

***Preparation for***  
**THE LATTER RAIN**

***BY ELDER MEADE MacGUIRE***

Review and Herald, June 10, 1902

"Christ had an infinite variety of subjects from which to choose in His teaching, but the one upon which He dwelt most largely was the endowment of His Holy Spirit."

John 14:1-3.

Before departing, Jesus promised to return.

Matthew 24:3.

He gave signs by which His people could know the generation of His coming and the end of the world.

Matthew 24:33-35.

He identified the generation which would not pass.

Acts 2:17-21. Joel 2:23.

The Scriptures tell us that before His coming there will be a special manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit similar to that which came on the day of Pentecost.

Revelation 18:1-4.

It is this outpouring of the Holy Spirit that will attend the Loud Cry, and lighten the earth with God's glory.

The Loud Cry is a Message. The latter rain is the Holy Spirit, which comes to give power to that message.

Early Writings, p. 85.

"At that time the Latter Rain, or refreshing from the presence of the Lord, will come, to give power to the loud voice of the third angel, and prepare the saints to stand in the period when the seven last plagues shall be poured out."

Acts of the Apostles, p. 54.

"It is true that in the time of the end, when God's work in the earth is closing, the earnest efforts put forth by consecrated believers under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, are to be accompanied by special tokens of divine favor. Under the figure of the early and the latter rain, that falls in eastern lands at seedtime and harvest, the Hebrew prophets foretold the bestowal of spiritual grace in extraordinary measure upon God's church. The outpouring of the Spirit in the days of the apostles was the beginning of the early or former rain, and glorious was the result. To the end of time the presence of the Spirit is to abide with the true church.

"But near the close of earth's harvest, a special bestowal of spiritual grace is promised to prepare the church for the coming of the Son of Man. This outpouring of the Spirit is likened to the falling of the latter rain; and it is for this added power that Christians are to send their petitions to the Lord of the harvest 'in the time of the latter rain'. In response 'the Lord will make bright clouds and give them showers of rain'. He will cause to come down . . . the rain, the former and the latter rain."

Revelation 14:6,7.

For about (159) years we have proclaimed this great three-fold Message - that the hour of God's judgment has come, and that the Lord is coming in this generation. We expected Him to come many years ago, and urged people to prepare at once to meet Him. Now we are face to face with the solemn question which should grip the heart of every believer - Why has not the latter rain been poured out, and the work finished? Some assume that the Lord has a certain date determined beforehand for the finishing of the work, and when that time arrives it will be done. However, this is not in harmony with the teachings of the Bible or of the Testimonies.

Jonah. Hezekiah. 2 Kings 20:1-6.

We are definitely told in the Bible and the Testimonies that the coming of Christ has been delayed, and the reason for the delay.

Review and Herald March 19, 1895.

"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."

Review and Herald October 6, 1896.

"If those who claimed to have a living experience in the things of God, had done their appointed work as the Lord ordained, the whole world would have been warned ere this and the Lord Jesus would have come in power and great glory."

Australian Union Record, October 15, 1898.

"If God's people had the love of Christ in the heart; if every church member were thoroughly imbued with the spirit of self-denial; if all manifested thorough earnestness, there would be no lack of funds for home and foreign missions; our resources would be multiplied; a thousand doors of usefulness would be opened, and we would be invited to enter.

"Had the purpose of God been carried out by His people in giving the message of mercy to the world, Christ would have come on the earth, and the saints would ere this have received their welcome into the city of God."

That the coming of the Lord has been delayed, and that His people are responsible for the delay is further illustrated in the experience of ancient Israel.

Great Controversy p. 457-458.

"The history of ancient Israel is a striking illustration of the past experience of the Adventist body. God led His people in the Advent movement, even as He led the children of Israel from Egypt. In the great disappointment their faith was tested as was that of the Hebrews at the Red Sea. Had they still trusted to the guiding hand that had been with them in their past experience, they would have seen of the salvation of God. If all who had labored unitedly in the work in 1844 had received the Third Angel's message and had proclaimed it in the power of the Holy Spirit, the Lord would have wrought mightily through their efforts. A flood of light would have been shed upon the world. Years ago the inhabitants of the earth would have been warned, the closing work completed, and Christ would have come for the redemption of His people.

"It was not the will of God that Israel should wander forty years in the wilderness. He desired to lead them directly to the land of Canaan, and establish them there a holy, happy people. But 'they could not enter in because of unbelief'. Because of their back-sliding and apostasy they perished in the desert, and others were raised up to enter the

promised land. In like manner, it was not the will of God that the coming of Christ should be so long delayed and His people should remain so many years in this world of sin and sorrow. But unbelief separated them from God. As they refused to do the work which He had appointed them, other were raised up to do the work."

God led them those 40 years by pillar of cloud and fire and fed them angels' food. It was still His movement but they should have been in the land of Canaan.

Testimonies Vol. 6 p. 450.

"Had the purpose of God been carried out by His people in giving to the world the message of mercy, Christ would ere this have come to the earth, and the saints world have received their welcome into the city of God. "

General Conference Bulletin March 30, 1903.

"The lesson of this record is for us. The Lord had prepared the way before His people. They were very near the promised land. A little while and they would have entered Canaan. They themselves had delayed the entering . . . Had they put their trust in God they could have gone straight in. God would have gone before them. . . Brethren and sisters, from the light given me I know that if the people of God had preserved a living connection with Him, if they had obeyed His word, they could today be in the heavenly Canaan."

Manuscript 4, 1883.

"For 40 years did unbelief, murmuring and rebellion shut out ancient Israel from the land of Canaan. The same sins have delayed the entrance of modern Israel into the heavenly Canaan. In neither case were the promises of God at fault. It is the unbelief, the worldliness, unconsecration, and strife among the Lord's professed people that have kept us in this world of sin and sorrow, so many years."

If the full significance of these words should penetrate our minds it would bring a mighty awakening and revival. The very fact that Jesus wanted to come and would have come so many years ago, but we were not ready, should startle us. We might be in heaven today. How much longer must the Lord wait for us?

Naturally the younger people will say, I am glad He did not come fifty years ago for I was not born then. Suppose He should be delayed another fifty years - would not the young say the same? Such reasoning would postpone His coming indefinitely.

Naturally we look at such matters from our personal standpoint, but we need to see it from God's viewpoint also.

Education p. 263.

"Those who think of the result of hastening or hindering the Gospel, think of it in relation to themselves and to the world. Few think of its relation to God. Few give thought to the suffering that sin has caused our Creator. All heaven suffered in Christ's agony; but that suffering did not begin or end with His manifestation in humanity. The cross is a revelation to our dull senses of the pain that from its very inception, sin has brought to the heart of God."

If we really love God, what shame and horror we shall feel to think that the coming of Christ and the end of sin have been delayed so many years, while God has continued to suffer the agony revealed to our dull senses at the cross.

Matthew 25:1-5.

The Savior gave this parable to represent the two classes in the church at the time of His coming. It states that the "Bridegroom tarried", which is in harmony with the preceding statements. It also states that His people "slumbered and slept", though unprepared for His coming.

The reason for the delay is made very plain in the Bible and Testimonies. How could the latter rain be poured out upon the sleeping virgins, or upon the church in the Laodicean condition?

Testimonies Vol. 1 p, 486.

"God's people are not prepared for the loud cry of the third angel. They have a work to do for themselves, which they should not leave for God to do for them. He has left this work for them to do: It is an individual work; one cannot do it for another."

Testimonies Vol 8 p. 21.

"Christ declared that the divine influence of the Spirit was to be with His followers unto the end. But the promise is not appreciated as it should be; and therefore its fulfillment is not seen as it might be. The promise of the Spirit is a matter little thought of; and the result is only what might be expected, spiritual drouth, spiritual darkness, spiritual declension and death. Minor matters occupy the attention, and the divine power which is necessary for the growth and prosperity of the church, and which would bring all other blessings in its train, is lacking, though offered in its infinite plentitude."

Early Writings, p. 71.

"I saw that many were neglecting the preparation so needful, and were looking to the 'time of refreshing' and the latter rain to fit them to stand in the day of the Lord, and to live in His sight. O, how many I saw in the time of trouble without a shelter! They had neglected the needful preparation; therefore they could not receive the refreshing that all must have to fit them to live in the sight of a Holy God. Those who refuse to be hewed by the prophets, and fail to purify their souls in obeying the whole truth and who are willing to believe that their condition is far better than it really is, will come up to the time of the falling of the plagues, and then see that they needed to be hewed and squared for the building. But there will be no time then to do it, and no Mediator to plead their cause before the Father."

Review and Herald, July 21, 1896.

"Every truly converted soul will be intensely desirous to bring others from the darkness of error into the marvelous light of the Righteousness of Jesus Christ. The great outpouring of the Spirit of God, which lightens the whole earth with His glory, will not come until we have an enlightened people, that know by experience what it means to be laborers together with God. When we have entire, whole-hearted consecration to the service of Christ, God will recognize the fact by an outpouring of His Spirit without measure; but this will-not be while the largest portion of the church are not laborers together with God."

How sad to think that the coming of our Savior is delayed because we are too occupied with other things to study and become enlightened regarding the necessary preparation for the latter rain, which is so plainly revealed in His instructions to us.

Appeal to Our churches in Behalf of Home Miss. Work p 21.

"Isaiah says, 'Thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy rearward'. Ye churches of the living God, study this promise, and consider how your lack of faith, of spirituality, of divine power, is hindering the coming of the kingdom

of God. Were every one of you a living missionary, the gospel would be speedily proclaimed in all countries, to all peoples, nations and tongues."

Some seem to believe that the latter rain is now falling in far-away places; others believe it is falling everywhere, though not in its fullness. Is it possible that God has left this matter of such vital importance to His people, and the finishing of His work, in such obscurity that many sincere, honest souls are confused and do not know what to believe? When we study the plain statements of the Bible and Testimonies, all this uncertainty will be cleared away.

Testimonies to Ministers, p. 506.

"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 shoot springs 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 represent 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 sheaves to perfection."

There are three ways in which we may apply the expressions - early and latter rain:

1. Dispensationally - Pentecost and the end.
2. Generation - 1844 and the end.
3. Personal - Conversion to the Advent Message, and the end.

Test. to Ministers and Workers p. 507.

"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. . .

"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 till 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 labor of the sower will have been in vain. . .

"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."

This makes it plain that the latter rain will not be received nor benefit any who have not obtained the necessary experience under the early rain. A certain Christian character must be attained or the latter rain will be of no avail.

The illustration makes this plain. If the grain is sown in October but no early rain fell, the crop could not be ready for the harvest at the time of the latter rain in March.

It may be well to notice some events which we are told will take place before the latter rain is poured out. Then we shall notice the immediate effect of the outpouring of the latter rain.

Early Writings, p. 261.

"I saw that God has honest children among the nominal Adventists, and the fallen churches, and before the plagues shall be poured out, ministers and people will be called out of these churches, and will gladly receive the truth. Satan knows this; and before the loud cry of the third angel, is given, he raises an excitement in these religious bodies that those who have rejected the truth may think that God is with them. He hopes to deceive the honest and lead them to think that God is still working for the churches."

Early Writings, p. 269-271. The SHAKING.

Also Great Controversy, p. 621; Testimonies, Vol. 5, p. 209-216.

The "shaking" is followed by the outpouring of the Spirit and Loud Cry.

Testimonies Vol. 6, p. 400-401.

"As trials thicken around us, both separation and unity will be seen in our ranks. . . Those who have had great light and precious privileges but have not improved them, will, under one pretext or another, go out from us. . .

"But on the other hand, when the storm of persecution really breaks upon us, the true sheep will hear the true Shepherd's voice. Self-denying efforts will be put forth to save the lost, and many who have strayed from the fold will come back to follow the great Shepherd. The people of God will draw together, and present to the enemy a united front. In view of the common peril, strife for supremacy will cease; there will be no disputing as to who shall be accounted greatest. No one of the true believers will say, 'I am of Paul, or I of Appollos, or I of Cephas.' The testimony of one and all will be, 'I cleave unto Christ; I rejoice in Him as my personal Savior'. . . The love of Christ, the love of our brethren, will testify to the world that we have been with Jesus and learned of Him. Then will the message of the Third Anger angel swell to a loud cry, and the whole earth will be lightened with the glory of the Lord."

The following paragraphs will make it plain that there need be no uncertainty on the part of those who have prepared for the latter rain, when it is falling.

Great Controversy p. 612.

"Servants of God with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers. Satan also works with lying wonders, even bringing down fire from heaven in the sight of men. Thus the inhabitants of the earth will be brought to take their stand."

Early Writings p. 278-279.

"A compelling power moved the honest, while the manifestation of the power of God brought a fear and restraint upon their unbelieving relatives and friends, so that they

dared not neither had they the power to hinder those who felt the work of the Spirit of God upon them. . .

"Mighty miracles were wrought, the sick were healed, and signs and wonders followed the believers. . . I saw that this work will close with power and strength far exceeding the midnight cry. Souls that were scattered all through the religious bodies answered to the call, and the precious were hurried out of the doomed churches as Lot was hurried out of Sodom before her destruction."

Some seem to think the latter rain has been falling for many years. We have no information as to how long this experience will continue, but we have this statement in

Early Writings, p. 277.

"This message seemed to be an addition to the third message joining it as the midnight cry joined the second angel's message in 1844."

The midnight cry, beginning in July and closing in October 1844 continued about three months. G.C. p. 604. E.W. P. 85, 86.

Let us now return to the question - Why has not the latter rain come? The promise is made in Joel 2:23, but that promise is evidently the climax of an experience to which God summons His people from the first verse of the chapter. This chapter is a brief outline of God's program for the finishing of His work.

Joel 2:1, and Revelation 3:14-18 call for Alarm and revival and Reformation.

Joel 2:12,13, - victory over sin - Righteousness by Faith.

Joel 2:15-17, 18, 23 - Latter Rain and Loud Cry.

Joel 3:9-12 - God summons all the nations to prepare for war - to awake and prepare for the final struggle. It is amazing to see how the world has responded. Millions did not want war - yet some mysterious power impelled them.

Why do not God's people respond as earnestly, and follow His instructions as definitely as the heathen nations?

Let us now notice some statements regarding our present condition.

Early Writings p. 119

"I saw that the remnant was not prepared for what is coming upon the earth. Stupidity, like lethargy, seemed to hang upon the minds of most of those who profess to believe that we are having the last message. My accompanying angel cried out with awful solemnity, Get ready! Get ready! Get ready! for the fierce anger of the Lord is soon to come. His wrath is to be poured out unmixed with mercy, and ye are not ready. Rend the heart and not, the garment. A great work is to be done for the remnant."

