting.

Notwithstanding the Lord's witnesses were clothed in sackcloth, they continued to prophesy throughout the entire period of 1260 years. In the darkest times there were faithful men who loved God's word, and were jealous for his honor. To these loyal servants were given wisdom, power, and authority to declare his truth during the whole of this time.

"And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make (war) against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified." Rev.11:7,8.

These events were to take place near the close of the period in which the witnesses testified in sackcloth. Through the medium of the papacy, Satan

He that knows not and knows not that he
knows not is a fool - shun him;
He that knows not and knows that he
knows not is sincere - teach him;
He that knows and knows not that he
knows is asleep - rouse him;
He that knows and knows that he knows
is a wise man - follow him.

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had long controlled the powers that ruled in Church and State. The fearful results were especially apparent in **those countries that rejected the light of the Reformation.** There was a state of moral debasement and corruption similar to the condition of Sodom just prior to its destruction, and to the idolatry and spiritual darkness that prevailed in Egypt in the days of Moses.

In no land had the **spirit of enmity against Christ and the truth** been more strikingly displayed than in giddy and godless France. Nowhere had the gospel encountered more bitter and cruel opposition. In the streets of Paris, Christ had indeed been crucified in the person of his saints. The world still recalls with shuddering horror the scenes of that most cowardly and cruel onslaught, the **Massacre of St. Bartholomew.** The king of France, urged on by Romish Priests and prelates, lent his sanction to the dreadful work. The palace bell, tolling at midnight, gave the signal for the slaughter to begin. Protestants by thousands, sleeping quietly in their homes, trusting to the plighted honor of their king, were dragged forth without a warning, and murdered in cold blood.

Satan, in the person of Roman zealots, led the van. As Christ was the invisible leader of his people from Egyptian bondage, so was Satan the unseen leader of his subjects in this horrible work of multiplying martyrs. For three days the butchery went on; more than thirty thousand perished. The result caused great joy to the hosts of darkness. The Roman pontiff, sharing in the diabolical rejoicing, proclaimed a jubilee to be observed throughout his dominions, to celebrate the event.

"To PERFORM every duty as unto the Lord, throws a charm around the humblest employment, and links the workers on earth with the holy beings who do God's will in heaven."

FRANCE

The same master-spirit that urged on the **Massacre of St. Bartholomew**, led also in the scenes of the **French Revolution**. Satan seemed to triumph. Notwithstanding the labors of the Reformers, he had succeeded in holding vast multitudes in ignorance concerning God and his word. Now he appeared in a new guise. In France arose an atheistical power that openly declared war against the authority of Heaven. Men threw off all restraint. The law of God was trampled under foot. Those who could engage in the most Heaven-daring blasphemy and the most abominable wickedness were most highly exalted. Fornication was sanctioned by law. Profanity and corruption seemed deluging the earth. In all this, supreme homage was paid to Satan, while Christ, in his characteristics of truth, purity, and unselfish love, was crucified. The Bible was publicly burned. The Sabbath was blotted out. Romanism had enjoined image worship; now divine honors were paid to the vilest objects. The work which the papacy had begun, **atheism** completed. The one withheld from the people the truths of the Bible; the other taught them to reject both the Bible and its Author. The seed sown by priests and prelates was yielding its evil fruit.

Terrible indeed was the condition of **infidel** France. The word of truth lay dead in her streets, and those who **hated** the restrictions and requirements of God's law were jubilant. But **transgression and rebellion** were followed by the sure result. Unhappy France **reaped in blood the harvest she had sown.** The **war** against the Bible and the law of God banished peace and happiness from the hearts and homes of men.

"In the church would manifest a greater interest in the reforms which God Himself has brought to them to fit them for His coming, their influence would be tenfold what it now is." Test. vol. 3, p. 171.

No one was secure: he who triumphed to-day was suspected, condemned, to-morrow. **Violence and terror reigned supreme.** The land was filled with crimes too horrible for pen to trace.

God's faithful witnesses were not long to remain silent. "The Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet, and great fear fell upon them which saw them." Rev.11:11. The world stood aghast at the enormity of guilt **which had resulted from a rejection of the Sacred Oracles,** and men were glad to return once more to faith in God and his word.

Concerning the **two witnesses** the prophet declares further, "And they heard a **great voice from Heaven** saying unto them, **Come up hither.** And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them." Rev.11:12. Since the French Revolution the word of God has been honored as never before. The **Bible** has been translated into nearly every language spoken by men, and scattered over every part of the globe. After being, as it were, thrust down to hell, it has, in truth, been exalted to heaven.

Encouraging Assurances

WHEN you give yourself wholly to the Lord, **great changes will be wrought in you.** You will have such a love for the truth, that wherever you go you will hear witness to the Lord's power. He will give you a genuine testimony to bear. **He will pour out upon you His grace and power, and you will enter a new and loving way.** Christ's righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your reward. Your words and works will be ratified in heaven. As you work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, God will work in you to will and to do of His good pleasure. **Power to overcome will be given you.** Whwn the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him. Mrs. E.G. White.

CHAPTER XII.

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GOD HONORS THE HUMBLE.

⊗ Those who received the great blessings of the Reformation did not go forward in the path so nobly entered upon by Luther. **A few faithful men arose from time to time, to proclaim new truth, and (ex-)** **pose** long-cherished error; but the majority, like the Jews in Christ's day; or the papists in the time of Luther, **were content** to believe as their **fathers** believed, and to **live** as they **lived**. Therefore religion again degenerated into formalism; and errors and superstitions which would have been cast aside had **the church** continued to walk in the light of God's word, were retained and cherished. Thus the **spirit** inspired by the Reformation gradually died out, until there was almost as great a need of reform in the Protestant churches as in the Roman Church in the time of Luther. There was the same spiritual stupor, the same **respect** for the opinions of men, the same spirit of worldliness, the same substitution of human theories for the teachings of God's word. Pride and extravagance were fostered under the guise of religion. **The churches** became corrupted by allying themselves with the world. Thus were **degraded the great principles** for which Luther and his fellow-laborer had done and suffered so much.

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"Verily, verily, I say unto you. He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation: but is passed from death unto life."
Ellen G. White January 17, 1907.

As Satan saw that he failed to crush out the truth by persecution, he again resorted to the same plan of compromise which had led to the great apostasy and the formation of the church of Rome. He induced Christians to ally themselves, not now with pagans, but with those who, by their worship of the god of this world, as truly proved themselves idolaters. Satan could no longer keep the Bible from the people; it had been placed within the reach of all. But he led thousands to accept false interpretations and unsound theories, without searching the Scriptures to learn the truth for themselves. He had corrupted the doctrines of the Bible, and traditions which were to ruin millions were taking deep root. The church was upholding and defending these traditions instead of contending for the faith once delivered to the saints.