Testimonies Vol 4, p. 600.

"We are upon the enchanted ground, and Satan is continually at work to rock our people to sleep in the cradle of carnal security. There is an indifference, a lack of zeal, that paralyzes all our efforts."

Testimonies Vol 5, p. 310.

"You should keep off from Satan's enchanted ground and not allow your minds to be swayed from allegiance to God."

Testimonies Vol 9, p. 123.

"We must no longer sleep on Satan's enchanted ground, but call into requisition all our resources, avail ourselves of every facility with which providence has furnished us."

Early Writings p. 120.

"I saw that God's people are on the enchanted ground, and that some have lost nearly all sense of the shortness of time and the worth of the soul."

Early Writings p. 60.

"Said the angel, 'remember thou art on the enchanted ground.' I saw that we must, watch and have on the, whole armor, and take the shield of faith, and then we shall be able to stand, and the fiery darts of the wicked cannot harm us."

Great Controversy p. 601.

"We should now seek a deep and living experience in the things of God. We have not a moment to lose. Events of vital importance are taking place around us; we are on Satan's enchanted ground. Sleep not, sentinels of God; the foe is lurking near, ready at any moment, should you become lax and drowsy, to spring upon you and make you his prey."

Review and Herald March 22, 1887.

"If we have any regard for our souls salvation, we must make a decided change. We must seek the Lord with true penitence; we must with deep contrition of soul confess our sins, that they may be blotted out. We must no longer remain upon the enchanted ground."

Testimonies Vol 6 p. 31.

"The time in which we live is a time of intense excitement. Ambition and war, pleasure and money making, absorb the minds of men. Satan sees that his time is short, and he has set all his agencies at work, that men may be deceived, deluded occupied, and entranced until probation shall be ended, and the door of mercy be forever shut."

Enchantment - Magic, sorcery, witchcraft, spell, charm, fascination. Thus we can see the problem which the church faces today. The work can be finished only by the power of the latter rain. That is promised only on definite conditions, which we have not met. The church is represented as ten sleeping virgins, and as Laodiceans who are complacent and self-satisfied though unprepared for His coming. Surely this is the time for the Message of Joel 2 to be sounded everywhere.

Review and Herald, Feb. 25, 1890.

"Meetings should beheld in every church for solemn prayer and earnest searching of the word to know what is truth. Take the promises of God and ask God in living faith for the outpouring of His Holy Spirit; when the Holy Spirit is shed upon us, marrow and fatness will be drawn from the word of God. When the churches become living, working churches, the Holy Spirit will be given in answer to their sincere request. Then the truth of God's word will be regarded with new interest, and will be explored as if it were a revelation just from the courts above. Every declaration of inspiration concerning Christ will take hold of the inmost soul of those who love Him. Envy, jealousy, evil surmising, will cease. The Bible will be regarded as a charter from heaven. Its study will absorb the mind and its truths will feast the soul. The promises of God now repeated as if the soul had never tasted of His love, will then glow upon the altar of the heart, and fall with burning words from the lips of the messengers of God. They will then

plead with souls with an earnestness that cannot be repulsed. Then the windows of heaven will be opened for the showers of the latter rain."

God expects His leaders and workers everywhere to present earnestly His counsel in the Laodicean message, and sound the alarm; but unless we are alarmed, we cannot alarm anyone else.

Testimonies Vol 8, p. 195.

"Those who stand in responsible positions in the work of the Lord are represented as watchmen on the walls of Zion. God calls upon them to sound an alarm among the people. Let it be heard in all the plain. The day of woe, of wasting and destruction, is upon all who do unrighteousness. With special severity will the Lord's hand fall upon the watchmen who have failed to place before the people in clear lines their obligation to Him who by creation and by redemption is their owner."

For more than a century God has been calling for a revival and reformation among His people. When the Laodicean message of Revelation 3 and the alarm of Joel 2 are sounded according to God's purpose, the revival and reformation will come.

Review and Herald, December 15, 1904.

"Leaving the first love is represented as a spiritual fall. Many have fallen thus. In every church, in our land there is needed confession, repentance, and re-conversion. The disappointment of Christ is beyond description. Unless those who have sinned speedily repent, the deceptions of the last days will overtake them. Some, though they realize it not, are preparing to be overtaken. God calls for repentance without delay. So long have many trifled with salvation that their spiritual eyesight is dimmed, and they cannot discern between light and darkness. Christ is humiliated in His people. The first love is gone, the faith is weak, there is need of a thorough reformation.

"My brethren and sisters, humble your hearts before the Lord. Seek Him earnestly. I have an intense desire to see you walking in the light as Christ is in the light . . . You have left your first love. Self-righteousness is not the wedding garment. A failure to follow the clear light of truth is our fearful danger. The message to the Laodicean church reveals our condition as a people."

Review and Herald, June 10, 1902.

"It is not because of any restriction on God's part that the riches of His grace do not flow to men. His gift is Godlike. He gave with a liberality that men do not appreciate because they do not love to receive. If all were willing to receive, all would be filled with the Spirit. By resting content with small blessings, we disqualify ourselves for receiving the Spirit in its unlimited fulness. We are too easily satisfied with a ripple on the surface, when it is our privilege to expect the deep movings of the Spirit of God. Expecting little, we receive little. . . . When the Holy Spirit came down on the day of Pentecost it was like a rushing, mighty wind. It was given in no stinted measure; for it filled all the place where the disciples were sitting. So will it be given to us when our hearts are prepared to receive it."

What Satan fears the most. The Necessary Preparation.

Early Writings p. 71.

"I also saw that many do not realize what they must be in order to live in the sight of the Lord without a High Priest in the sanctuary, through the time of trouble. Those who receive the seal of the living God, and are protected in the time of trouble, must reflect the image of Jesus fully. I saw that none could share the refreshing, unless they obtain

the victory over every besetment; over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action. We should therefore be drawing nearer and nearer to the Lord, and be earnestly seeking that preparation necessary to enable us to stand in the battle in the day of the Lord. Let all remember that God is holy, and that none but holy beings can ever dwell in His presence."

Testimonies Vol 5, p. 214.

"Not one of us will ever receive the seal of God while our characters have one spot or stain upon them. It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul-temple of every defilement. Then the latter rain will fall upon us as the early rain fell upon the disciples on the day of Pentecost."

Testimonies Vol 1, 187, 188.

"Individuals are tested and proved a length of time to see if they will sacrifice their idols, and heed the counsel of the True Witness. If any will not be purified through obeying the truth, and overcome their selfishness, their pride, and evil passions, the angels of God have the charge, 'They are joined to their idols, let them alone,' and they pass on to their work, leaving those with their sinful traits unsubdued to the control of evil angels. Those who come up to every point, and stand, every test, and overcome, be the price what it may have heeded the counsel of the True Witness, and they will receive the latter rain and thus be fitted for translation."

Review and Herald, March 22, 1892.

"Today you are to give yourself to God that He may make you vessels unto-- honor, and meet for His service. Today you are to give yourselves to God that you may be emptied of self, emptied of envy, jealousy, evil-surmisings, strife; everything that shall be dishonoring to God. Today you are to have your vessel purified that it may be ready for the heavenly dew, ready for the showers of the latter rain; for the latter rain will come, and the blessing of God will fill every soul that is purified from every defilement. It is our work today to yield our souls to Christ, that we maybe fitted for the time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord- fitted for the baptism of the Holy Spirit."

Testimonies Vol 1, p. 619.

"I was shown that if God's people make no effort on their part, but wait for the refreshing to come upon them and remove their wrongs and correct their errors; if they depend upon that to cleanse them from filthiness of the flesh and spirit and fit them to engage in the loud cry of the third angel, they will be found wanting. The refreshing power of God comes only on those who have prepared themselves for it by doing the work which God bids them; namely, cleansing themselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God'.

Testimonies Vol 5, page 216.

"Now is the time to prepare. The seal of God will never be placed upon the forehead of an impure man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of the ambitious, world-loving man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of men or women of false tongues, or deceitful hearts. All who receive the seal must be without spot before God - candidates for heaven. Go forward my brethren and sisters. . . Search the Scriptures for yourselves that you may understand the fearful solemnity of the present hour."

### **SOLEMN THOUGHT**

What solemn thought that many we now love

Will never reach the goal.  
They will not bear the fiery tests that prove  
The wondrous worth of soul:  
They fail to agonize for help divine  
In overcoming sin; they fail to see  
That we have reached the time  
We must be pure within.

The latter rain is not to purify;  
Those who receive its power  
Have overcome; have given self to die  
Before is sent the shower.  
And those who value not this gift of heaven  
Enough to pray and plead,  
Will find too late to them it is not given,  
They had not felt their need.

Then haste, O haste, for golden moments fly,  
Pray, plead, put off lust of the flesh,  
Love of the world, the lie,  
Deceit, and hate, and pride.  
Shall you endure the test, shall I?  
Thank God we may. Then let us place  
Our trust in Him whom this dark vale hath trod,  
And we shall see His face.

- - Margaret Locke

God has said much to encourage us to seek for this experience, and has assured us many times of His desire to pour out His Spirit, but it is constantly emphasized that it will come only to those who seek with great earnestness. Valuable lessons are given us from the experience of Pentecost.

Testimonies to Minister and Workers p. 170.

"If we know God, and Jesus Christ whom He has sent, unspeakable gladness will come to the soul. O how we need the divine presence: For the baptism of the Holy Spirit every worker should be breathing out his prayer to God. Companies should be gathered together to call upon God for special help, for heavenly wisdom, that the people of God may know how to plan, and devise, and execute the work.

"Especially should men pray that the Lord will choose His agents, and baptize His missionaries with the Holy Spirit. For ten days the disciples prayed before the Pentecostal blessing came. It required all that time to bring them to an understanding of what it meant to offer effectual prayer, drawing nearer and nearer to God, confessing their sins, humbling their hearts before God, and by faith beholding Jesus, and becoming changed into His image. When the blessing did come, it filled all the place where they were assembled, and endowed with power, they went forth to do effectual work for the Master."

Ministry of Peter, p. 9.

"The disciples were themselves astonished at the results of this visitation, and the quick and abundant harvest of souls. All the people were filled with amazement. Those who did not yield their prejudice and bigotry, were so overawed that they dared

not by voice or violence attempt to stay the mighty work, and for the time being, their opposition ceased.

"This testimony in regard to the establishment of the Christian church is given us, not only as an important part of sacred history, but also as a lesson. All who profess the name of Christ should be waiting, watching, and praying with one heart. All differences would be put away, and unity and tender love for one another pervade the whole. Then our prayers may go up together to our Heavenly Father with strong, earnest faith. Then we may wait with patience and hope for the fulfillment of the promise.

"The answer may come with sudden velocity and overpowering might; Or it may be delayed for days and weeks, and our faith receive a trial. But God knows how and when to answer our prayer. It is our part of the work to put ourselves in connection with the divine channel. God is responsible for His part of the work. He is faithful who has promised. The great and important matter with us is to be of one heart and mind, putting aside all envy and malice, and as humble suppliants to watch and wait. Jesus, our representative and head, is ready to do for us what He did for the praying, watching ones on the day of Pentecost."

Old Gospel Workers p. 369-371.

"As Jesus was about to leave His disciples to ascend into heaven, He commissioned them to bear the gospel message to all nations, tongues, and peoples. . . All who were fully identified as disciples of Christ and associated with the apostles as evangelists, assembled together at Jerusalem. They put away all differences. They continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, that they might receive the fulfillment of the promise of the Holy Spirit; for they were to preach the gospel in the demonstration of the Spirit and with power of God. . . They were waiting in expectation of the fulfillment of His promise, and were praying with special fervency.

"This is the very course that should be pursued by those who act a part in the work of proclaiming the coming of the Lord in the clouds of heaven; for a People are to be prepared to stand in the great day of God. Although Christ had given the promise to His disciples that they should receive the Holy Spirit, this did not remove the necessity of prayer. They prayed all the more earnestly: they continued In prayer with one accord.

"Those who are now engaged in the solemn work of preparing a people for the coming of the Lord should also continue in prayer."

Testimonies Vol. 8 p. 15

"In obedience to the word of their Master, the disciples assembled in Jerusalem to wait for the fulfillment of God's promise. Here they spent ten days, days of deep heart-searching. They put away all differences and drew close together in Christian fellowship. At the end of ten days the Lord fulfilled His promise by a wonderful outpouring of His Spirit."

Testimonies Vol 8, p. 20.

"To us, today, as verily as to the first disciples, the promise of the Spirit belongs. God will today endow men and women with 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.

"Notice that it was after the disciples had come into perfect unity, and they were no longer striving for the highest place, that the Spirit was poured out. They were of one accord. All differences had been put away. And the testimony borne of them after the Spirit had been given is the same. Mark the word: 'The multitude of them that believed

were of one heart and of one soul.' Acts 4:32. The Spirit of Him who died that sinners might live animated the entire congregation of believers."

Testimonies Vol. 5, p.158.

"We should pray as earnestly for the descent of the Holy Spirit as the disciples prayed on the day of Pentecost. If they needed it at that time, we need it more today. Moral darkness like a funeral pall covers the earth. All manner of false doctrines, heresies, and Satanic deceptions are misleading the minds of men. Without the Spirit and power of God it will be in vain that we labor to present the truth."

Emphasis is also placed upon the danger of being unprepared when the latter Rain is poured out, for this preparation is to be made through the ministry of the Early Rain.

Testimonies to Ministers and Workers p. 507.

"Only those who are living p to the light they have will receive greeter light. Unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of the active Christian virtues, we shall not recognize the manifestation of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it."

Testimonies to Ministers and Workers, p. 399.

"We may be sure that when the Holy Spirit is poured out, those who did not receive and appreciate the early rain, will not see or understand the value of the latter rain."

Signs of the Times, August 11, 1892.

"Those who follow in the light need have no anxiety lest that in the outpouring of the latter rain they will not be baptized with the Holy Spirit. If we would receive the light of the glorious angel that shall lighten the earth with His glory, let us see to it that our hearts are cleansed, emptied of self, and turned toward heaven, that they may be ready for the latter rain."

Testimonies to Ministers and Workers p. 66.

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all of one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing, mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. In that assembly there were mockers who did not recognize the work of the Holy Spirit and they said, 'These men are all full of new wine.' The Lord was at work in His own way; but had there been such a manifestation among us upon whom the ends of the world are come, would not some have mocked as on that occasion? Those who did not come under the influence of the Holy Spirit knew it not. To this class the disciples seemed like drunken men."

Testimonies Vol. 5, p. 456.

"The same disobedience and failure which were seen in the Jewish church have characterized in a greater degree the people who have had this great light from heaven in the last message of warning. Shall we let the history of Israel be repeated in our experience? Shall we, like them, squander our opportunities and privileges until God shall permit oppression and persecution to come upon us? Will the work which might be performed in peace and comparative prosperity be left undone until it must be performed in days of darkness, under the pressure of trial and persecution?"

Ibid. p 463.

"The work which the church has failed to do in a time of peace and prosperity she will have to do in a terrible crisis, under most discouraging, forbidding circumstances. The warnings that worldly conformity has silenced or withheld, must be given under the fiercest opposition from the enemies of the faith. . . This day is Just before us."

Testimonies Vol. 81 p. 246.

"If the lay members of the church will arouse to do the work that they can do, going on a warfare at their own charges; each seeing how much he can accomplish in winning souls to Jesus, we shall see many leaving the ranks of Satan to stand under the banner of Christ. If our people will act upon the light that is given in these few words of instruction, we shall surely see of the salvation of God. Wonderful revivals will follow. Sinners will be converted, and many souls will be added to the church. When we bring our hearts into unity with Christ, and our lives into harmony with His work, the Spirit that fell on the disciples on the day of Pentecost will fall on us."

Testimonies Vol.8, p. 297-228.

"The Lord calls for a renewal of the straight testimony borne in years past. He calls for a renewal of spiritual life. The spiritual energies of His people have long been torpid, but there is to be a resurrection from apparent death. By prayer and the confession of sin we must clear the King's highway. As we do this the power of the Spirit will come to us. We need the Pentecostal energy. This will come; for the Lord has promised to send His Spirit as the all-conquering power."

Testimonies Vol. 7, p. 33.

"Why has the history of the work of the disciples as they labored with holy zeal animated and vitalized by the Holy Spirit, been recorded, if it is not that from this record the Lord's people today are to gain an inspiration to work earnestly for Him? What the Lord did for His people in that time, it is just as essential, and more so, that He do for His people today. All that the disciples did, every church member today is to do. And we are to work with as much more fervor, to be accompanied by the Holy Spirit in as much greater measure, as the increase of wickedness demands a more decided call to repentance."

Testimonies Vol. 5, p. 159.

"The plan of salvation is not presented in its simplicity for the reason that few ministers know what simple faith is. An intellectual knowledge of the truth is not enough; we must know its power upon our own hearts and lives. Ministers need to come to Christ as little children. Seek Jesus, brethren; confess your sins, plead with God day and night until you know that for Christ's sake you are pardoned and accepted. Then will you love much because you have been forgiven much. Then you can point others to Christ as the sin pardoning Redeemer. Then you can present the truth from the fulness of a heart that feels its sanctifying power. I fear for you, my brethren. I counsel you to tarry at Jerusalem as did the early disciples, until like them, you receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit."

A Brief Review of Points Covered.

1. Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He promised to return.
2. His coming in glory was to be preceded by God's final message of mercy
3. The work was to close in this generation, under the power of the Latter Rain.
4. God wanted to finish the work years ago, but His people were not ready.

5. God foreknew the delay, and made provision for our situation by the Message to the Laodicean church, and Joel 2.

6. When we heed this counsel the revival and reformation will come, with victory over sin and the Righteousness of Christ upon His people.

7. This prepares the way for the Latter Rain and Loud Cry. God's people are sealed, and probation closes.

A vital question should now be considered carefully. Many of God's people are longing for Jesus to come. They are working and praying to that end, and seeking daily to overcome their sins.

But it is evident that many have not understood that "None can share the refreshing unless they obtain the victory over every besetment." When they learn this, they are perplexed. They do not know how to attain such an experience, and some are discouraged, because to them it seems unattainable. This requirement is stated explicitly and frequently.

But surely God would not require us to reach this high and holy standard without making ample provision for those for whom He laid down His life. It is very important that we take God at His word and do not attempt to interpret it in harmony with our own ideas.

Acts of the Apostles, p. 531.

"None need fail of attaining, in his sphere, to perfection of Christian character. By the sacrifice of Christ provision has been made for the believer to receive all things that pertain to life and godliness. God calls upon us to reach the standard of perfection, and places before us the example of Christ's character. In His humanity, perfected by a life of constant resistance of evil, the Savior showed that through cooperation with divinity, human beings may in this life attain to perfection of character. This is God's assurance to us that we too may obtain complete victory."

Matthew 1:21.

He saves His people from their sins. This must be more than pardon or forgiveness, or we would never stop sinning.

Psalms 51:5

Man sins because his moral nature is fallen, and corrupt and cannot cease from sin. Man was created in God's image, but sin marred and defiled that image. Salvation is the restoration of the divine image.

Desire of Ages p. 478.

"Christ came that He might recreate the image of God in man."

2 Corinthians 3:18.

By living union with Him we are changed into His image.

Mount of Blessing p. 118.

"Jesus said, Be perfect, even as your Father is perfect. If you are the children of God, you are partakers of His nature and you cannot but be like Him. Every child lives by the life of his father. If you are God's children, begotten by His Spirit, you live by the life of God. In Christ 'dwells all the fulness of the Godhead bodily', and the life of Jesus is made manifest 'in our mortal flesh'. That life in you, will produce the same character, and

manifest the same works as it did in Him. Thus you will be in harmony with every precept of His law; for 'the law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul'. Through love the righteousness of the law will be fulfilled in us who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit."

Acts of the Apostles p. 478.

"In his efforts to reach God's ideal for him, the Christian is to despair of nothing. Moral and spiritual perfection, through the grace and power of Christ, is promised to all."

1 Thess. 3:12, 13.

" And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you: To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints."

Christ Object Lessons p. 315.

"God requires perfection of His children. His law is a transcript of His own character, and it is the standard of all character. This infinite standard is presented to all that there may be no mistake in regard to the kind of people whom God will have to compose His Kingdom."

Ibid. P. 330.

"God will accept only those who are determined to aim high. He places every human agent under obligations to do his best. Moral perfection is required of all. Never should we lower the standard of righteousness in order to accommodate inherited or cultivated tendencies to wrong doing. We need to understand that imperfection of character is sin. All righteous attributes of character dwell in God as a perfect, harmonious whole, and everyone who receives Christ as a personal Savior is privileged to possess these attributes. And those who would be workers together with God must strive for perfection of every organ of body and quality of the mind."

Sometimes people quote Scriptures which they think set forth a different standard. They ask, does not the Bible say "No one is perfect." We ask, where is the statement? Read Job 1:1,8. What about Romans 3:10. Read verses 10-22. Does that refer to God's children? If so, what about Genesis 7:1; Luke 1:6,7; Hebrews 11:4, etc. Others quote Phil. 3:12. Why not read also verse 15? Whatever we may think of God's requirements for the past, there is no question as to His standard for those who live to see the close of probation, the falling of the plagues, and the coming of Christ.

Great Controversy, p. 623.

"Now, while our great High Priest is making the atonement for us, we should seek to become perfect in Christ. Not even by a thought could our Savior be brought to yield to the power of temptation. Satan could find nothing in the Son of God that would enable him to gain the victory. He had kept His Father's commandments, and there was no sin in Him that Satan could use to his advantage. This is the condition in which those must be found who shall stand in the time of trouble. It is in this life that we are to separate sin from us, through faith in the atoning blood of Christ."

Messages to Young People, p. 105.

"Many of us fail to improve our privileges. We make a few feeble efforts to do right, and then go back to our old life of sin. If we ever enter the kingdom of God, we must enter with perfect characters, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing."

Some are conscious of faults which they plan to overcome when trouble comes upon the church.

Great Controversy, p. 620.

"Those who delay a preparation for the day of God cannot obtain it in the time of trouble, or at any subsequent time. The case of all such is hopeless."

Others seem to have the idea that if they "try hard" to overcome and "do the best they can," when Jesus comes He will take care of their faults and imperfections of character.

Testimonies Vol. 5, p. 466.

"It is a solemn thing to die, but a far more solemn thing to live. Every thought and word and deed of our lives will meet us again. What we make of ourselves in probationary time, that we must remain through all eternity. Death brings dissolution to the body, but makes no change in the character. The coming of Christ does not change our characters, it only fixes them forever beyond all change."

Testimonies Vol 2, p. 355.

"We believe without a doubt that Christ is soon coming. . . When He comes He is not to cleanse us of our sins to remove from us the defects in our characters, or to cure us of the infirmities of our tempers and dispositions. If wrought for us at all, this work will all be accomplished before that time. When the Lord comes, those who are holy will be holy still. Those who have preserved their bodies and spirits in holiness, in sanctification and honor, will then receive the finishing touch of immortality. But those who are unjust, unsanctified, and filthy, will remain so forever. No work will then be done for them to remove their defects and give them holy characters. The Refiner does not then sit to pursue His refining process, and remove their sins and their corruption. This will all be done in these hours of probation. It is now that this work is to be accomplished for us. We are now in God's workshop. Many of us are rough stones from the quarry.

"But as we lay hold upon the truth of God, its influence affects us. It elevates us, and removes from us every imperfection and sin of whatever nature. Thus we are prepared to see the King in His beauty, and finally to unite with the pure and heavenly angels in the kingdom of glory. It is here that this work is to be accomplished for us, here that our bodies and spirits are to be fitted for immortality."

Desire of Ages, p. 391.

"By looking constantly to Jesus with the eye of faith, we shall be strengthened. God will make the most precious revelations to His hungering, thirsting people. They will find that Christ is a personal Savior. As they feed upon His word, they find that it is spirit and life. The Word destroys the natural, earthly nature and imparts a new life in Christ Jesus."

Acts of the Apostles, p. 565.

"We are not yet perfect; but it is our privilege to cut away from the entanglements of self and sin and advance to perfection. Great possibilities, high and holy attainments are placed within the reach of all."

### **GOD'S PROVISION FOR PERFECTION OF CHARACTER.**

1 Thess. 5:23, 24.

God promises to do the work. The Word does not teach that man can make himself perfect - but the contrary. Job 14:4. Jeremiah 13:23

Mount of Blessing, p. 116.

"God has made provision that we may become like Him, and He will accomplish this for all who do not interpose a perverse will and thus frustrate His grace."

Special Testimonies to Ministers, p. 47.

"God offers to unite His divinity with our humanity, and as we fully and continually yield our will to the divine nature, sin is cast out, and Christian perfection in Christ is attained. We cannot over-estimate the importance of the Union of Divinity with Humanity".

2 Peter 1:4

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

We receive, or inherit, our nature from our earthly parents at birth. It is a fallen, sinful nature, and cannot be good. Therefore we must be born again - of God, and thus inherit the divine nature. John 3:3-6; 1:12,13.

Desire of Ages, p. 172.

"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,"

Desire of Ages, p. 324.

"When the soul surrenders itself to Christ, a new power takes possession of the new heart. A change is wrought which man can never accomplish for himself. It is a supernatural work, bringing a supernatural element into human nature."

Messages to Young People, p. 165.

"He came to show men how to obey, how to keep all the commandments. He laid hold of divine power AND THIS IS THE SINNER'S ONLY HOPE. He gave His life that man might be a partaker of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

Ministry of Healing, p. 180.

"Christ came to make us partakers of the divine nature, and His life declares that HUMANITY COMBINED WITH DIVINITY DOES NOT COMMIT SIN."

Christ Object Lessons, p. 320.

"But Christ came in the form of humanity and by His perfect obedience he proved that HUMANITY AND DIVINITY COMBINED can obey every one of God's precepts."

Testimonies Vol. 7, p. 194.

"It is only through becoming partakers of His nature that we receive power to obey His commandments."

Testimonies Vol. 9, p. 155.

"Those who experience the work of true conversion in their hearts will reveal the fruits of the Spirit in their lives. O that those who have so little spiritual life would realize that eternal life can be granted only to those who become partakers of the divine nature, and escape the corruption that is in the world through lust."

Testimonies Vol. 9, P. 187.

"When we are securely anchored in Christ, we have a power that no human being can take from us. Why is this? - because we are partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust, - partakers of the nature of Him who came to this earth clothed with the habiliments of humanity, that He might stand at the head of the human race, and develop a character that was without spot or stain of sin,"

Testimonies, Vol. 9, p. 279.

"Christ clothed His divinity with humanity, and lived a life of prayer and self-denial, and of daily battle with temptation, that He might help those who today are assailed by temptation. He is our efficiency and power. He desires that through the approbation of His grace humanity shall become partakers of the divine nature, and thus escape the corruption that is in the world through lust."

Review and Herald, July 1, 1890.

"Genuine faith appropriates the righteousness of Christ, and the sinner is made an overcomer with Christ; for he is made a partaker of the Divine nature, AND THUS DIVINITY AND HUMANITY ARE COMBINED."

Counsels to Teachers, p. 51, 52.

Review & Herald, July 1, 1890.

"We want to see the King in His beauty. Then let us daily keep our eyes fixed upon Christ, the perfection of human character, and, laying hold of His divin nature, we shall have the strength of divinity to overcome every tendency and desire."

Desire of Ages, p. 123.

"Not even b a thought did He yield to temptation. So it may be with us. Christ's humanity was united with divinity: He was fitted for the conflict by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. And He came to make us partakers of the divine nature. So long as we are united to Him by faith, sin has no more dominion over us. God reaches for the hand of faith in us to direct it to lay fast hold of the divinity of Christ, that we may attain to perfection of character."

Review and Herald, February 18, 1890.

"In Christ divinity and humanity were combined. Divinity was not degraded to humanity: divinity held its place, but humanity by being united to divinity, withstood the fiercest test of temptation in the wilderness. The Prince of this world came to Christ after His long fast, when He was an hungered, and suggested to Him to command the stones to become bread. But the plan of God devised for the salvation of man, provided that Christ should know hunger, and poverty, and every phase of man's experience. He withstood the temptation with the power that man may command. He laid hold on the throne of God, and there is not a man or woman who may not have access to the same help through faith in God. Man may become a partaker of the divine nature; not a soul lives who may not summon the aid of heaven in temptation and trial. Christ came to reveal the source of His power, that man might never rely on his unaided human capabilities. Those who would overcome must put to the tax every power of their being. They must agonize on their knees before God for divine power. Christ came to be our example and to make known to us that we may be partakers of the divine nature. . .