And while wholly unconscious of their condition and their peril, the church and the world were rapidly approaching the most solemn and momentous period of earth's history,--the period of the revelation of the Son of man. Already had the signs which Christ himself had promised,--the sun clothed in darkness by day and the moon by night,--declared his coming near. When Jesus pointed his followers to these signs, he foretold also the existing state of worldliness and backsliding, and gave warning of the result to those who refused to arouse from their careless security. "Thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead." "If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee." Rev.3:1,3. ..



To us to-day, as verily as to the first disciples, the promise of the Spirit belongs. God will to-day endow men and women the power from above, as He endowed those who on the day of Pentecost heard the word of salvation. At this very hour His Spirit and His grace are for all who need them and will take Him at His word.

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He who knows the end from the beginning, and who inspired prophets and apostles to write the future history of churches and of nations, was about to accomplish another reform similar to that of the days of Luther. The Lord raised up men to investigate his word, to examine the foundation upon which the Christian world were building, and to raise the solemn inquiry, **What is truth? Are we building upon the rock, or upon shifting sand?**

God saw that many of his professed people were not building for eternity; and in his care and love he was about to send a message of warning to arouse them from their stupor, and prepare them for the coming of their Lord. The warning was not to be intrusted to learned doctors of divinity or popular ministers of the gospel. Had these been faithful watchmen, diligently and prayfully searching the Scriptures, they would have known the time of night; the prophecies of Daniel and John would have revealed to them the great events about to take place. If they had faithfully followed the light already given, some star of heavenly radiance would have been sent to them to guide them into all truth.

At the time of Christ's first advent, the priests and scribes of the holy city, to whom were intrusted the oracles of God, should have discerned the signs of the times, and proclaimed the coming of the Promised One. The prophecy of Micah designated his birthplace; Micah 5:2, Daniel specified the time of his advent. Dan. 9:25. God had committed these prophecies to the Jewish leaders; therefore they were without excuse if they did not know and declare to the people that

"The Saviour is watching His children,
 And He knows what each soul can bear,
 And He takes the soul from the furnace
 When the soul is about to despair;
 But repeated will be the lesson
 Till destroyed is all trace of pride,
 And the Saviour can see His image
 In a heart that is purified."

the Messiah's coming was at hand. Their ignorance was the result of sinful neglect.

God did not send his messengers to the palaces of kings, to the assemblies of philosophers, or to the schools of the rabbis, to make known the wonderful fact that the Redeemer of men was about to appear upon the earth. The Jews were building monuments for the slain prophets of God, while by their deference to the great men of the earth they were paying homage to the servants of Satan. Absorbed in their ambitious strife for place and power among men, they lost sight of the divine honors proffered them by the King of Heaven.

With what profound and reverent interest should the elders of Israel have been studying the place, the time, the circumstances, of the greatest event in the world's history,--the coming of the Son of God to accomplish the redemption of man! Oh, why were not the people watching and waiting that they might be among the first to welcome the world's Redeemer! But lo, at Bethlehem two weary travelers from the hills of Nazareth traverse the whole length of the narrow street to the eastern extremity of the town, vainly seeking a place of rest and shelter for the night. No doors are open to receive them. In a wretched hovel prepared for cattle, they at last find refuge, and there the Saviour of the world is born.

Heavenly angels had seen the glory which the Son of God shared with the Father before the world was, and they had looked forward with intense interest to his appearance on earth as an event fraught with the greatest joy of all people. Angels were appointed to carry the glad tidings to those who were prepared

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The presence of the Spirit with God's workers will give the presentation of the truth a power that not all the honor or glory of the world could give. The Spirit furnishes the strength that sustains striving, wrestling souls in every emergency, amidst the unfriendliness of relatives, the hatred of the world, and the realization of their own imperfections and mistakes.

to receive it, and who would joyfully make it known to the inhabitants of the earth. Christ has stooped to take upon himself man's nature; he is to bear an infinite weight of woe as he shall make **his soul an offering for sin**; yet angels desire that even in his humiliation, the Son of the Highest may appear before men with a **dignity** and **glory** befitting his character. Will the great men of earth assemble at Israel's capital to greet his coming? **Will legions of angels present him** to the expectant company?

An angel visits the earth to see who are prepared to welcome Jesus. But he can discern no tokens of expectancy! He hears no voice of praise and triumph that the period of the Messiah's coming is at hand. **The angel hovers for a time over the chosen city and the temple** where the divine presence was manifested for ages; but even here is **the same** indifference. The priests, in their pomp and pride, are offering polluted sacrifices in the temple. The Pharisees are with loud voices addressing the people, or making boastful prayers at the corners of the streets. **There is no evidence that Christ is expected, and no preparations** for the Prince of life.

In amazement the celestial messenger is about to return to Heaven with the shameful tidings, **when he discovers a group of shepherds** who are watching their flocks by night, and, as they gaze into the starry heavens, are contemplating the prophecy of a Messiah to come to earth, and longing for the advent of the world's Redeemer. **Here is a company that can be** trusted with the heavenly message. **And suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared, declaring the good tidings of great joy.** Celestial



Every Christian should be a diligent student of the Scriptures. The Word of God, believed and obeyed, exerts a transforming power upon the life and character. Its sublime truths, its pure and holy principles, strengthen the intellect, ennoble the affections, enlighten the understanding. How great the loss which they sustain who neglect this storehouse of eternal riches. Mrs. E. G. White.

glory flooded all the plain, an innumerable company of angels were revealed, and if the joy were too great for one messenger to bring from Heaven, a multitude of voices broke forth in the anthem which all the nations of the saved shall one day sing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Oh, what a lesson is this wonderful story of Bethlehem! How it rebukes our unbelief, our pride and self-sufficiency. How it warns us to behave, lest by our criminal indifference we also failed to discern the signs of the times, and therefore know not the day of our visitation. It is "unto them that look for him" that Christ is to "appear the second time without sin unto salvation." He. 9:28.

Jesus sends his people a message of warning to prepare them for his coming. To the prophet John was made known the closing work in the great plan of man's redemption. He beheld an angel flying "in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his Judgment is come; and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." Rev. 14:6. 7.

The angel represented in prophecy as delivering this message, symbolizes a class of faithful men, who, obedient to the promptings of God's Spirit and the teachings of his word, proclaim this warning to the inhabitants of earth. This message was not to be committed to the religious leaders of the people.

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Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all heart, and with all thy soul, and with all mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. Mark 12:30.

They had failed to preserve their connection with God, and had refused the light from Heaven; therefore they were not of the number described by the apostle Paul: "But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day; we are not of the night nor of darkness." 1 Thess. 5:4, 5.