"Satan did not gain the victory over Christ. He did not put his foot upon the soul of the Redeemer. He did not touch the head, though he bruised the heel. Christ by his own example made it evident that man may stand in integrity. Men may have a power to

resist evil - a power that neither earth, nor death, nor hell can master: a power that will place them where they may overcome as Christ overcame. DIVINITY AND HUMANITY MAY BE COMBINED IN THEM."

# **Preparation for the Latter Rain**

## **Christ's Message to the Remnant**

### **Heeding the Counsel**

The great controversy between Christ and Satan is nearing its culmination; Satan is marshaling his forces for the last act in the drama of human history.

We are told in Revelation 12:12, "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

A similar warning is given by the messenger of the Lord to the remnant:

"Perilous times are before us. Every one who has a knowledge of the truth should awake and place himself, body, soul, and spirit, under the discipline of God. The enemy is on our track. We must be wide awake, on our guard against him. We must put on the whole armor of God. We must follow the directions given through the spirit of prophecy. We must love and obey the truth for this time. This will save us from accepting strong delusions ... He [God] has spoken to us through the Testimonies to the church and through the books that have helped to make plain our present duty and the position that we should now occupy. The warnings that have been given, line upon line, precept upon precept, should be heeded. If we disregard them, what excuse can we offer?"- Testimonies, vol. 8, p. 298.

"I am presenting to you that which the Lord has presented to me. I do not write... expressing my own ideas. They are what God has opened before me in vision-the precious rays of light shining from the throne."-Ibid., vol. 5, p. 67.

### **The Coming Crisis**

In this dark hour of earth's history, we certainly need every ray of light shining from the throne of God. We know that a great crisis awaits the world, but we read in volume five of the Testimonies, page 711, that "a great crisis awaits the people of God. "

"The crisis is stealing gradually upon us. The sun shines in the heavens, passing over its usual round, and the heavens still declare the glory of God. Men are still eating and drinking, planting and building, marrying, and giving in marriage. Merchants are still buying and selling. Men are jostling one against another, contending for the highest place. Pleasure lovers are still crowding to theaters, horse races, gambling hells. The highest excitement prevails, yet probation's hour is fast closing, and every case is about to be eternally decided. Satan sees that his time is short. He has set all his agencies at work that men may be deceived, deluded, occupied and entranced, until the day of probation shall be ended, and the door of mercy be forever shut."-The Desire of Ages, p. 636.

"A storm is coming, relentless in its fury. Are we prepared to meet it?"- Testimonies, vol. 8, p. 315.

"Fearful tests and trials await the people of God."-Ibid., vol. 9, p. 17.

"Every discourse should be given under a sense of the awful judgments soon to fall on the world. The message of truth is to be proclaimed by lips touched with a live coal from the divine altar. My heart is filled with anguish when I think of the tame

messages borne by some of our ministers, when they have a message of life and death to bear. The ministers are asleep; the lay members are asleep; and a world is perishing in sin. May God help His people to arouse and walk and work as men and women on the borders of the eternal world."-Ibid., vol. 8, pp. 36, 37.

"If every soldier of Christ had done his duty... the world might ere this have heard the message of warning. But the work is years behind."-Ibid., vol. 9, p. 29.

"Had the purpose of God been carried out by His people in giving to the world the message of mercy, Christ would, ere this, have come to the earth, and the saints would have received their welcome into the city of God."-Ibid., vol. 6, p. 450.

Some may say, "Yes, but a national Sunday law has not yet been passed." Consider the following statement:

"Let there be a revival of the faith and power of the early church, and the spirit of persecution will be revived, and the fires of persecution will be rekindled."-The Great Controversy, p. 48.

## **Christ's Coming Delayed**

The coming of Jesus has been delayed for so many years, should we not at this time give diligent, prayerful study to the real cause for this long delay, so that we may prepare quickly to hasten His coming?

"If human agencies would but cooperate with divine agencies, many, many souls would be won to the truth. But the Lord's professing people have been sleeping over their allotted work." -Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 46.

"The Holy Spirit is waiting for channels through whom to work .... Satan will not always triumph. The Spirit of God will be poured out upon the church just as soon as the vessels are prepared to receive it."- "That I May Know Him, " p. 330.

"I saw that the remnant were not prepared for what is coming upon the earth. Stupidity, like lethargy, seemed to hang upon the minds of most of those who profess to believe that we are having the last message. My accompanying angel cried out with awful solemnity, "Get ready! get ready! get ready! for the fierce anger of the Lord is soon to come. His wrath is to be poured out, unmixed with mercy, and ye are not ready. Rend the heart, and not the garment. A great work must be done for the remnant. Many of them are dwelling upon little trials." Said the angel, "Legions of evil angels are around you, and are trying to press in their awful darkness, that ye may be ensnared and taken. Ye suffer your minds to be diverted too readily from the work of preparation and the all-important truths for these last days. And ye dwell upon little trials and go into minute particulars of little difficulties to explain them to the satisfaction of this one or that." Conversation has been protracted for hours between the parties concerned, and not only has their time been wasted, but the servants of God are held to listen to them, when the hearts of both parties are unsubdued by grace. If pride and selfishness were laid aside, five minutes would remove most difficulties. Angels have been grieved and God displeased by the hours which have been spent in justifying self. I saw that God will not bow down and listen to long justifications, and He does not want His servants to do so, and thus precious time be wasted that should be spent in showing transgressors the error of their ways and pulling souls out of the fire. I saw that God's people are on the enchanted ground, and that some have lost nearly all sense of the shortness of time and the worth of the soul. Pride has crept in among Sabbathkeepers-pride of dress and appearance. Said the angel, "Sabbathkeepers will have to die to self, die to pride and love of approbation."-Early Writings, pp. 119, 120.

However, we are without excuse, because "the events connected with the close of probation and the work of preparation for the time of trouble, are clearly presented." - The Great Controversy, p. 594.

"Nearly all who profess to believe present truth are unprepared to understand the work of preparation for this time."-Testimonies, vol. 1, p. 466.

Christ the True Witness (Rev. 1:5) has sent a message to the Laodicean church, which if heeded will prepare us for the latter rain.

### **Christ's Final Appeal**

"The message to the church of the Laodiceans is a startling denunciation, and is applicable to the people of God at the present time." 3T 252

"And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write: These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God, I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear, and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne" (chap. 3:14-21).

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

The message to Laodicea is a true picture of the spiritual condition of the remnant church during the last days of earth's history, and is Christ's final appeal to the remnant before the close of probation. The reason for Laodicea's lukewarm and wretched state is that self reigns in the heart and Christ is kept outside the door.

"It is through the Spirit that Christ dwells in us; and the Spirit of God, received into the heart by faith, is the beginning of the life eternal. The Desire of Ages, p. 388.

"The counsel of the True Witness does not represent those who are lukewarm as in a hopeless case. There is yet a chance to remedy their state, and the Laodicean message is full of encouragement." -Review and Herald, Aug. 28, 1894.

"The warning for the last church also must be proclaimed to all who claim to be Christians. The Laodicean message, like a sharp, two-edged sword, must go to all the churches.... It is our work to proclaim this message. Are we putting forth every effort that the churches may be warned?"-Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 77.

"What disposition will these [fault finding Adventists] make of the message of the True Witness to the Laodiceans? There can be no deception here. This message must be borne to a lukewarm church by God's servants. It must arouse His people from their

security and dangerous deception in regard to their real standing before God. This testimony, if received, will arouse to action and lead to self-abasement and confession of sins."-Ibid., vol 3, p. 259.

"Man's great danger is in being self-deceived."-The Ministry of Healing, p. 455.

"The only hope for the Laodiceans is a clear view of their standing before God, a knowledge of the nature of their disease. They are neither cold nor hot; they occupy a neutral position, and at the same time flatter themselves that they are in need of nothing."-Testimonies, vol. 4, p. 87.

"What shall I say to arouse the remnant people of God? I was shown that dreadful scenes are before us; Satan and his angels are bringing all their powers to bear upon God's people. He knows that if they sleep a little longer he is sure of them, for their destruction is certain."-Ibid., vol. 1, p. 263.

## **Satan's Strategy**

"Satan will, if possible, prevent them [the people of God] from obtaining a preparation to stand in that day. He will so arrange affairs as to hedge up their way, entangle them with earthly treasures, cause, them to carry a heavy, wearisome burden, that their hearts may be overcharged with the cares of this life, and the day of trial may come upon them as a thief."-The Great Controversy, pp. 625, 626.

"The powers of Satan are at work to keep minds diverted from eternal realities. The enemy has arranged matters to suit his own purposes. Worldly business, sports, the fashions of the day-these things occupy the minds of men and women."-Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 43.

"We must turn away from a thousand topics that invite attention. There are matters that consume time and arouse inquiry, but end in nothing. The highest interests demand the close attention and energy that are too often given to comparatively insignificant things....

"We need to feel our responsibility to give our souls food that will nourish and stimulate spiritual life."-Ibid., vol. 8, p. 316.

"Man is naturally inclined to follow Satan's suggestions, and he cannot successfully resist so terrible a foe unless Christ, the mighty Conqueror, dwells in him, guiding his desires, and giving him strength... Satan is preparing his deceptions, that in his last campaign against the people of God they may not understand that it is he."-Ibid, vol. 1, p. 341.

"This vigilant foe is upon their track every moment." -The Great Controversy, p. 508.

"Evil angels are upon our track every moment."-Testimonies, vol. 1, p. 302.

## **Resisting Satan's Strategy**

"I say to all: Be on your guard; for as an angel of light Satan is walking in every assembly of Christian workers, and in every church, trying to win the members to his side."-Ibid., vol. 8, p. 294.

"There is nothing that Satan fears so much as that the people of God shall clear the way by removing every hindrance, so that the Lord can pour out His Spirit."-Christ Our Righteousness, p. 149.

"A constant battle must be kept up with the selfishness and corruption of the human heart.... Those who forget God, even for an hour or a moment, are in a dangerous path."-Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 397.

"Whenever a Christian is off his guard, this powerful adversary makes a sudden and violent attack."-Ibid., p. 394.

One third of the angels of heaven were deceived. Eve and Cain, her first born, were deceived. All but eight were deceived at the time of the Flood. The religious leaders at the time of Christ were deceived; even though they witnessed the Son of God perform His greatest miracles.

"I have been shown that Satan has not been stupid and careless these many years, since his fall, but has been learning. He has grown more artful. His plans are laid deeper, and are more covered with a religious garment to hide their deformity. The power of Satan now to tempt and deceive is ten-fold greater than it was in the days of the apostles. His power has increased, and it will increase, until it is taken away. His wrath and hate grow stronger as his time to work draws near its close.

"God knows how Satan is working, and sends his angels to watch over his children, to protect them from the Devil's power. And the battle is constantly going on between the angels of God, and the Devil's angels. The angels of God are clothed with a complete armor, the panoply of heaven, and, although surrounded with deadly foes, fear nothing, for they are doing the will of their loved Commander. They enter the darkest places to rescue the children of God from the snares of Satan, and their presence causes the evil angels to fall back. And as the evil angels are defeated, they utter terrible imprecations against the injustice of God, and against his angels." 2SG 277

He will deceive, if possible, the very elect (Matt. 24:24). "Because of the increasing power of Satan's temptations, the times in which we live are full of peril for the children of God."-Counsels to Parents and Teachers, p. 322.

"No matter how high our station, we need to watch and pray continually. We must be daily controlled by the Spirit of God or we are controlled by Satan." Testimonies, vol. 5, pp. 102

"The church has received warning after warning. The duties and dangers of God's people have been plainly revealed. But the worldly element has proved too strong for them. Customs, practices, and fashions which lead the soul away from God have been for years gaining ground in defiance of the warnings and entreaties of the Holy Spirit, until at last their ways have become right in their own eyes, and the Spirit's voice is scarcely heard. No man can tell how far he may go in sin when once he yields himself to the power of the great deceiver. Satan entered into Judas Iscariot and induced him to betray his Lord. Satan led Ananias and Sapphira to lie to the Holy Ghost. Those who are not wholly consecrated to God may be led to do the work of Satan, while yet they flatter themselves that they are in the service of Christ."-Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 103.

"Satan takes the control of every mind that is not decidedly under the control of the Spirit of God."-Testimonies to Ministers, p. 79.

"Few believe with heart and soul that we have a hell to shun and a heaven to win."-The Desire of Ages, p. 636.

"Pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17).

"The continued, earnest prayer of faith will bring us light and strength to withstand the fiercest assaults of Satan."-The Sufferings of Christ, p. 8.

"Intense earnestness should now take possession of us."-Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 44.

## **Arousing God's People**

"Will you heed the counsel of the True Witness, to seek the gold tried in the fire, the white raiment, and the eyesalve? The gold is faith and love, the white raiment is the righteousness of Christ, the eyesalve is that spiritual discernment which will enable you to see the wiles of Satan and shun them, to detect sin and abhor it, to see truth and obey it."-Ibid., vol. 5, p. 233.

"But many do not appreciate the fact that they must have the heavenly unction .... The name `foolish virgins' represents the character of those who have not the genuine heart-work wrought by the Spirit of God. The coming of Christ does not change the foolish virgins into wise ones .... The state of the Church represented by the foolish virgins is also spoken of as the Laodicean state."-Review and Herald, Aug. 19, 1890.

"The Laodicean message applies to the people of God who profess to believe present truth. The greater part are lukewarm professors, having a name but no zeal .... They are unwilling to die to self."-Testimonies, vol. 4, p. 87.

"I was shown that the testimony to the Laodiceans applies to God's people at the present time .... It is designed to arouse the people of God, to discover to them their backslidings, and to lead to zealous repentance, that they may be favored with the presence of Jesus, and be fitted for the loud cry of the third angel."-Ibid., vol. 1, p. 186.

## **The Shaking**

"I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God's people.

"I saw that the testimony of the True Witness has not been half heeded. The solemn testimony upon which the destiny of the church hangs has been lightly esteemed, if not entirely disregarded. This testimony must work deep repentance; all who truly receive it will obey it and be purified." -Early Writings, p. 270.

## **Heeding the Message**

"Those who place themselves under God's control, to be led and guided by Him, will catch the steady tread of the events ordained by Him to take place. Inspired with the Spirit of Him who gave His life for the life of the world, they will no longer stand still in impotency, pointing to what they cannot do. Putting on the armor of heaven, they will go forth to the warfare, willing to do and dare for God, knowing that His omnipotence will supply their need." -Testimonies, vol. 7, p. 14.