The watchmen upon the walls of Zion should be the first to catch the tidings of the Saviour's advent, the first to lift their voices to proclaim him near, the first to warn the people to prepare for his coming. But they were at ease, dreaming of peace and safety while the people were asleep in their sins. Jesus saw his church, like the barren fig-tree, covered with pretentious leaves, yet destitute of precious fruit. There was a boastful observance of the forms of religion, while the spirit of true humility, penitence and faith--which alone could render the service acceptable to God--was lacking. Instead of the graces of the Spirit, there were manifested pride, formalism, vainglory, selfishness, oppression. A backsliding church closed their eyes to the signs of the times. God did not forsake them, or suffer his faithfulness to fail; but they departed from him, and separated themselves from his love. As they refused to comply with the conditions his promises were not fulfilled to them.

Love for Christ and faith in his coming waxed cold. Such is the sure result of neglect to appreciate and improve the light and privileges which God bestows. Unless the church will follow on in his opening providence accepting every ray of light, performing every

The wisdom of man is foolishness.
Prov. 1:7, 10:21, 23:4. 1 Cor. 3:
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duty which may be revealed, religion will inevitably degenerate into observance of forms, and the spirit of vital godliness will disappear. This truth has been repeatedly illustrated in the history of the church. God requires of his people works of faith and obedience corresponding to the blessings and privileges bestowed. Obedience requires a sacrifice and involves a cross; and this is why so many of the professed followers of Christ refused to receive the light from Heaven, and, like the Jews of old, knew not the time of their visitation. Luke 19:44. Because of their pride and unbelief, the Lord passed them by, and revealed his truth to men in humble life, who had given heed to all the light they had received.

My
brethren
and sisters,
plead for the
Holy Spirit. God
stands back of every
promise He has made. With
your Bibles in your hands,
say: "I have done as Thou
hast said. I present Thy pro-
mise, "Ask, and it shall be given
you: seek, and ye shall find: knock,
and it shall be opened unto you." Christ
declares: "What things soever ye desire,
when ye pray, believe that ye receive them,
and ye shall have them." "Whatever ye shall ask
in My name, that will I do, that the Father may
be glorified in the Son." Matt. 7:7. Mark 11:21.
John 11:13. Mrs. E. G. White.

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye TRANSFORMED by the renewing of your MIND, that ye may PROVE (1 Thess. 5:21) what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." Romans 12:1-2. Ps. 51:17. BC 6:1080.

A CALL TO CONSECRATION

... "Only by receiving constant HELP from God can we GAIN the VICTORY. Each morning consecrate yourselves and your children to God for that day. Make no calculation for months or years: these are not yours. ONE BRIEF DAY IS GIVEN YOU. As if it were your LAST ON EARTH, work during its hours for the Master. Lay ALL your PLANS before God, to be carried out or given up, as His providence shall indicate. ACCEPT His PLAN instead of your own, even though their acceptance requires the ABANDONMENT OF CHERISHED PROJECTS. Thus the LIFE will be MOLDED MORE and MORE AFTER THE DIVINE EXAMPLE; and "the PEACE OF God, which passeth all understanding, shall KEEP your HEARTS and MINDS through Christ Jesus.

Brethren and sisters, AROUSE, and show a LIVING INTEREST in the UNWORKED portions of the Lord's vineyard. Consecrate yourselves unreservedly to the WORK of giving the rich TREASURES of TRUTH to those in DARKNESS. Catch the spirit' of the great Master-worker. Learn from the Friend of sinners how to minister to SIN-SICK SOULS. His heart was ever touched with human woe. Why are we so COLD and INDIFFERENT? Why are our HEARTS so UNIMPRESSIBLE? Christ placed Himself upon the ALTAR of SACRIFICE, a LIVING sacrifice. Why are we so UNWILLING to give ourselves to the WORK to which He consecrated His LIFE? Something must be done to cure the TERRIBLE INDIFFERENCE that has taken hold upon us. Let us bow our heads in HUMILIATION as we see how much LESS we have done than we might have done to SOW THE SEEDS OF TRUTH.

When we ARE CONVERTED, our desire for EASE and elegance will be CHANGED. Christ brought His desires and wishes into STRICT ABEYANCE to His MISSION—a mission that bore the INSIGNIA of HEAVEN. He made everything subordinate to the great WORK that He came into the world to ACCOMPLISH for the fallen race. When in His youth His mother found Him in the school of the rabbis, and said to Him, "Son, why hast Thou thus dealt with us? Behold, Thy father and I have sought Thee sorrowing" He answered--and His answer is the KEY-NOTE

of His LIFE-WORK--" How is it that ye sought Me? wist ye not that I must be about My FATHER'S BUSNIESS?"

My brethren and sisters, I speak to you in words of love and tenderance. EVERY EARTHLY INTEREST MUST BE MADE SUBORDINATE TO THE GREAT WORK OF REDEMPTION. Remember that in the LIVES of the followers of Christ must be SEEN the SAME DEVOTION, THE SAME SUBJECTION to God's WORK of every social claim and every earthly affection, that was seen in His LIFE. God's CLAIMS must ever be made PARAMOUNT. "He that loveth father and mother MORE THAN Me is NOT WORTHY OF ME."

Eternity stretches before us. The curtain is about to be lifted. What are we doing, what are we thinking of, that we cing to our selfish love of ease, while all round us SOUL are perishing? Have our HEARTS become CALLOUS? Can we not see and understand that we have a WORK to DO in behalf of others? My brethren and sisters, are YOU among those who, having eyes, SEE NOT, and having ears, HEAR NOT? Is it IN VAIN that God has sent you KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL? Is it IN VAIN that He has sent you WARNING AFTER WARNING of the NEARNESS OF THE END? Do you believe in the declarations of His WORD concerning what is coming upon the world? DO YOU BELIEVE THAT GOD'S JUDGMENTS ARE HANGING OVER THE INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH? HOW, THEN, CAN YOU SIT AT EASE, CARELESS AND INDIFFERENT?

Every day that passes brings us nearer the END. Does it bring us also NEARER God? Are we watching unto prayer? Those with whom we associate day by day need our help, our guidance. They may be in such a condition of mind that a WORD IN SEASON will be sent home by the Holy SPIRIT as a NAIL IN A SURE PLACE. Tomorrow some of these souls may be where we may NEVER reach them again? What is our influence over these fellow travelers? What effort do we make to win them to Christ?

ARA June 23, 1908 page 268. By ELLEN G. WHITE.

"THE WILL OF GOD CONCERNING YOU"

"This is the WILL of God concerning you, even your sanctification." Great possibilities, high and holy attainments, are within out reach. Sanctification means

perfect love, perfect obedience, entire conformity to God's **WILL**. It means an unreserved **SURRENDER** to Him. It means to be pure and unselfish, without **SPOT** or **BLEMISH**.