"God will do the work if we will furnish Him the instruments." -Ibid, vol. 9, p. 107.

"Upon us rests the weighty responsibility of warning the world of its coming doom. From every direction, from far and near, are coming calls for help. God calls upon His church to arise and clothe herself with power. Immortal crowns are to be won; the kingdom of heaven is to be gained; the world, perishing in ignorance, is to be enlightened." Ibid., vol. 7, p. 16.

"As the third angel's message swells into a loud cry, great power and glory will attend its proclamation. The faces of God's people will shine with the light of heaven." Ibid., vol. 7, p. 17.

## **The Early Rain Needed Now**

"The whole universe is watching with inexpressible interest the closing scenes of the great controversy between good and evil. The people of God are nearing the borders of the eternal world."-Prophets and Kings, p. 148.

"Christ has promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to His church, and the promise belongs to us as much as to the first disciples. But like every other promise, it is given on conditions. There are many who believe and profess to claim the Lord's promise; they talk about Christ and about the Holy Spirit, yet receive no benefit. They do not surrender the soul to be guided and controlled by the 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." Phil. 2:13. 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. The power of God awaits their demand and reception. 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." DA 672.

## **The Transforming Power of the Holy Spirit**

If we are not willing to let the Holy Spirit have His way in our lives, then we are working in the energy of the flesh and not in the power of the Spirit.

"Without the Spirit and power of God, it will be in vain that we labor to present the truth."-Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 158.

The last words of Jesus just before He ascended to heaven should constantly ring in our ears. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witness unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

"Christ, the Great Teacher, had an infinite variety of subjects from which to choose, but the one upon which He dwelt most largely was the endowment of the Holy Spirit. What great things He predicted for the church because of this endowment. Yet what subject is less dwelt upon now?"-Selected Messages, book 1, p. 156.

"Man needs a power outside of and beyond himself, to restore him to the likeness of God, and enable him to do the work of God; but this does not make the human agency unessential. Humanity lays hold upon divine power. Christ dwells in the heart by faith; and through cooperation with the divine, the power of man becomes efficient for good.

"He who called the fisherman of Galilee is still calling men to His service. And He is just as willing to manifest His power through us as through the first disciples."-The Desire of Ages, pp. 296, 297.

"We can be fitted for heaven only through the work of the Holy Spirit upon the heart; for we must have Christ's righteousness as our credentials if we would find access to the Father. In order that we may have the righteousness of Christ, we need daily to be transformed by the influence of the Spirit, to be a partaker of the divine nature. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to elevate the taste, to sanctify the heart, to ennoble the whole man." -Selected Messages, book 1, p. 374.

"Notwithstanding the widespread declension of faith and piety, there are true followers of Christ in these churches. Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The Spirit and power of God will be

poured out upon His children. At that time many will separate themselves from those churches in which the love of this world has supplanted love for God and His word. Many, both of ministers and people, will gladly accept those great truths which God has caused to be proclaimed at this time to prepare a people for the Lord's second coming. The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavor to prevent it by introducing a counterfeit. In those churches which he can bring under his deceptive power he will make it appear that God's special blessing is poured out; there will be manifest what is thought to be great religious interest. Multitudes will exult that God is working marvelously for them, when the work is that of another spirit. Under a religious guise, Satan will seek to extend his influence over the Christian world." The Great Controversy, p. 464.

### **Great Need of the Holy Spirit's Power**

"I was shown God's people waiting for some change to take place—a compelling power to take hold of them. But they will be disappointed, for they are wrong. They must act, they must take hold of the work themselves and earnestly cry to God for a true knowledge of themselves. The scenes which are passing before us are of sufficient magnitude to cause us to arouse and urge the truth home to the hearts of all who will listen." -Testimonies, vol. 2, p. 261.

"I was shown that if God's people make no efforts on their part, but wait for the refreshing to come upon them and remove their wrongs and correct their errors; if they depend upon that to cleanse them from filthiness of the flesh and spirit, and fit them to engage in the loud cry of the third angel, they will be found wanting."-Ibid., p. 619.

"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.... 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."-Testimonies to Ministers, pp. 507, 508.

### **Preparing to Receive the Latter Rain**

"Today you are to give yourself to God, that you may be emptied of self, emptied of envy, jealousy, evil surmising, strife, everything that shall be dishonoring to God. Today you are to have your vessel purified that it may be ready for the heavenly dew, ready for the showers of the latter rain; for the latter rain will come, and the blessing of God will fill every soul that is purified from every defilement. It is our work today to yield our souls to Christ, that we may be fitted for the time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord--fitted for the baptism of the Holy Spirit." God's Amazing Grace p. 205

"It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul temple of every defilement. Then the latter rain will fall upon us as the early rain fell upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost."-Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 214.

"Those who come up on every point, and stand every test, and overcome, be the price what it may, have heeded the counsel of the True Witness, and they will receive the latter rain, and thus be fitted for translation."-Ibid. vol. 1, p. 1.87.

### **Preparation Requires Time and Earnest Effort**

"I saw that many were neglecting the preparation so needful and were looking to the time of `refreshing' and the `latter rain' to fit them to stand in the day of the Lord and to live in His sight. Oh, how many I saw in the time of trouble without a shelter! They had

neglected the needful preparation; therefore they could not receive the refreshing that all must have to fit them to live in the sight of a holy God. Those who refuse to be hewed by the prophets and fail to purify their souls in obeying the whole truth, and who are willing to believe that their condition is far better than it really is, will come up to the time of the falling of the plagues, and then see that they needed to be hewed and squared for the building. But there will be no time then to do it and no Mediator to plead their cause before the Father. Before this time the awfully solemn declaration has gone forth, "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still." I saw that none could share the "refreshing" unless they obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action. We should, therefore, be drawing nearer and nearer to the Lord and be earnestly seeking that preparation necessary to enable us to stand in the battle in the day of the Lord. Let all remember that God is holy and that none but holy beings can ever dwell in His presence."-Early Writings, p. 71.

"I was shown that the testimony to the Laodiceans applies to God's people at the present time, and the reason it has not accomplished a greater work is because of the hardness of their hearts. But God has given the message time to do its work. The heart must be purified from sins which have so long shut out Jesus. This fearful message will do its work. When it was first presented, it led to close examination of heart. Sins were confessed, and the people of God were stirred everywhere. Nearly all believed that this message would end in the loud cry of the third angel. But as they failed to see the powerful work accomplished in a short time, many lost the effect of the message. I saw that this message would not accomplish its work in a few short months. It is designed to arouse the people of God, to discover to them their backslidings, and to lead to zealous repentance, that they may be favored with the presence of Jesus, and be fitted for the loud cry of the third angel."-Testimonies, vol. 1, p. 186.

## **Early Rain Prepares for the Latter Rain**

"We may be sure that when the Holy Spirit is poured out, those who did not receive and appreciate the early rain will not see or understand the value of the latter rain."-Testimonies to Ministers, p. 399.

"But there must be no neglect of the grace represented by the former rain. Only those who are living up to the light they have will receive greater light. Unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of the active Christian virtues, we shall not recognize the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it."-Ibid, p. 507.

"Those who are devoid of the Holy Spirit cannot be faithful watchmen upon the walls of Zion; for they are blind to the work that ought to be done, and do not give the trumpet a certain sound. The baptism of the Holy Ghost as on the day of Pentecost will lead to a revival of true religion and to the performance of many wonderful works. Heavenly intelligences will come among us, and men will speak as they are moved upon by the Holy Spirit of God. But should the Lord work upon men as He did on and after the day of Pentecost, many who now claim to believe the truth would know so very little of the operation of the Holy Spirit that they would cry, 'Beware of fanaticism.' They would say of those who were filled with the Spirit, 'These men are full of new wine.'"

"The time is not far off now when men will want a much closer relation to Christ, a much closer union with His Holy Spirit, than ever they have had, or will have, unless they give up their will and their way, and submit to God's will and God's way. The great sin of those who profess to be Christians is that they do not open the heart to receive the Holy Spirit. When souls long after Christ, and seek to become one with Him, then those who

are content with the form of godliness, exclaim "Be careful, do not go to extremes." When the angels of heaven come among us, and work through human agents, there will be solid, substantial conversions, after the order of the conversions after the day of Pentecost.

"Now brethren, be careful and do not go into or try to create human excitement. But while we should be careful not to go into human excitement, we should not be among those who will raise inquiries and cherish doubts in reference to the work of the Spirit of God; for there will be those who will question and criticize when the Spirit of God takes possession of men and women, because their own hearts are not moved, but are cold and unimpressible." --Letter 27, 1894. -Selected Messages, book 2, p. 57.

"The numbers of this company [those before seen weeping and praying in agony of spirit] had lessened. Some had been shaken out and left by the way. The careless and indifferent, who did not join with those who prized victory and salvation enough to perseveringly plead and agonize for it, did not obtain it, and they were left behind in darkness, and their places were immediately filled by others taking hold of the truth and coming into the ranks."-Early Writings, p. 271.

### **Preparing Now for the Latter Rain**

"It is now that we must wash our robes of character and make them white in the blood of the Lamb. It is now that we must overcome pride, passion, and spiritual slothfulness. It is now that we must awake and make determined effort for symmetry of character. `Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.' We are in a most trying position, waiting, watching for our Lord's appearing. The world is in darkness. `But ye, brethren,' says Paul, `are not in a darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. What are you doing, brethren, in the great work of preparation? Those who are uniting with the world are receiving the worldly mold, and preparing for the mark of the beast. Those who are distrustful of self, who are humbling themselves before God and purifying their souls by obeying the truth-these are receiving the heavenly mold, and preparing for the seal of God in their foreheads. When the decree goes forth and the stamp is impressed, their character will remain pure and spotless for eternity."-Testimonies, vol. 5, pp. 215, 216.

"We are not safe a moment unless guided and controlled by the Holy Spirit."-Our High Calling, p. 187.

"There is not an impulse of our nature, not a faculty of the mind, or an inclination of the heart, but needs to be, moment by moment, under the control of the Spirit of God."-Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 421.

"We need the breath of the divine life breathed into us. We are to be channels through which the Lord can send light and grace to the world. Backsliders are to be reclaimed. We are to put away our sins, by confession and repentance humbling our proud hearts before God. Floods of spiritual power are to be poured forth upon those prepared to receive it." - Testimonies, vol. 8, p. 46.

"We should pray as earnestly for the descent of the Holy Spirit as the disciples prayed on the day of Pentecost. If they needed it at that time, we need it more today. Moral darkness, like a funeral pall, covers the earth. All manner of false doctrines, heresies, and satanic deceptions are misleading the minds of men. Without the Spirit and power of God it will be in vain that we labor to present the truth." -Ibid, vol. 5, p. 158.

### **The Mind of Christ**

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5)

"Christ is our pattern, the perfect and holy example that has been given us to follow." - "That I May Know Him, " p. 265.

"The world needs today what it needed nineteen hundred years ago-a revelation of Christ."-The Ministry of Healing, p. 143.

"To be a Christian is not merely to take the name of Christ, but to have the mind of Christ, to submit to the will of God in all things."-That I May Know Him, " p. 174.

### **He is our example.**

"So Christ in His humanity was dependent upon divine power. `I can of mine own self do nothing,' He declared."-The Desire of Ages, pp. 674, 675.

"When Jesus was awakened to meet the storm, He was in perfect peace. There was no trace of fear in word or look, for no fear was in His heart. But He rested not in the possession of almighty power. It was not as the `Master of earth and sea and sky' that He reposed in quiet. That power He had laid down, and He says, `I can of mine own self do nothing' (John 5:30). He trusted in the Father's might. It was in faith –faith in God's love and care –that Jesus rested, and the power of that word which stilled the storm was the power of God."-Ibid, p. 336.

Jesus said, "The Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works" (John 14:10).

And Jesus says to us, "Without me ye can do nothing" (chap. 15:5).

"All our good works are dependent on a power outside of ourselves."-Christ's Object Lessons, p. 160.

### **Following Jesus' Example**

"Man's great danger is in being self-deceived, indulging self-sufficiency, and thus separating from God, the source of his strength. Our natural tendencies, unless corrected by the Holy Spirit of God, have in them the seeds of moral death. Unless we become vitally connected with God, we cannot resist the unhallowed effects of self-indulgence, self-love, and temptation to sin."-The Ministry of Healing, p. 455.

"For if a man think himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself" (Gal. 6:3).

"When men see their own nothingness, they are prepared to be clothed with the righteousness of Christ."-Christ Our Righteousness, p. 124.

"The Son of God was surrendered to the Father's will, and dependent upon His power. So utterly was Christ emptied of self that He made no plans for Himself. He accepted God's plans for Him, and day by day the Father unfolded His plans. So should we depend upon God, that our lives may be the simple outworking of His will."-The Desire of Ages, p. 208.

"So fully was Jesus surrendered to the will of God that the Father alone appeared in His life."-Ibid, p. 389.

"The life of Christ has shown what humanity can do by being partaker of the divine nature. All that Christ received from God we too may have." - Christ's Object Lessons, p. 149.

"The life that Christ lived in this world, men and women can live through His power and under His instruction. In their conflict with Satan, they may have all the help that He had. They may be more than conquerors through Him who loved them and gave Himself for them."-Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 22.

"Self-surrender is the substance of the teachings of Christ."-The Desire of Ages, p. 523.

"Jesus revealed no qualities, and exercised no powers, that men may not have through faith in Him."-Ibid., p. 664.

"Whenever men choose their own way, they place themselves in controversy with God. They will have no place in the kingdom of heaven."-Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing, p. 52.

Jesus said, "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me" (John 6:38). "I do always those things that please him" (chap. 8:29).

The apostle Paul said, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me" (Gal. 2:20). And he gives us the following counsel, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31).

God seeks to control the body through the mind. Satan seeks to control the mind through the body.

" In order to be fitted for translation, the people of God must know themselves. They must understand in regard to their own physical frames that they may be able with the psalmist to exclaim: "I will praise Thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." They should ever have the appetite in subjection to the moral and intellectual organs. The body should be servant to the mind, and not the mind to the body."-Testimonies, vol. 1, p. 487.

"All should guard the senses, lest Satan gain the victory over them; for these are the avenues to the soul."-Ibid., vol. 3, p. 507. "The senses of many are benumbed by the indulgence of appetite and by familiarity with sin."-Ibid, p. 476.