From eternity God has chosen us to be His obedient children. He gave His Son to die for us, that we might be sanctified through His **GRACE**. Continual progress in knowledge and virtue is His **PURPOSE** for us. His Law is His own Voice, giving to all the invitation, "Come up higher, Be holy, holier still." Every day we may advance in perfection of christian Character. For this Christ clothed His Divinity with humanity. For this He came to the earth, and lived a life of suffering and privation.

But let no one think that it is possible for human beings in their own power to reach the standard that God presents before them. Our hearts are evil, and we cannot change them. "Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? Not one." "The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." Education, culture, the exercise of the will, **HUMAN EFFORT**, all have their proper sphere: but here they are **POWERLESS**. They may produce an outward **correctness** of behaviour, but they cannot change the **HEART**: they cannot **PURIFY** the **SOUL**. There must be a **POWER** working from **WITHIN**, a **NEW LIFE** from above, **BEFORE** man be **CHANGED** from sin to Holiness. That Power is **CHRIST**. His **GRACE ALONE** can quicken the lifeless **FACULTIES** of the **SOUL**, and attract it to God, to Holiness.

THE ONE GREAT LESSON ALL MUST LEARN—the poor sinner dead in trespasses and sins, AND the bPROFESSING Christian, who had known Christ, but has **clung** to his sins--is that Christ will save to the uttermost all who come to Him. "Him that cometh to Me," He says, "I will in no wise cast out." The **POOR**, the **SUFFERING**, the **SINFUL**, may find in Christ all they **NEED**. As soon as they receive Jesus as their **PERSONAL SAVIOUR**, the **cries of distress** and **woe are changed** to songs of **PRAISE** and **THANKSGIVING**.

When the sinner feels his **NEED** of the Sun of Righteousness, when he comes to Jesus saying, "Lord, I am **SINFUL**, **UNWORTHY**, **HOPELESS**, and **HELPLESS**: save me, or

I perish," he is accepted in the Beloved. He learns what it means to sit in Heavenly **Places** in Christ Jesus. God says, "Let there be LIGHT," and there is LIGHT. The HEART once darkened by sin is IRRADIATED by the PRESENCE of Him who is the LIGHT of LIFE.

God is ever seeking to bring human MINDS into association with the DIVINE. He offers us the PRIVILEGE of CO-OPERATION with Christ in revealing His GRACE to the world, that we may receive an INCREASED KNOWLEDGE of Heavenly things. Looking unto Jesus we obtain BRIGHTER and MORE DISTINCT VIEWS of GOD, and beholding we become CHANGED. Goodness, love for our fellow-men, becomes our natural instinct. We DEVELOP A CHARACTER that is the counterpart of the Divine Character. Growing into His likeness, we enlarge our capacity for knowing God. More and more we enter into FELLOWSHIP with the Heavenly world, and WE HAVE CONTINUALLY INCREASING POWER to receive the riches of the KNOWLEDGE and WISDOM of ETERNITY. WE ALL, with open face beholding as in a glass the Glory of the Lord, are CHANGED INTO THE SAME IMAGE FROM GLORY TO GLORY, even by THE SPIRIT of the Lord." (II Corinthians 3:12).



The disciples did not ask for a blessing for themselves. They were weighted with the burdens of souls. The gospel was to be carried to the ends of the earth, and they claimed the endowment of power that Christ had promised. Then it was that the Holy Spirit was poured out, and thousands were converted in a day. So it may be now. Let Christians put away all dissension, and give themselves to God for the saving of the lost. Let them ask in Faith for the promised blessing, and it will come.



The outpouring of the Spirit in the days of the apostles was the "former rain," and glorious was the result. But the "latter rain" will be more abundant. What is the promise to those living in these last days? -"Turn ye to the strong hold, ye prisoners of hope: even to-day do I declare that I will render double unto thee." "Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain: so the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field." Zach. 9: 12, 10:1.

CHRIST'S MOST ESSENTIAL GIFT TO HIS CHURCH
(Reading for Friday, May 7, 1909)

Before offering Himself as the sacrificial victim, Christ sought for the most essential and complete gift to bestow upon His followers, a gift that would bring within their reach the boundless resources of grace. "I will pray the Father," He said, "and He will give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever: even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him; but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

Before this the Spirit had been in the world: from the very beginning of the work of redemption He had been moving upon men's hearts. But while Christ was on earth, the disciples had desired no other helper. Not until they were deprived of His presence would they feel the need of the Spirit, and then He would come.

The Holy Spirit is Christ's representative, but divested of the personality of humanity, and independent thereof. Cumbered with humanity, Christ could not be in every place personally. Therefore it was for their interest that He should go to the Father, and send the Spirit to be His successor on earth. No one could then have any advantage because of his location or his personal contact with Christ. By the Spirit, the Saviour would be accessible to all. In this sense He would be nearer to them than if He had not ascended on high.

The Comforter is called "the Spirit of truth," His work is to define and maintain the truth. He first dwells in the heart as the Spirit of truth, and thus He becomes the Comforter. There is comfort and peace in the truth, but no real peace or comfort can be found in falsehood. It is through false theories, and traditions that Satan gains his power over the mind. By directing men to false standards, he misshapes the character. Through the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit speaks to the mind, and impresses truth upon the heart.

Thus (He) exposes (error) and expels it from the (soul). It is by the Spirit of truth, working through the (word) of God, that Christ subdues His chosen people to Himself.

In describing to His disciples the office work of the Holy Spirit, Jesus sought to inspire them with the joy and hope that inspired His own heart. He rejoiced because of the abundant help He had provided for His church. The Holy Spirit was the highest of all (gifts) that He could solicit from His Father for the exaltation of His people. The (Spirit) was to be given as a regenerating agent, and without this the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail. The power of evil had been strengthening for centuries, and the submission of men to this satanic captivity was amazing. Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the (third person) of the (Godhead), who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. It is the (Spirit) that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world's Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. Through the (Spirit) the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature. Christ has given (His Spirit) as a (divine power) to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character on His church.

Of the Spirit, Jesus said, "(He) shall glorify Me." The Saviour came to (glorify) the Father by the demonstration of His love; so the Spirit was to glorify Christ by revealing His (grace) to the world. The very image of God is to be reproduced in humanity. The (honour) of God, the (honour) of Christ is involved in the perfection of the character of His people.

"When He the Spirit of truth is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." The preaching of the Word will be of no avail without the continual presence and (aid) of the Holy Spirit. This is the only effectual teacher of divine truth. Only when the truth is accompanied to the heart by the Spirit, will it quicken the conscience or transform the life. One might be able to present the letter of the Word of God, he might be familiar with all its commands and promises; but unless the Holy Spirit sets home the truth, no soul will fall on

the Rock and be broken. No amount of education, no advantages, however great, can make one a channel of light without the co-operation of the Spirit of God. The sowing of the gospel seed will not be a success unless the seed is quickened into life by the dew of heaven. Before one book of the New Testament was written, before the one gospel sermon had been preached after Christ's ascension, the Holy Spirit came upon the praying apostles. Then the testimony of their enemies was, "Ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine."

Christ has promised that gift of the Holy Spirit to His church, and the promise belongs to us as much as to the first disciple. But like every other promise, it is given on conditions. There are many who believe and profess to claim the Lord's promises; they talk about Christ and the Holy Spirit, yet receive no benefit. They do not surrender the soul to be guided and controlled by divine agencies. We cannot use the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is to use us. Through the Spirit, God works in His people "to will and to do of His good pleasure." But many will not submit to this. They want to manage themselves. This is why they do not receive the heavenly gift. Only to those who wait humbly upon God, who watch for His guidance and grace, is the Spirit given. This promised blessing, claimed by faith, brings all other blessings in its train. It is given according to the riches of the grace of Christ, and He is ready to supply every soul according to the capacity to receive.

When the Spirit of God takes possession of the heart, it transforms the life. Sinful thoughts are put away, evil deeds are renounced; love, humility, and peace take the place of anger, envy, and strife. Joy takes the place of sadness, and the countenance reflects the joy of heaven. No one sees the hand that lifts the burden, or beholds the light descend from the courts above. The blessing comes when by faith the soul surrenders itself to God. Then that power which no human eye can see, creates a new being in the image of God.

The Holy Spirit is the breath of spiritual life in the soul. The impartation of the Spirit is the impartation of the life of Christ. It imbues the

receiver with the attributes of Christ. Only those who are thus taught of God, those who possess the inward working of the Spirit, and in whose life the Christ-life is manifested, are to stand as representative men, to minister in behalf of the church.

The religion that comes from God is the only religion that will lead to God. In order to serve Him aright, we must be (born) of the divine Spirit. This will purify the heart and renew the mind, giving us a new capacity for knowing and loving God. It will give us a willing obedience to (all) His requirements. This is true worship. It is the (fruit) of the working of the Holy Spirit. By the Spirit every sincere prayer is indited, and such prayer is acceptable to God. Wherever a soul reaches out after God, there the Spirit's working is manifest, and God will reveal Him-self to that soul. For such worshipers He is seeking. He awaits to receive them, and to make them His sons and daughters.

God takes men as they are, and educates them for His service, if they will yield themselves to Him. The Spirit of God, received into the soul, will quicken all the faculties. Under the guidance of the (Holy Spirit), the mind that is devoted unreservedly to God, develops harmoniously, and is strengthened to comprehend and fulfil the requirements of God. The weak, vacillating character becomes changed to one of strength and steadfastness. Continual devotion establishes so close a relation between Jesus and His disciple that the Christian becomes like Him in mind and character. Through a connection with Christ he will have clearer and broader views. His discernment will be more penetrative, his judgment better balanced. He who longs to be of service to Christ is so quickened by the life giving power of the Sun of Righteousnes, that he is enabled to bear much fruit to the (glory) of God.

The first disciples went forth preaching the Word. They revealed Christ in their lives. And the Lord worked with them, "confirming the Word with signs following," These disciples prepared themselves for their work. Before the day of Pentecost they met together, and put away all differences. They were of one accord. They believed Christ's promise that the

blessing would be given, and they prayed in faith. They did not ask for a blessing for themselves merely: they were weighted with the burden for the salvation of souls. The gospel was to be carried to the utmost parts of the earth, and they claimed the endowment of power that Christ has promised. Then it was that the Holy Spirit was poured out, and thousands were converted in a day.

So it may be now. Instead of man's speculations, let the Word of God be preached. Let Christians put away their dissensions, and give themselves to God for the saving of the lost. Let them in faith ask for the blessing, and it will come. The outpouring of the Spirit in apostolic days was the "former rain," and glorious was the result. But the latter rain will be more abundant.

All who consecrate soul, body, and spirit to God, will be constantly receiving a new endowment of physical and mental power. The inexhaustible supply of heaven are at their command. Christ gives them the breath of His own Spirit, the life of His own life. The Holy Spirit puts its highest energies to work the heart and mind. The grace of God enlarges and multiplies their faculties, and every perfection of the divine nature comes to their assistance in the work of saving souls. Through co-operation with Christ they are complete in Him, and in their human weakness they are enabled to do the deeds of Omnipotence."



Why do we not hunger and thirst for the gift of the Spirit, since this is the means by which we are to receive power? Why do we not talk of it, pray for it, preach concerning it? The Lord is more willing to give the Holy Spirit to us than parents are to give good gifts to their children. **For the baptism of the Spirit** every worker should be pleading with God. Companies should be gathered together to ask for special help, for heavenly wisdom, that they may know how to plan and execute wisely. Especially should men pray that God will baptise His missionaries with the **Holy Spirit**.

THE HOLY SPIRIT AN AID IN BIBLE STUDY.

The HOLY SPIRIT has been given as an AID in the STUDY of God's WORD. Jesus promised, "The COMFORTER, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the FATHER will send in My NAME. HE shall teach you ALL THINGS, and bring all things to your REMEMBRANCE, whatsoever I have said unto you." Those who are under the TRAINING of the HOLY SPIRIT, will be able to TEACH the WORD INTELLIGENTLY. When the Bible is made the book of study, with earnest supplication for the SPIRIT'S GUIDANCE, and a FULL SURRENDER of the HEART to be SANCTIFIED THROUGH THE TRUTH, it will accomplish all that God has promised.

The RESULTS of such study will be WELL BALANCED MINDS. The UNDERSTANDING WILL BE QUICKENED, the SENSIBILITIES will be AROUSED: the CONSCIENCE will become SENSITIVE: the SYMPATHIES and SENTIMENTS will be PURIFIED: a better moral atmosphere will be created; and a NEW POWER TO RESIST TEMPTATION WILL BE IMPARTED.

The KNOWLEDGE of God is not to be gained without MENTAL EFFORT, without PRAYER for WISDOM. We should search, diligently search for its hidden treasures, and seek WISDOM from heaven that we may be able to DISTINGUISH between HUMAN INVENTIONS and the DIVINE COMMANDS. The HOLY SPIRIT will AID the SEEKER for great and precious TRUTHS which relate to the PLAN of REDEMPTION. A CASUAL reading of the SCRIPTURES is not enough. We must SEARCH, and this implies a DOING of all that the WORD implies. As the miner eagerly explores the earth to discover its veins of gold, so we are to EXPLORE THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE HIDDEN TREASURES that Satan has so long sought to hide from man. The Lord says, "IF ANY MAN WILL DO HIS WILL, HE SHALL KNOW OF THE DOCTRINES."