"Our Redeemer withstood the power of Satan upon this great leading temptation [the indulgence of appetite], which imperils the souls of men. If man should overcome this temptation, he could conquer on every other point."-The Sufferings of Christ, p. 12.

## **Christ Received a Daily Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

"Christ was continually receiving from the Father that He might communicate to us. "The word which ye hear," He said, "is not Mine, but the Father's which sent Me." John 14:24. "The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister." Matt. 20:28. Not for Himself, but for others, He lived and thought and prayed. From hours spent with God He came forth morning by morning, to bring the light of heaven to men. Daily He received a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit."-Christ's Object Lessons, p. 139.

"Christ's humanity was united with divinity; He was fitted for the conflict by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. And He came to make us partakers of the divine nature."-The Desire of Ages, p. 123.

If Jesus the Son of God needed a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit daily, what about you and me? Since Christ is our example in all things, we must experience the indwelling of the Holy Spirit so that we may be fitted for the conflict.

"To Jesus, who emptied Himself for the salvation of lost humanity, the Holy Spirit was given without measure. So it will be given to every follower of Christ when the whole heart is surrendered for His indwelling."-Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing, p. 21.

"We must look to Christ; we must resist as He resisted; we must pray as he prayed; we must agonize as He agonized, if we would conquer as He conquered."- "That I May Know Him, " p. 34.

"The Holy Spirit must be constantly imparted to man, or he has no disposition to contend against the powers of darkness." -Ibid., p. 16.

## **What Will the Holy Spirit Do for Us?**

"To sin, wherever found, 'our God is a consuming fire.' Heb. 12:29. In all who submit to His power the Spirit of God will consume sin. But if men cling to sin, they become identified with it. Then the glory of God, which destroys sin, must destroy them." -The Desire of Ages, p. 107.

"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 light 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." -Ibid, p. 173.

"We can be fitted for heaven only through the work of the Holy Spirit upon the heart, for we must have Christ's righteousness as our credentials if we would find access to the Father. In order that we may have the righteousness of Christ, we need daily to be transformed by the influence of the Spirit." -Selected Messages, book 1, p. 374.

"The Spirit conforms the renewed soul to the model, Christ Jesus." -Review and Herald, Aug. 25, 1896.

"Our only security against falling into sin is to keep ourselves continually under the molding influence of the Holy Spirit." -Counsels on Health, p. 594.

"If men are willing to be molded, there will be brought about a sanctification of the whole being. The Spirit will take the things of God and stamp them on the soul." -The Acts of the Apostles, p. 53.

"As wax takes the impression of the seal, so the soul is to take the impression of the Spirit of God and retain the image of Christ." -Selected Messages, book 1, p. 337.

## **The Love of God**

"The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us" (Rom. 5:5).

"Unless you receive the Holy Spirit, You can not have the love of God in the soul." -Review & Herald 9-27-1892.

"The indwelling of the Spirit will be shown by the outflowing of heavenly love." -Christ's Object Lessons, p. 419.

"There is nothing that the world needs so much as the manifestation through humanity of the Saviour's love." -Ibid

"By implanting in their hearts the principles of His word, the Holy Spirit develops in men the attributes of God. The light of His glory—His character—is to shine forth in His followers." -Ibid. p. 414.

"The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love. The children of God are to manifest His glory." -Ibid. pp. 415, 416.

"God has a church on earth who are lifting up the downtrodden law, and presenting to the world the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world. The church is the depository of the wealth of the riches of the grace of Christ, and through

the church eventually will be made manifest the final and full display of the love of God to the world that is to be lightened with its glory." -Testimonies to Ministers, p. 50.

"After the descent of the Holy Spirit, the disciples were so filled with love for Him and for those for whom He died, that hearts were melted by the words they spoke and the prayers they offered. They spoke in the power of the Spirit; and under the influence of that power, thousands were converted. The Acts of the Apostles, p. 22.

"This parable (the laborers in the vineyard) is a warning to all laborers, however long their service, however abundant their labors, that without love to their brethren, without humility before God, they are nothing. There is no religion in the enthronement of self. He who makes self-glorification his aim will find himself destitute of that grace which alone can make him efficient in Christ's service. Whenever pride and self-complacency are indulged, the work is marred.

"It is not the length of time we labor but our willingness and fidelity in the work that makes it acceptable to God. In all our service a full surrender of self is demanded. The smallest duty done in sincerity and self-forgetfulness is more pleasing to God than the greatest work when marred with self-seeking. He looks to see how much of the spirit of Christ we cherish, and how much of the likeness of Christ our work reveals. He regards more the love and faithfulness with which we work than the amount we do.

"Only when selfishness is dead, when strife for supremacy is banished, when gratitude fills the heart, and love makes fragrant the life-it is only then that Christ is abiding in the soul, and we are recognized as laborers together with God."-Christ's Object Lessons, p. 402.

"The love of Christ, the love of our brethren, will testify to the world that we have been with Jesus and learned of Him. Then will the message of the third angel swell to a loud cry, and the whole earth will be lightened with the glory of the Lord."-Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 401.

"For the daily baptism of the Spirit, every worker should offer his petition to God."-The Acts of the Apostles, p. 50.

"My brethren and sisters, plead for the Holy Spirit."-Testimonies, vol. 8, p. 23.

## **Enoch and John the Baptist**

### **Knowing God**

"An intensity such as never before was seen is taking possession of the world. In amusement, in money-making, in the contest for power, in the very struggle for existence, there is a terrible force that engrosses body and mind and soul. In the midst of this maddening rush, God is speaking. He bids us come apart and commune with Him. "Be still, and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10."-Education, p. 260.

What is this vital message that God wishes to communicate to man? Listen to His voice in Jeremiah 9:23 and 24: "Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches; but let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me."

Jesus speaks to us, saying, "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3).

"The knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ expressed in character is an exaltation above everything else that is esteemed on earth or in heaven. It is the very highest education. It is the key that opens the portals of the heavenly city. This

knowledge it is God's purpose that all who put on Christ shall possess. "-The Ministry of Healing, p. 457.

"When we know God as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience." -The Desire of Ages, p. 668.

"The experimental knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ whom He has sent transforms man into the image of God."-Christ's Object Lessons, p. 114.

"The knowledge of God that works transformation of character is our great need. If we fulfill His purpose, there must be in our lives a revelation of God that shall correspond to the teachings of His word. "The experience of Enoch and of John the Baptist represents what ours should be. Far more than we do, we need to study the lives of these men-he who was translated to heaven without seeing death, and he who, before Christ's first advent, was called to prepare the way of the Lord, to make His paths straight."-Testimonies, vol. 8, p. 329.

### **Enoch's Example**

"And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him" (Gen. 5:24).

"By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death ... for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God" (Heb. 11:5).

"The infinite, unfathomable love of God through Christ became the subject of his meditations day and night. With all the fervor of his soul he sought to reveal that love to the people among whom he dwelt."- Testimonies, vol. 8, p. 329.

"Enoch's walk with God was not in a trance or a vision, but in all the duties of his daily life. He did not become a hermit, shutting himself entirely from the world; for he had a work to do for God in the world." -Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 85.

"The power of God that wrought with His servant was felt by those who heard. Some gave heed to the warning and renounced their sins, but the multitudes mocked at the solemn message. The servants of God are to bear a similar message to the world in the last days, and it will also be received with unbelief and mockery.

"As year after year passed, deeper and deeper grew the tide of human guilt, darker and darker gathered the clouds of divine judgment. Yet Enoch, the witness of faith, held on his way, warning, pleading, and teaching, striving to turn back the tide of guilt and to stay the bolts of vengeance.

"The men of that generation mocked the folly of him who sought not to gather gold or silver, or to build up possessions here. But Enoch's heart was upon eternal treasures. He had looked upon the celestial city. He had seen the King in His glory in the midst of Zion. The greater the existing iniquity, the more earnest was his longing for the home of God. While still on earth, he dwelt, by faith, in the realms of light."-Testimonies, vol. 8, pp. 330, 331.

"His heart was in harmony with God's will; for "can two walk together, except they be agreed?" Amos 3:3... Enoch was a man of strong and highly cultivated mind, and extensive knowledge; he was honored with special revelations from God; yet being in constant communion with Heaven, with a sense of the divine greatness and perfection ever before him, he was one of the humblest of men. The closer the connection with God, the deeper was the sense of his own weakness and imperfection." -Patriarchs and Prophets. p. 85.

"The only greatness is the greatness of humility."-The Desire of Ages, p. 650.

"Thus he waited before the Lord, seeking a clearer knowledge of His will, that he might perform it. To him prayer was as the breath of the soul. He lived in the very atmosphere of heaven." -Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 85.

"Communing thus with God, Enoch came more and more to reflect the divine image. His face was radiant with a holy light, even the light that shineth in the face of Jesus. As he came forth from these divine communings, even the ungodly beheld with awe the impress of heaven upon his countenance."-Ibid., p. 87.

## **Making Enoch's Experience Ours**

"The knowledge of God that works transformation of character is our great need. If we fulfill His purpose, there must be in our lives a revelation of God that shall correspond to the teaching of His word. The experience of Enoch and of John the Baptist represents what ours should be. Far more than we do, we need to study the lives of these men--he who was translated to heaven without seeing death, and he who, before Christ's first advent, was called to prepare the way of the Lord, to make His paths straight."- Testimonies, vol. 8, p. 329.

"The godly character of this prophet represents the state of holiness which must be attained by those who shall be 'redeemed from the earth' (Revelation 14:3) at the time of Christ's second advent. Then, as in the world before the Flood, iniquity will prevail. Following the promptings of their corrupt hearts and the teachings of a deceptive philosophy, men will rebel against the authority of Heaven. But like Enoch, God's people will seek for purity of heart, and conformity to his will, until they shall reflect the likeness of Christ. Like Enoch they will warn the world of the Lord's second coming and of the judgments to be visited upon transgression, and by their holy conversation and example they will condemn the sins of the ungodly. As Enoch was translated to heaven before the destruction of the world by water, so the living righteous will be translated from the earth before its destruction by fire."-Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 88, 89.

"For three hundred years Enoch had been seeking purity of heart, that he might be in harmony with heaven. For three centuries he had walked with God. Day by day he had longed for a closer union; nearer and nearer had grown the communion, until God took him to Himself. He had stood at the threshold of the eternal world, only a step between him and the land of the blest; and now the portals opened, the walk with God, so long pursued on earth, continued, and he passed through the gates of the holy city, the first among men to enter there.

" 'By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; ... for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.' Hebrews 11:5.

"To such communion God is calling us. As was Enoch's must be their holiness of character who shall be redeemed from among men at the Lord's second coming."- Testimonies, vol. 8, p. 331.

"Our great need today is for men who are baptized with the Holy Spirit of God--men who walk with God as did Enoch."-Ibid, vol. 5, p. 555.

"If ever a people needed to walk before God as did Enoch, Seventh-day Adventists need to do so now, showing their sincerity by pure words, clean words, words full of sympathy, tenderness, and love."-Ibid., vol. 7, p. 155.

## **John the Baptist**

"The experience of Enoch and of John the Baptist represents what ours should be."-Ibid, vol. 8, p. 329.

"He [John] was a burning and a shining light." (John 5:35).

"God had called the son of Zacharias to a great work."- The Desire of Ages, p. 100.

"Such a messenger must be holy. He must be a temple for the indwelling Spirit of God."-Ibid

"In order to give such a message as John gave, we must have a spiritual experience like his. The same work must be wrought in us. We must behold God, and in beholding Him lose sight of self."-Testimonies, vol. 8, p. 333.

"John the Baptist in his desert life was taught of God. He studied the revelations of God in nature. Under the guiding of the Divine Spirit, he studied the scrolls of the prophets. By day and by night, Christ was his study, his meditation, until mind and heart and soul were filled with the glorious vision.

"He looked upon the King in His beauty, and self was lost sight of. He beheld the majesty of holiness and knew himself to be inefficient and unworthy. It was God's message that he was to declare. It was in God's power and His righteousness that he was to stand. He was ready to go forth as Heaven's messenger, unawed by the human, because he had looked upon the Divine. He could stand fearless in the presence of earthly monarchs because with trembling he had bowed before the King of kings."- Testimonies, Vol 8. pp. 331, 332.

## **The Holy Spirit Without Measure**

"Looking in faith to the Redeemer, John had risen to the height of self-abnegation. He sought not to attract men to himself, but to lift their thoughts higher and still higher, until they should rest upon the Lamb of God. He himself had been only a voice, a cry in the wilderness. Now with joy he accepted silence and obscurity, that the eyes of all might be turned to the Light of life. Those who are true to their calling as messengers for God will not seek honor for themselves. Love for self will be swallowed up in love for Christ...

"The soul of the prophet, emptied of self, was filled with the light of the Divine.... So with the followers of Christ. We can receive of heaven's light as we are willing to be emptied of self. We can discern the character of God, and accept Christ by faith, only as we consent to the bringing into captivity of every thought to the obedience of Christ. To all who do this, the Holy Spirit is given without measure."- Testimonies, Vol 8, pp. 333, 334.

"God will do the work if we will furnish Him the instruments."- Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 107.

"With no elaborate arguments or finespun theories did John declare his message. Startling and stern, yet full of hope, his voice was heard from the wilderness: 'Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Matthew 3:2. With a new, strange power it moved the people. The whole nation was stirred. Multitudes flocked to the wilderness."- Testimonies, Vol 8, p. 332.

## **Making John's Experience Ours**

God used one man in the wilderness to stir a nation. Soon, yes, very soon, He will use a faithful remnant to move and stir the whole world. If we determine to be among that faithful few, we must make speedy preparation now. The experience of John represents what ours is to be.

"Unlearned peasants and fisherman from the surrounding country; the Roman soldiers from the barracks of Herod; chieftains with their swords at their sides, ready to put down anything that might savor of rebellion; the avaricious taxgatherers from their

toll booths; and from the Sanhedrin phylacteried priests-all listened as if spellbound; and all, even the Pharisee, and the Sadducee, the cold, unimpressible scoffer, went away with the sneer silenced and cut to the heart with the sense of their sins. Herod in his palace heard the message, and the proud, sin-hardened ruler trembled at the call to repentance.

"In this age, just prior to the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven, such a work as that of John is to be done. God calls for men who will prepare a people to stand in the great day of the Lord."- Testimonies, Vol 8 p. 332

"Upon us rests the weighty responsibility of warning the world of its coming doom. From every direction, from far and near, are coming calls for help. God calls upon His church to arise and clothe herself with power."- Testimonies, vol. 7, p. 16.

"God's workers must gain a far deeper experience. If they will surrender all to Him, He will work mightily for them."-Colporteur Ministry, p. 155.

## The Latter Rain

"I have no specific time of which to speak when the outpouring of the Holy Spirit will take place-when the mighty angel will come down from heaven, and unite with the third angel in closing up the work for this world; my message is that our only safety is in being ready for the heavenly refreshing, having our lamps trimmed and burning." - Selected Messages, book 1, p. 192.

Although the servant of God did not indicate a specific time for the outpouring of the Spirit, she said that at the commencement of the time of trouble, "the latter rain," or refreshing from the presence of the Lord, will come."-Early Writings, p. 86. This is the brief time of trouble before the plagues fall. We are near to that time when all mankind will be divided in two classes: those with the mark of the beast and those with God's name in their foreheads.

## The Mark of the Beast

"When the leading churches of the United States, uniting upon such point of doctrine as are held by them in common, shall influence the state to enforce their decrees and to sustain their institutions, then Protestant America will have formed an image of the Roman hierarchy, and the infliction of civil penalties upon dissenters will inevitably result."-The Great Controversy, p. 445.

**"Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness,** Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of Spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome. The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of Spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience."--The Great Controversy, p. 588.

"But Christians of past generations observed the Sunday, supposing that in so doing they were keeping the Bible Sabbath; and there are now true Christians in every church, not excepting the Roman Catholic communion, who honestly believe that Sunday is the Sabbath of divine appointment. God accepts their sincerity of purpose and their integrity before Him. But when Sunday observance shall be enforced by law and the world shall be enlightened concerning the obligation of the true Sabbath, then whoever shall transgress the command of God, to obey a precept which has no higher authority than that of Rome, will thereby honor popery above God. He is paying homage to Rome and to the power which enforces the institution ordained by Rome. He is

worshipping the beast and his image. As men then reject the institution which God has declared to be the sign of His authority, and honor in its stead that which Rome has chosen as the token of her supremacy, they will thereby accept the sign of allegiance to Rome-'the mark of the beast.' and it is not until the issue is thus plainly set before the people, and they are brought to choose between the commandments of God and the commandments of men, that those who continue in transgression will receive `the mark of the beast.'" -Ibid., p. 449.

"When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with spiritualism, when, under the influence of this threefold union, our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan and that the end is near." - Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 451.

"The enforcement of Sunday-keeping in the United States would be an enforcement of the worship of the beast and his image." -The Great Controversy, p. 449.

God's only answer to the worship of the beast and his image is the image of God restored in the soul and reflected in the life. The time of the test is fast approaching. **We must prepare now.**

"The substitution of the laws of men for the law of God, the exaltation, by merely human authority, of Sunday in place of the Bible Sabbath, is the last act in the drama." - Testimonies, vol. 7, p. 141.

"The people of the United States have been a favored people; but when they restrict religious liberty, surrender Protestantism, and give countenance to popery, the measure of their guilt will be full, and `national apostasy' will be registered in the books of heaven. The result of this apostasy will be national ruin." -Review and Herald, May 2, 1893.

"As America, the land of religious liberty, shall unite with the papacy in forcing the conscience and compelling men to honor the false sabbath, the people of every country on the globe will be led to follow her example." -Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 18.

"Foreign nations will follow the example of the United States. Though she leads out, yet the same crisis will come upon our people in all parts of the world." -Ibid., p. 395.

"Communications from the spirits will declare that God has sent them to convince the rejecters of Sunday of their error, affirming that the laws of the land should be obeyed as the law of God. They will lament the great wickedness in the world and second the testimony of religious teachers, that the degraded state of morals is caused by the desecration of Sunday. Great will be the indignation excited against all who refuse to accept their testimony." -The Great Controversy, p. 591.

"The church appeals to the strong arm of civil power, and, in this work, papists and Protestants unite. As the movement for Sunday enforcement becomes more bold and decided, the law will be invoked against commandment keepers. They will be threatened with fines and imprisonment, and some will be offered positions of influence, and other rewards and advantages, as inducements to renounce their faith." -Ibid., p. 607.

## **The Great Test**

"When the law of God is made void the church will be sifted by fiery trials, and a larger proportion than we now anticipate, will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils." -Selected Messages, book 2, p. 368.

"My brethren, do you realize that your own salvation, as well as the destiny of other souls, depends upon the preparation you now make for the trial before us?"- Testimonies, vol. 5, pp. 716, 717.

"The Lord has shown me clearly that the image of the beast will be formed before probation closes; for it is to be the great test for the people of God, by which their eternal destiny will be decided."-The SDA Bible Commentary, Ellen G. White Comments, on Rev. 13:14-17, p. 976.

"As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel's message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition." -The Great Controversy, p. 608.

"We are warned that in the last days he [Satan] will work with signs and lying wonders. And he will continue these wonders until the close of probation, that he may point to them as evidence that he is an angel of light and not of darkness."-Selected Messages, book 2, p. 51.

"In this time, the gold will be separated from the dross in the church. True godliness will be clearly distinguished from the appearance and tinsel of it. Many a star that we have admired for its brilliancy will then go out in darkness."-Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 81.

"Those who apostatize in time of trial will, to secure their own safety, bear false witness, and betray their brethren. Christ has warned us of this, that we may not be surprised at the unnatural, cruel course of those who reject the light."-The Desire of Ages, p. 630.

## **The Latter Rain and the Loud Cry**

"Before the final visitation of God's judgements upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children."-The Great Controversy, p. 464.

"At the commencement of the time of trouble, we were filled with the Holy Ghost as we went forth and proclaimed the Sabbath more fully. This enraged the churches and nominal Adventists, as they could not refute the Sabbath truth. And at this time God's chosen all saw clearly that we had the truth, and they came out and endured the persecution with us. I saw the sword, famine, pestilence, and great confusion in the land. The wicked thought that we had brought the judgments upon them, and they rose up and took counsel to rid the earth of us, thinking that then the evil would be stayed." CET 93

" 'The commencement of that time of trouble,' here mentioned, does not refer to the time when the plagues shall begin to be poured out, but to a short period just before they are poured out, while Christ is in the sanctuary. At that time, while the work of salvation is closing, trouble will be coming on the earth, and the nations will be angry, yet held in check so as not to prevent the work of the third angel. At that time the 'latter rain,' or refreshing from the presence of the Lord, will come, to give power to the loud voice of the third angel, and prepare the saints to stand in the period when the seven last plagues shall be poured out."-Early Writings, pp. 85, 86.

"When the storm of persecution really breaks upon us, the true sheep will hear the Shepherd's voice. Self-denying efforts will be put forth to save the lost, and many who have strayed from the fold will come back to follow the great Shepherd. The people of God will draw together and present to the enemy a united front. In view of the common peril, strife for supremacy will cease; there will be no disputing as to who shall

be accounted greatest. No one of the true believers will say: "I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas." The testimony of one and all will be: "I cleave unto Christ; I rejoice in Him as my personal Saviour."

"Thus will the truth be brought into practical life, and thus will be answered the prayer of Christ, uttered just before His humiliation and death: "That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me." John 17:21. The love of Christ, the love of our brethren, will testify to the world that we have been with Jesus and learned of Him. Then will the message of the third angel swell to a loud cry, and the whole earth will be lightened with the glory of the Lord."-Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 401.

"I saw a great light resting upon them [the people of God], and they united to fearlessly proclaim the third angel's message. Angels were sent to aid the mighty angel from heaven, and I heard voices which seemed to sound everywhere, "Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities." This message seemed to be an addition to the third message, joining it as the midnight cry joined the second angel's message in 1844.

"The glory of God rested upon the patient, waiting saints, and they fearlessly gave the last solemn warning, proclaiming the fall of Babylon and calling upon God's people to come out of her that they might escape her fearful doom.

"The light that was shed upon the waiting ones penetrated everywhere, and those in the churches who had any light, who had not heard and rejected the three messages, obeyed the call and left the fallen churches. Many had come to years of accountability since these messages had been given, and the light shone upon them, and they were privileged to choose life or death. Some chose life and took their stand with those who were looking for their Lord and keeping all His commandments. The third message was to do its work; all were to be tested upon it, and the precious ones were to be called out from the religious bodies. A compelling power moved the honest, while the manifestation of the power of God brought a fear and restraint upon their unbelieving relatives and friends so that they dared not, neither had they the power to, hinder those who felt the work of the Spirit of God upon them. The last call was carried even to the poor slaves, and the pious among them poured forth their songs of rapturous joy at the prospect of their happy deliverance. Their masters could not check them; fear and astonishment kept them silent. Mighty miracles were wrought, the sick were healed, and signs and wonders followed the believers. God was in the work, and every saint, fearless of consequences, followed the convictions of his own conscience and united with those who were keeping all the commandments of God; and with power they sounded abroad the third message. I saw that this message will close with power and strength far exceeding the midnight cry.

"Servants of God, endowed with power from on high, with their faces lighted up, and shining with holy consecration, went forth to proclaim the message from heaven. Souls that were scattered all through the religious bodies answered to the call, and the precious were hurried out of the doomed churches, as Lot was hurried out of Sodom before her destruction."-Early Writings, pp. 277-279.

"Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers. Satan also works, with lying wonders, even bringing down fire from heaven in the sight of men. Revelation 13:13. Thus the inhabitants of the earth will be brought to take their stand.

"The message will be carried not so much by argument as by the deep conviction of the Spirit of God. The arguments have been presented. The seed has been sown, and now it will spring up and bear fruit. The publications distributed by missionary workers have exerted their influence, yet many whose minds were impressed have been prevented from fully comprehending the truth or from yielding obedience. Now the rays of light penetrate everywhere, the truth is seen in its clearness, and the honest children of God sever the bands which have held them. Family connections, church relations, are powerless to stay them now. Truth is more precious than all besides. Notwithstanding the agencies combined against the truth, a large number take their stand upon the Lord's side." The Great Controversy. 612.

"Thus the message of the third angel will be proclaimed. As the time comes for it to be given with greatest power, the Lord will work through humble instruments, leading the minds of those who consecrate themselves to His service. The laborers will be qualified rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the training of literary institutions. Men of faith and prayer will be constrained to go forth with holy zeal, declaring the words which God gives them. The sins of Babylon will be laid open. The fearful results of enforcing the observances of the church by civil authority, the inroads of spiritualism, the stealthy but rapid progress of the papal power—all will be unmasked. By these solemn warnings the people will be stirred. Thousands upon thousands will listen who have never heard words like these."-The Great Controversy, p. 606.

"So mightily can God work when men give themselves up to the control of His Spirit."-Testimonies, vol. 8, p. 20.

"The swiftness of lightning represents the speed with which this work will finally go forward to completion."- Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 754.

"God cannot forbear much longer. Already His judgments are beginning to fall on some places, and soon His signal displeasure will be felt in other places. There will be a series of events revealing that God is master of the situation. The truth will be proclaimed in clear, unmistakable language. As a people we must prepare the way of the Lord under the overruling guidance of the Holy Spirit. The gospel is to be given in its purity." - Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 96.

"Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved: for He will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth. And as Esaias said before, Except the Lord of Sabaoth had left us a seed, we had been as Sodoma and been made like unto Gomorrah." (Rom. 9:28).

"The message of Christ's righteousness is to sound from one end of the earth to the other to prepare the way of the Lord. This is the glory of God, which closes the work of the third angel."- Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 19.

"The words of Christ through the gospel prophet, which are but re-echoed in the Sermon on the Mount, are for us in this last generation: 'Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.' Isaiah 60:1.... If you have beheld His beauty who is 'the chiefest among ten thousand' and the One 'altogether lovely,' if your soul has become radiant in the presence of His glory, to you is this word from the Master sent." -Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing, p. 43.

"Into the darkness of the world is to be shed the light of His glory, the light of His goodness, mercy, and truth."-Christ's Object Lesson, p. 415.

"I was pointed down to the time when the third angel's message was closing. The power of God had rested upon His people; they had accomplished their work and were prepared for the trying hour before them. They had received the latter rain, or refreshing

from the presence of the Lord, and the living testimony had been revived. The last great warning had sounded everywhere, and it had stirred up and enraged the inhabitants of the earth who would not receive the message."-Early Writings, p. 279.

"Those that overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil, will be the favored ones who shall receive the seal of the living God." -Testimonies to Ministers, p. 445.

"Just before we entered it [the time of trouble], we all received the seal of the living God. Then I saw the four angels cease to hold the four winds. And I saw famine, pestilence and sword, nation rose against nation, and the whole world was in confusion."-The SDA Bible Commentary, Ellen G. White Comments, on Rev. 7:1-3, p. 968.

"The final test has been brought upon the world, and all who have proved themselves loyal to the divine precepts have received the 'seal of the living God.' Then Jesus ceases His intercession in the sanctuary above. The Great Controversy, p. 613.

## **The Close of Probation**

"I saw angels hurrying to and fro in heaven. An angel with a writer's inkhorn by his side returned from the earth and reported to Jesus that his work was done, and the saints were numbered and sealed. Then I saw Jesus, who had been ministering before the ark containing the Ten Commandments, throw down the censer. He raised His hands, and with a loud voice said, 'It is done.' And all the angelic host laid off their crowns as Jesus made the solemn declaration, 'He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.'

"Every case had been decided for life or death. While Jesus had been ministering in the sanctuary, the judgment had been going on for the righteous dead, and then for the righteous living. Christ had received His kingdom, having made the atonement for His people and blotted out their sins. The subjects of the kingdom were made up. The marriage of the Lamb was consummated. And the kingdom, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, was given to Jesus and the heirs of salvation, and Jesus was to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords.

"As Jesus moved out of the most holy place, I heard the tinkling of the bells upon His garment; and as He left, a cloud of darkness covered the inhabitants of the earth. There was then no mediator between guilty man and offended God." Early Writings, pp. 279-280.

"Then I saw Jesus lay off His priestly attire and clothe Himself with His most kingly robes. Upon His head were many crowns, a crown within a crown. Surrounded by the angelic host, He left heaven. The plagues were falling upon the inhabitants of the earth. Some were denouncing God and cursing Him. Others rushed to the people of God and begged to be taught how they might escape His judgments. But the saints had nothing for them. The last tear for sinners had been shed, the last agonizing prayer offered, the last burden borne, the last warning given.... With terrible distinctness they heard the words, 'Too late! too late!'"-Early Writings, p. 281.