The greatest ERROR of the ROMISH CHURCH is found in the fact that the Bible is interpreted IN THE LIGHT OF THE OPINIONS OF THE "FATHERS." These OPINIONS are regarded as INFALLIBLE, and the DIGITARIES of the CHURCH ASSUME that it is in their prerogative to make others believe as they do. THOSE that DO NOT AGREE WITH THEM are pronounced HERETICS. But the Word of God is not thus to be interpreted. It is to stand on its own

ETERNAL MERITS, to be read as the Word of God, which declares His WILL to the people.

The blessed Bible gives us a KNOWLEDGE of the great PLAN of SALVATION, and shows us how every INDIVIDUAL may have Eternal Life. Who is the author of the Book? JESUS CHRIST. He is the TRUE WITNESS, and He says to His own, "I give unto you them Eternal Life: and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand." The Bible shows us the WAY to Christ, and in Christ Eternal Life is REVEALED. Jesus said to the JEWS, and to those who gathered about Him in MULTITUDES, "SEARCH the SCRIPTURES." The JEWS HAD THE SCRIPTURES which testified of Christ, but they were not able to discern Christ in the Scriptures. The TRUTHS of the OLD TESTAMENT they had so mingled with HUMAN OPINIONS that His Teaching were MYSTIFIED, and the WILL of God to man covered up. Christ's SERMON on the mount virtually CONTRADICTED the DOCTRINES of the SELF-RIGHTEOUS SCRIBES and PHARISEES. They had so MISREPRESENTED God that He was looked upon as a STERN JUDGE, INCAPABLE OF COMPASSION, MERCY, or LOVE. They presented to the people ENDLESS MAXIMS and TRADITIONS that had no "Thus saith the Lord" for their authority. Though they professed to know and worship the true and living God, THEY WHOLLY MISREPRESENTED HIM AND HIS CHARACTER as revealed in His SON. Christ laboured constantly to sweep away these MISREPRESENTATIONS, that the confidence of men in the love of God might be restored. He taught man to address the supreme Ruler by THE NEW NAME "OUR FATHER." This name represents our true relation to Him, and when spoken sincerely by human lips, it is MUSIC IN THE EARS OF GOD. Christ leads us to the THRONE of God by a NEW AND LIVING WAY.

MEN NEED NOT THE DIM LIGHT OF TRADITION AND CUSTOM to make the Scriptures comprehensible. It is just as sensible to suppose that the sun, shining in the heavens at noonday, needs the glimmerings of the torch-lights of earth to increase its glory. In the Bible every DUTY is made plain, every LESSON is comprehensible. The GIFT of CHRIST and the ILLUMINATION of the HOLY SPIRIT reveal to us the Father. The WORD is able to make men and women and youth WISE unto salvation. "ALL Scripture is given by Inspiration of God, and is profitable FOR DOCTRINE, FOR REPROOF, FOR CORRECTION, FOR INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS: that the man of God

may be PERFECT, throughly furnished unto ALL GOOD WORKS." No other book is so potent to elevate the thoughts, to give vigour to the FACULTIES, as the broad, ennobling TRUTHS of the Bible. IF GOD'S WORD WERE STUDIED AS IT SHOULD BE, men would have a BREADTH of MIND, a NOBILITY OF CHARACTER, and a STABILITY OF PURPOSE that is rarely seen in these times.

LITTLE BENEFIT is to be derived from a HASTY READING of the Scriptures. One may read the whole Bible through, and yet fail to see its BEAUTY or COMPREHEND ITS DEPTH OF MEANING. One message studied until its significance is clear of the mind, and its relation to the PLAN of Salvation evident, is of MORE VALUE than the PERUSAL of many chapters with no DEFINITE PURPOSE in view and no POSITIVE INSTRUCTION GAINED. Keep your Bible with you. As you have Opportunity, READ IT: fix the TEXTS in your MEMORY. Even while you are walking in the street, you may read a passage and meditate upon it, thus fixing it on the MIND.

NEVER should the Bible be studied WITHOUT PRAYER. BEFORE opening its pages, WE SHOULD ASK FOR THE ENLIGHTENMENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, and IT WILL BE GIVEN. When Nathaniel came to Jesus, the Saviour exclaimed, "Behold an ISRAELITE indeed, in whom is NO QUILE." Nathaniel said, "Whence knowest Thou me?" Jesus answered, "Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig-tree, I saw thee." AND JESUS WILL SEE US ALSO IN THE SECRET PLACE OF PRAYER. If we will seek Him for LIGHT, ANGELS FROM THE WORLD OF LIGHT will be with those who in HUMILITY of HEART SEEK for DIVINE GUIDANCE.

The HOLY SPIRIT exalts and glorifies the Saviour. It is His OFFICE to present Christ, the PURITY of His RIGHTEOUSNESS, and the great SALVATION that we have through Him. Jesus says, "HE shall receive of Mine, and shall show it unto you." "The SPIRIT of Truth is the ONLY EFFECTUAL TEACHER OF DIVINE TRUTH." Mrs. E. G. WHITE.

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"UNREPENTED sin must become WORSE: it cannot stand still or disappear. IT NEVER STOPS ITSELF."

FELLOWSHIP WITH CHRIST

"I APPOINT unto you a kingdom, as My Father hath appointed unto Me; that ye may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

What a wonderful promise this is ! We are to be sharers with Christ in the kingdom that He receives from His Father. This is a spiritual kingdom in which those who are the most active in serving others are the greatest.

"Eat and drink at My table,"--that is, be admitted to close communion with Me, as those who are placed in a position of honor near the king. Christ's faithful ones are to minister, under His authority, the affairs of His spiritual kingdom. "Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed Me, in the regeneration, when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of His glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive an hundredfolds, and shall inherit everlasting life. But many that are first shall be last: and the last shall be first." Matt. 19:27 Mark 10:29-30. Luke 18:29-30.

Until men cooperate with Christ, they are represented as being idle, so far as His business is concerned. They are doing nothing to promote the interests of the kingdom of God. Could the scenes of the judgment pass before them, they would see that they entertain erroneous ideas regarding that which the Lord values. Many who in this world are first, many who are looked upon as above others, will one day see that God estimates men according to their compassion, love, and self-denial. Those who help and bless their fellow-men, trying always to lift them up, are precious in God's sight: for they follow the example of Him who went about doing good.

It is such ones who sit nearest to Christ on His throne.

Here they gave others the preference, denying self. He who reads the heart, sees their excellence of character: and when He **gathers His chosen ones into His kingdom**, they will be given positions of honor: for they are worthy.

Christ knows how His faithful one relieve the suffering of the needy, and He is pleased when they apply to Him for help that they may help others. God will hear their prayers, and will strengthen them in their good work.

THE NEARNESS OF THE END.

Troublous times are right upon us. The signs of the times reveal that the day of the Lord is soon to come. The daily papers are full of indications of **a terrible conflict in the near future.** **Strikes are common.** Thiefs and murders are committed on every hand. **Men possessed by demons** are killing men and women and little children. **The taking of human life is a matter of daily occurence.** All these things testify that the end of all things is at hand. The powers of earth are stirred with intensity from beneath; and the Lord sends to His people the warning, :Heaven and earth shall pass away; but My word shall not pass away. And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come on you un-awares. For as a snare shall it come on all that dwell on the face of the hole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."

"As the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; **so shall also the coming of the Son man be...** **Watch ye** therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come."

The world is not being warned as it should be. Thousands are perishing in their sins, and the last

message of mercy to a fallen world is to be proclaimed. But how little is being done! Genuine benevolence will lead those who have been entrusted with the Lord's money to place this money where it will advance His work. Souls are perishing, and hundreds of workers are now needed. Men will be moved by the Holy Spirit to leave their ordinary employment, and enter fields that have never heard the last message of mercy. Many will be endued with power from on high. They will work wisely, not expending means lavishly, but studying how souls can be brought to a knowledge of the truth. They will work for the love of Christ, and success will crown their efforts.

Mrs. E. G. WHITE.

No one can believe with the heart unto righteousness, and obtain justification by faith, while continuing the practice of those things which the Word of God forbids, or while neglecting any known duty.

Genuine faith will be manifested in good works; for good works are the fruits of faith. As God works in the heart, and men surrenders his will to God, and cooperate with God, he works out in the life what God works in by the Holy Spirit, and there is harmony between the purpose of the heart and the practice of the life. Every sin must be renounced as the hateful thing that crucified the Lord of life and glory, and the believer must have a progressive experience by continual doing the works of Christ. It is by continual surrender of the will, by continual obedience, that the blessing of justification is retained.

Those who are justified by faith must have a heart to keep the way of the Lord. It is an evidence that a man is not justified by faith when his works do not correspond to his profession. James says, "Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was his faith made perfect?" (James 2:22).

The faith that does not produce good works does not justify the soul. "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." (James 2:24). "Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness." (Rom. 4:3).

Imputation of the righteousness of Christ comes through justifying faith, and is the justification for which Paul so earnestly contends. He says "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin." SM 1:396-7 *15*

PRAY FOR THE LATTER RAIN

"Ask ye of the Lord Rain in the time of the latter Rain: so the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of Rain." "He will cause to come down for you the Rain, the former Rain, and the latter Rain. In the East the former rain falls at the sowing time. It is necessary in order that the seed may germinate. Under the influence of the fertilizing Showers, the tender shoots spring up. The Latter rain, falling near the close of the season, ripens the grain, and prepares it for the sickle. The Lord employs these operations of nature to present the Work of the Holy Spirit. As the dew and the rain are given first to cause the seed to germinate, and then to ripen the harvest, so the Holy Spirit is given to carry forward, from one stage to another the process of Spiritual growth. The ripening of the grain represents the completion of the Work of God's Grace in the soul. By the Power of the Holy Spirit the moral image of God is to be perfected in the character. We are to be wholly transformed into the likeness of Christ.

The latter rain, ripening earth's HARVEST, represents the spiritual GRACE that prepares the church for the coming of the Son of man. But unless the FORMER rain has fallen, there will be no life: the green blade will not spring up. Unless the EARLY showers have done their work, the latter rain can bring no seed to PERFECTION

There is to be "first the blade, then the ear, after that the FULL corn in the ear." There must be a CONSTANT DEVELOPMENT of the Christian virtue, a CONSTANT ADVANCEMENT in Christian EXPERIENCE. This we should seek with intensity of desire, that we may ADORN the DOCTRINE of CHRIST our SAVIOUR.

Many have in a great measure failed to receive the FORMER Rain. They have not obtained all the benefits that God has thus provided for them. They expect that the LACK will be supplied by the LATTER RAIN When the richest abundance of GRACE shall be bestowed. They INTEND to OPEN their HEARTS to receive it. They are making a terrible MISTAKE. The WORK that God has BEGUN

in the human heart in giving the light and knowledge, **must be continually going forward. Every individual must realize his own necessity.** The heart must be emptied of every **defilement**, and **cleansed** for the indwelling of the Spirit in the latter Rain. It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it. TM 507, 300.

At no point in our experience can we dispense with the assistance of that which enables us to make the first START. The blessings received under the Former Rain are needful to us to the **END**. Yet these ALONE will not suffice. While we cherish the blessing of the Early Rain, we must not, on the other hand, lose sight of the fact that without the Latter Rain, to fill out the ears and ripen the grain, the HARVEST will not be ready for the SICKLE, and the labour of the sower will have been in vain. Divine GRACE is needed at the BE-GINNING, Divine GRACE at every STEP of advance, and Divine GRACE alone can COMPLETE the WORK. **There is no place for us to REST in a careless attitude.** We must never forget the **warnings** of Christ, **"WATCH unto PRAYER."** **"WATCH and Pray always."** A connection with the Divine Agency **every moment** is essential to our progress. We may have had a MEASURE of the Spirit of God, but by Pray and Faith we are continually to SEEK MORE of the Spirit. **It will never do to cease our EFFORTS.** IF we do not progress, if we do not place ourselves in an attitude to receive **BOTH** the Former and the Latter rain, we shall lose our souls, and the **RESPONSIBILITY** will lie at our **OWN DOOR**.

"Ask ye of the Lord Rain in the Time of the Latter Rain." Do not (REST) satisfied that in the ordinary course of the season, Rain will fall. ASK for it. The growth and perfection of the seed rests not with the husbandman. God ALONE can ripen the Harvest. But man's CO-OPERATION is required. God's Work for us demands the ACTION of our MIND, the EXERCISE of our FAITH. We must **SEEK** His favours with the **WHOLE Heart** IF the Showers of **GRACE** are to come to us. We should improve every Opportunity of placing ourselves in the channel of blessing. Christ has said, "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst." **The convocations of the church, as in campings the assemblies of the home church, and all occasions where there is personal labour for souls, are God's appoint-**

ed Opportunities for giving the Early and the Latter Rain.