## **Redeeming the Time**

Shall we not do now what many thousands will wish they had done when the plagues begin to fall? Then it will be too late to surrender without reservation and earnestly pray for a daily baptism of the Holy Spirit. Now is the time to put self aside and make speedy preparation for the latter rain.

"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?"-Testimonies, vol. 8, p. 22.

"Why should we not prostrate ourselves at the throne of grace, as representatives of the church, and from a broken heart and contrite spirit make earnest supplication that the Holy Spirit shall be poured out upon us from on high?"-Testimonies to Ministers, p. 64.

"O that we as a people might humble our hearts before God, and plead with Him for the endowment of the Holy Spirit!"-Christ Our Righteousness, p. 165.

"Realize every moment that you must have the presence of the Holy Spirit." - Testimonies to Ministers, p. 310.

"We need to be sanctified by the Holy Spirit every hour of the day, lest we be ensnared by the enemy, and our souls be imperiled." -Ibid., p. 223.

Our task is not just to continue in the Lord's service, making large gains year after year. The hour is long overdue when we should let God use us to finish quickly the work by the mighty power of His Spirit. "Intense earnestness should now take possession of us."- Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 44.

This is the hour of greatest danger. All that will survive the seven last plagues is a holy character.

## **Danger Ahead**

"If Satan cannot keep souls bound in the ice of indifference, he will try to push them into the fire of fanaticism."-Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 644.

"No one who claims holiness is really holy. Those who are registered as holy in the books of heaven are not aware of the fact, and are the last ones to boast of their own goodness."-The Faith I Live By, p. 140.

"Those who are really seeking to perfect Christian character will never indulge the thought that they are sinless. Their lives may be irreproachable, they may be living representatives of the truth which they have accepted; but the more they discipline their minds to dwell upon the character of Christ, and the nearer they approach to His divine image, the more clearly will they discern its spotless perfection, and the more deeply will they feel their own defects." -The Sanctified Life, p. 7.

"The closer you come to Jesus, the more faulty you will appear in your own eyes; for your vision will be clearer, and your imperfections will be seen in broad and distinct contrast to His perfect nature."-Steps to Christ, p. 64.

## **A Snare of Satan**

"As the end draws near, the enemy will work with all his power to bring in fanaticism among us."-Gospel Workers, p. 316.

"False theories, clothed with garments of light, will be presented to God's people. Thus Satan will try to deceive, if possible, the very elect." -Testimonies, vol. 8, p. 293.

"As we near the end of time, falsehood will be so mingled with truth, that only those who have the guidance of the Holy Spirit will be able to distinguish truth from error."-The SDA Bible Commentary, Ellen G. White Comments, on Col. 2:8, p. 907.

"False teachers may appear to be very zealous for the work of God, and may expend means to bring their theories before the world and the church; but as they mingle error with truth, their message is one of deception, and will lead souls into false paths.

They are to be met and opposed, not because they are bad men, but because they are teachers of falsehood and are endeavoring to put upon falsehood the stamp of truth." - Testimonies to Ministers, p. 55.

"God has a church upon the earth, who are His chosen people, who keep His commandments. He is leading, not stray offshoots, not one here and one there, but a people. The truth is a sanctifying power; but the church militant is not the church triumphant. There are tares among the wheat. 'Wilt thou then that we . . . gather them up?' was the question of the servant; but the master answered, 'Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.' The gospel net draws not only good fish, but bad ones as well, and the Lord only knows who are His." TM, p. 61.

"It is our individual duty to walk humbly with God. We are not to seek any strange, new message. We are not to think that the chosen ones of God who are trying to walk in the light compose Babylon. The fallen denominational churches are Babylon. Babylon has been fostering poisonous doctrines, the wine of error. This wine of error is made up of false doctrines, such as the natural immortality of the soul, the eternal torment of the wicked, the denial of the pre-existence of Christ prior to His birth in Bethlehem, and advocating and exalting the first day of the week above God's holy and sanctified day. These and kindred errors are presented to the world by the various churches, and thus the Scriptures are fulfilled that say, 'For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.' It is a wrath which is created by false doctrines, and when kings and presidents drink this wine of the wrath of her fornication, they are stirred with anger against those who will not come into harmony with the false and satanic heresies which exalt the false sabbath, and lead men to trample underfoot God's memorial." TM 61, 62

"Nothing else in this world is so dear to God as His Church. Nothing is guarded by Him with such jealous care. Nothing so offends God as an act that injures the influence of those who are doing His service. He will call to account all who aid Satan in his work or criticizing and discouraging."-Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 42.

"The Lord lives and reigns. Soon He will arise in majesty to shake terribly the earth. A special message is now to be borne, a message that will pierce the spiritual darkness and convict and convert souls. "Haste thee, flee for thy life," is the call to be given to those dwelling in sin. We must now be terribly in earnest. We have not a moment to spend in criticism and accusation. Let those who have done this in the past fall on their knees in prayer, and let them beware how they put their words and their plans in the place of God's words and God's plans." - Testimonies, vol. 8, p. 36.

"The truth received into the heart will work a renovation in the soul. Those who love Jesus will love the souls for whom He died. The truth planted in the heart will reveal the love of Jesus and its transforming power. Anything harsh, sour, critical, domineering, is not of Christ, but proceeds from Satan. Coldness, heartlessness, want of tender sympathy, are leavening the camp of Israel. If these evils are permitted to strengthen as they have done for some years in the past, our churches will be in a deplorable condition. Every teacher of the truth needs the Christlike principle in his character. There will be no frowns, no scolding, no expressions of contempt, on the part of any man who is cultivating the graces of Christianity. He feels that he must be a partaker of the divine nature, and he must be replenished from the exhaustless fountain of heavenly grace, else he will lose the milk of human kindness out of his soul. We must love men for Christ's sake. It is easy for the natural heart to love a few favorites, and to be partial to these special few; but Christ bids us love one another as He has loved us. "The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of

righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace." -Testimonies to Ministers, p. 156.

"Just as long as God has a church, he will have those who will cry aloud and spare not, who will be his instruments to reprove selfishness and sins, and will not shun to declare the whole counsel of God, whether men will hear or forbear. I saw that individuals would rise up against the plain testimonies. It does not suit their natural feelings. They would choose to have smooth things spoken unto them, and have peace cried in their ears. I view the church in a more dangerous condition than they ever have been. Experimental religion is known but by a few. The shaking must soon take place to purify the church.

"Preachers should have no scruples to preach the truth as it is found in God's word. Let the truth cut. I have been shown that why ministers have not more success is, they are afraid of hurting feelings, fearful of not being courteous, and they lower the standard of truth, and conceal if possible the peculiarity of our faith. I saw that God could not make such successful. The truth must be made pointed, and the necessity of a decision urged. And as false shepherds are crying, Peace, and are preaching smooth things, the servants of God must cry aloud, and spare not, and leave the result with God. 2SG p. 284.

"God has a church. It is not the great cathedral, neither is it the national establishment, neither is it the various denominations; it is the people who love God and keep His commandments. "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them." Where Christ is, even among the humble few, this is Christ's church, for the presence of the High and Holy One who inhabiteth eternity can alone constitute a church. Where two or three are present who love and obey the commandments of God, Jesus there presides, let it be in the desolate place of the earth, in the wilderness, in the city, [or] enclosed in prison walls. The glory of God has penetrated the prison walls, flooding with glorious beams of heavenly light the darkest dungeon. His saints may suffer, but their sufferings will, like the apostles' of old, spread their faith and win souls to Christ and glorify His holy name. The bitterest opposition expressed by those who hate God's great moral standard of righteousness should not and will not shake the steadfast soul who trusts fully in God." 17MR 81.

## **Total Sacrifice Required**

"My eyes were taken from the glory, and I was pointed to the remnant on the earth. The angel said to them, `Will ye shun the seven last plagues? Will ye go to glory and enjoy all that God has prepared for those who love Him and are willing to suffer for His sake? If so, ye must die that ye may live. Get ready, get ready, get ready. Ye must have a greater preparation than ye now have.... Sacrifice all to God. Lay all upon His altar-self, property, and all, a living sacrifice. It will take all to enter glory....'

"Heaven will be cheap enough, if we obtain it through suffering. We must deny self all along the way, die to self daily, let Jesus alone appear, and keep His glory continually in view. I saw that those who of late have embraced the truth would have to know what it is to suffer for Christ's sake, that they would have trials to pass through that would be keen and cutting, in order that they may be purified and fitted through suffering to receive the seal of the living God, pass through the time of trouble, see the King in His beauty, and dwell in the presence of God and of pure, holy angels.

"As I saw what we must be in order to inherit glory, and then saw how much Jesus had suffered to obtain for us so rich an inheritance, I prayed that we might be baptized into Christ's sufferings, that we might not shrink at trials, but bear them with patience and joy, knowing what Jesus had suffered that we through His poverty and

sufferings might be made rich. "Said the angel, `Deny self; ye must step fast.'" -Early Writings, pp. 66, 67.

"We can not retain self and yet enter the Kingdom of God." -Mount of Blessings, p. 143.

"Ask the Lord to reveal to you yourself, place your life under His searching eye, and when He lays hold upon your case you will see that you have made grievous mistakes, and what you supposed was of little importance was offensive in the sight of Heaven. You will see that there is a decided need of thorough transformation of character. You will realize that you must put away the evil of your doings, and cooperate with God and heavenly angels who are sent to minister unto those who shall be heirs of salvation. . . . Self must die. Every practice, every habit, that has a harmful tendency, however innocent it may be regarded by the world, must be battled with until overcome, that the human agent may perfect a character after the divine Pattern." That I May Know Him, p. 237.

"Our future eternal happiness depends upon having our humanity, with all its capabilities and powers, brought into obedience of God and placed under the control of Divinity....

"Jesus became a man that He might mediate between man and God ... that He might restore to man the original mind which he lost in Eden through Satan's alluring temptation....

"Through Jesus Christ every man may overcome in his own behalf and on his own account, standing in his own individuality of character." - That I May Know Him, p. 291.

"In giving us His Spirit, God gives us Himself." -Testimonies, Vol. 7, p. 273.

"The Lord desires every one of us to be decidedly in earnest." -Selected Messages, book 1, p. 98.

"Intense earnestness should now take possession of us." -Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 44.

"You can not be too much in earnest." -Testimonies, Vol.6, p. 16.

"Pray that the mighty energies of the Holy Spirit, with all their quickening, recuperative, and transforming power, may fall like an electric shock on the palsy-stricken soul, causing every nerve to thrill with new life, restoring the whole man from his dead, earthly, sensual state to spiritual soundness. You will thus become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust; and in your souls will be reflected the image of Him by whose stripes you are healed." -Ibid, vol. 5, p. 267.

"In order to be purified and to remain pure, Seventh-day Adventists must have the Holy Spirit in their hearts and in their homes. The Lord has given me light that when the Israel of today humble themselves before Him, and cleanse the soul temple from all defilement, He will hear their prayers in behalf of the sick, and will bless in the use of His remedies for disease." -Counsels on Health, p. 138.

"To the heart that has become purified, all is changed. Transformation of character is the testimony to the world of an indwelling Christ. The Spirit of God produces a new life in the soul, bringing the thoughts and desires into obedience to the will of Christ; and the inward man is renewed in the image of God." -Prophets and Kings, p. 233.

"All that the apostles did, every church member today is to do."-Testimonies, vol. 7, p. 33.

"Daily they prayed for fresh supplies of grace, that they might reach higher and still higher toward perfection. Under the Holy Spirit's working even the weakest, by exercising faith in God, learned to improve their entrusted powers and to become sanctified, refined, and ennobled. As in humility they submitted to the molding influence of the Holy Spirit, they received of the fullness of the Godhead and were fashioned in the likeness of the divine. The lapse of time has wrought no change in Christ's parting promise to send the Holy Spirit as His representative. It is not because of any restriction on the part of God that the riches of His grace do not flow earthward to men. If the fulfillment of the promise is not seen as it might be, it is because the promise is not appreciated as it should be. If all were willing, all would be filled with the Spirit."-The Acts of the Apostles, pp. 49, 50.

"As the human agent submits his will to the will of God, the Holy Spirit will make the impression upon the hearts of those to whom he ministers."-Counsels on Health, p. 437.

"Nothing is more needed in our work than the practical results of communion with God. We should show by our daily lives that we have peace and rest in the Saviour. His peace in the heart will shine forth in the countenance. It will give to the voice a persuasive power. Communion with God will ennoble the character and the life. Men will take knowledge of us, as of the first disciples, that we have been with Jesus. This will impart to the worker a power that nothing else can give. Of this power he must not allow himself to be deprived. The Ministry of Healing, p. 512.

### **Unlimited Possibilities**

"He who loves Christ the most will do the greatest amount of good. There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, by putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart, and lives a life wholly consecrated to God."-The Desire of Ages, pp. 250, 251.

"To everyone who offers himself to the Lord for service, withholding nothing, is given power for the attainment of measureless results."-The Ministry of Healing, p. 160.

### **Behold, I Stand at the Door, and Knock**

"The great sin of those who profess to be Christians is that they do not open the heart to receive the Holy Spirit."-Selected Messages, book 2, p. 57.

"If you open the door of the heart, Jesus will supply the vacuum by the gift of His Spirit, and then you can be a living preacher in your home, in the church, and in the world."-Christ Our Righteousness, p. 146.

"All that the apostles did, every church member today is to do. And we are to work with as much more fervor, to be accompanied by the Holy Spirit in as much greater measure, as the increase of wickedness demands a more decided call to repentance....

"At this time, when the end of all things is at hand, should not the zeal of the church exceed even that of the early church? Zeal for the glory of God moved the disciples to bear witness to the truth with mighty power. Should not the power of God be even more mightily revealed today than in the time of the apostles?" -Testimonies, vol. 7, p. 33.

"God's work is to be carried forward with power. We need the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We need to understand that God will add to the ranks of His people men of ability and influence who are to act their part in warning the world. Not all in the world are

lawless and sinful. God has many thousands who have not bowed the knee to Baal. There are God-fearing men and women in the fallen churches. If this were not so, we would not be given the message to bear:

"Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen." "Come out of her, My people." Many of the honest in heart are gasping for a breath of life from heaven. They will recognize the gospel when it is brought to them in the beauty and simplicity with which it is presented in God's Word. --Testimonies, Vol. 9, pp. 109-111. (1909)