But let none think that in attending these gatherings, their **DUTY** is done. A mere attendance upon all the meetings that are held will not in itself bring a blessing to the SOUL. It is not an immutable law that all who attend general gatherings or local meetings shall receive large supplies from heaven. The circumstances may seem to be favourable for a rich outpouring of the **showers of GRACE**. But **God Himself command the Rain to fall**. Therefore we should not be remiss in supplication. We are not to trust to the ordinary working of providence. We must pray that God will unseal the Foundation of Life. And we must ourselves receive of the **LIVING WATER**. Let us, with contrite hearts, pray most earnestly that now, in the **TIME** of the **LATTER RAIN**, the showers of **GRACE** may fall upon us. At every meeting we attend, our prayers should ascend that at this very time, God will impart warmth and moisture to our **SOULS**. As we **SEEK** God for the **HOLY SPIRIT**, it will **WORK** in us **MEEKNESS, HUMBLENESS OF MIND, a CONSCIOUS DEPENDENCE upon GOD** for the **PERFECTING LATTER RAIN**. If we pray for the blessing in Faith, we shall receive it as God has promised.

The **CONTINUAL COMMUNICATION** of the **HOLY SPIRIT** to the **CHURCH** is represented by the prophet **ZECHARIAH** under another figure, which contains a wonderful **LESSON of ENCOURAGEMENT** for us. The prophet says: "The angel that talked with me came again, and **WAKED** me, as a man that is wakened out of his **SLEEP**, and said unto me, **WHAT SEEST THOU?** And I said, I have looked, and behold a **CANDLESTICK** all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his **SEVEN LAMPS** thereon, and **SEVEN PIPES** to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof: and **TWO OLIVE-TREES** by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof. So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, **WHAT ARE THESE, MY LORD?**...Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This the **WORD** of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, "**Not by MIGHT, nor by POWER, but by MY SPIRIT**, saith the Lord of Hosts....And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these **two olive BRANCHES** which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves....Then said he. These are the **two anointed ones**, that stand by

the Lord of the whole earth."

From the two olive trees, the golden oil emptied through golden pipes **INTO THE BOWL OF THE CANDLESTICK**, and thence into the **GOLDEN LAMPS THAT GAVE LIGHT** to the **SANCTUARY**. So from the holy ones that stand in God's presence, His Spirit is **IMPARTED** to **HUMAN INSTRUMENTALITIES** that are **CONSECRATED** to His **SERVICE**. The **MISSION** of the two anointed ones is to **COMMUNICATION LIGHT** and **POWER** to God's **PEOPLE**. It is to receive blessing for us that they stand in God's presence. As the olive trees empty themselves into the golden pipes, so the heavenly messenger seeks to **COMMUNICATE** all that they receive from God. The whole heavenly treasure awaits our **demand** and reception; and as we receive the blessing, we in our turn are to impart it. Thus it is that the holy lamps are fed, and the church becomes light-bearer in the world.

This is this **WORK** that the Lord would have EVERY soul **PREPARED** to **DO** at this time, **WHEN THE FOUR ANGELS ARE HOLDING THE FOUR WINDS, THAT THEY SHALL NOT BLOW UNTIL THE SERVANTS OF GOD ARE SEALED IN THEIR FOREHEADS**. There is no time for self-pleasing. The **LAMPS** of the **SOUL** must be **TRIMMED**. They must be supplied with the oil of **GRACE**. Every precaution must be taken to prevent spiritual declension, lest the great day of the Lord overtake us as a thief in the night. Every **WITNESS** for God is now to **WORK** intelligently in the **LINES** which God has appointed.

We should daily obtain a deep and living experience in the **WORK** of perfecting Christian CHARACTER. We should daily receive the Holy oil that we may **impart** to others. **ALL MAY BE LIGHT BEARERS** to the world **IF** they **WILL**. We are to **SINK SELF** out of sight in Jesus. We are to receive the **WORD** of the Lord in counsel and instruction, and **GLADLY** communicate it. There is now **NEED** for much prayer. Christ commands, "Pray without ceasing;" that is, keep the **MIND** uplifted to God, the source of all power and efficiency.

We may have long followed the **NARROW PATH**, but it is not safe to take this as proof that we shall follow it to **THE END**. **IF** we have walked with God in fellowship of the Spirit, it is because we have sought Him **DAILY** by faith. From the two olive trees, the golden

oil flowing through the golden pipes has been communicated to us. But those who do not **CULTIVATE** the spirit and habit of prayer can not expect to receive the **GOLDEN OIL** of goodness, patience, longsuffering, gentleness, and love.

Every one is to keep himself **SEPARATE FROM THE WORLD**, which is full of iniquity. We are not to walk with God for a time, and then part from His company, and **WALK IN THE SPARKS OF OUR OWN KINDLING**. There must be a **FIRM CONTINUANCE**, a **PERSEVERANCE** in **ACTS OF FAITH**. We are to **PRAISE** God, to show forth His Glory in a righteous **CHARACTER**. No one of us will gain the **VICTORY** without **PERSEVERING, UNTIRING EFFORT**, proportionate to the **VALUE** of the object which we seek, even **ETERNAL LIFE**.


The dispensation in which we are now living is to be, to those that **ASK**, the **DISPENSATION** of the Holy Spirit. **ASK** for His Blessing. It is **TIME** we were more intense in our **DEVOTION**. To us is committed the arduous, but happy, glorious **WORK** of revealing Christ to those who are in **DARKNESS**. We are **CALLED** to proclaim **THE SPECIAL TRUTHS FOR THIS TIME**. For all this the outpouring of the SPIRIT is essential. We should pray for it. The Lord expects us to ASK Him. We have not been whole-hearted in this **WORK**.

What can I say to my brethren in the name of the Lord! We can not depend upon form or external machinery. What we need is the **QUICKENING** influence of the Holy Spirit of God. "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts." **PRAY** without ceasing, and **WATCH** by **WORKING** in accordance with your prayers. As you pray, **BELIEVE, TRUST** in God. It is the TIME of the Latter Rain, when the **Lord will give largely of His Spirit**. Be fervent in pray, and watch in the **Spirit**.

Mrs. E. G. WHITE.

What proportion of our **EFFORTS** has been made in accordance with the **LIGHT** the Lord has been pleased to give !

The Lord brings His children over the same ground again and again, increasing the pressure until perfect humility fills the mind, and the character is transformed; then they are victorious over self, and in harmony with Christ and the Spirit of heaven. The purification of God's people cannot be accomplished without suffering. . . . He passes us from one fire to another, testing our true worth. True grace is willing to be tried. If we are loath to be searched by the Lord, our condition is one of peril. . . . *My Life Today, 92*



"Thousands upon thousands will LISTEN who have NEVER HEARD WORDS LIKE THESE. In amazement they HEAR THE TESTIMONY THAT BABYLON is THE CHURCH, FALLEN because of her ERRORS and SINS, because of her REJECTION of the TRUTH sent to her from heaven." 1884 GC 424. ALSO GC's 1893, 1888, 1911 page 606.