



BIBLE EXPLORATIONS
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Bible Explorations Newsletter

July/August 2024 Issue

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Spring is over and summer has begun! Things are moving along great for the ministry. It is hard to believe fall (Tabernacles!) will be here soon (October 18-25)! Please plan for our camp meeting which will be in Harrison, Idaho once again (like Passover). It's a great place, so beautiful and peaceful on a lake! Let us know your plans!

THE FINAL TICS AND TOKS OF THE APOCALYPSE CLOCK

Brent Meikle: July 2024

When GOD made Ezekiel His Prophet, It Is Written, *“Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore, hear the word at My mouth, and give them warning from Me.”* We are to “Watch” through our observation of the Prophetic Word Of GOD. Jesus refers to Himself as the, “Son of Man” 80 times in the Holy Scriptures. When His Disciples asked Him when all would be fulfilled at His Return, Jesus did not rebuke them, but instead said:

“But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father” (Mark 13:32).

This Biblical text is taken out of context to attempt to corruptly teach that we are not to know when all will be fulfilled at His Return. But by simply continuing to read the next 5 verses we observe the truth:

“Take ye heed, watch and pray for ye know not when the time is. For the Son of Man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch” (Mark 13: 33-37).

We discover instead that Jesus instructs us to take heed! To pay extra attention to the prophetic Word. Since we do not know the time of His Return, we are instructed to “watch” lest we be found sleeping. Over 60-years later, the Risen Christ gave John, the last living Apostle, the book of His Apocalypse (Revelation) to witness and record. The first sentence of this same Book reads: **“The Revelation (Apocalypse) of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to show unto His servants’ things which must shortly come to pass.”** Each Generation is to “Watch” through its own observation of the Prophetic Word given for that generation in this final Biblical Book.

The generations before us have been faithful during their watch. Thanks to them we have a treasury of Prophetic

Truth for our faith in Him and His Return to stand upon. But His Apocalypse has a special calling for the 7th Generation just prior to His Return. Compare His Calling of the 7th Generation of Revelation to His Calling of Ezekiel:

CALLING OF EZEKIEL

- But thou, son of man, hear what I say unto thee; Be not thou rebellious like that rebellious house: open thy mouth, and eat that I give thee. And when I looked, behold, an hand was sent unto me; and, lo, a roll of a book was therein; And he spread it before me; and it was written within and without: Moreover, he said unto me, Son of man, eat that thou finds; eat this roll, and go speak unto the house of Israel. Then did I eat it; and it was in my mouth as honey for sweetness (Ezekiel 2: 8,9; 3:1,3).

CALLING OF THE 7TH GENERATION OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

- And the voice which I heard from heaven spoke unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which stands upon the sea and upon the earth. And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter. And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings (Revelation: 10:8,9,10,11).

The Sealed Book of Daniel is now Open in the hands of the 7th Angel. This is the same Angel that lightens the earth with his glory bearing the message in Revelation 18: **“And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory”** (Revelation 18:1). As with the Calling of Ezekiel, the 7th Generation is to digest this “book” before being called to evangelize many peoples, nations, tongues and kings. The book of Revelation further promises blessings to all that read, hear and obey the instructions.

The specific instructions for this generation are given next in the first verse of the next chapter. ***Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein*** (Revelation 11:1). We are to observe (measure) the original worship pattern given to Moses regarding all of the instructions for the sanctuary (tabernacle; temple). The definition of Measure is to observe or assess the extent, quality, value, size, or effect of something. In

Biblical terms, when Prophets were called to measure something given by the Word of GOD it is to Observe, Digest, Declare, and bear personal witness to. The Tabernacle Pattern is the Blueprint of the fulfillment of GOD's Covenant of man's redemption through Jesus Christ. It was not to be deviated from in any way.

It is Written, **“The place where they serve (the Tabernacle) is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven (Hebrews 8:5). “These (Tabernacle Observations) are a shadow of the things to come, but the body that casts it belongs to Christ” (Colossians 2:17). “This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the Tabernacle: ‘See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain” (Hebrews 8:5).** If Moses had corrupted the Pattern in any way, we would not have been able to observe its Supernatural fulfillment through the Lord Jesus Christ. Only in the uncorrupted Pattern, and all the ways and days of its observance, are we able to observe the end from the beginning and its exact fulfillment through Jesus Christ.

For several years I have made various presentations exclusively on Bibleexplorations.com regarding this Tabernacle Pattern. I named it the “Covenant Code©” for easy reference to the fact it was given to Moses along with the Ten Commandments when Moses was instructed to enter the Nation of Israel into the Covenant. Recently I demonstrated how the Pattern was still observed up until the 4th Century when the Roman Emperor and the Bishop of Rome abrogated the Biblical Holy Days and replaced them with Sunday, Easter, Halloween, Christmas, and Mary veneration.

Prior to this I have provided many demonstrations that Biblical History mirrors the Tabernacle Pattern. The generations and events from Creation to the Flood, Patriarchs, Exodus, Kings, Temple, Babylonian Captivity, to the Birth and Resurrection of Jesus Christ all occurred in exact accord to the Tabernacle Pattern given to Moses. No where in history has such a thing been told.

To think that the design of a building, its furnishings, and its worship instructions would in fact be a Prophetic Blueprint foretelling 6,000-years of History in advance of its occurrence. Only an Omnipotent GOD could preserve a plan spanning the fall of man to our final redemption for the specific observation of the last generation before His Return. But this is the truth and we have only begun to observe the true height and depth of the Tabernacle Message preserved for our observation. Once fully digested, it will be a message that lightens the world with the glory of our LORD Jesus Christ and the certainty and assurance of His Return sometime in our very generation.

It is not about the “hour” or “day” of His Return. But it is very much about “watching” and “praying” to understand and observe the “generation” of His Return. For it is this generation that will rapidly experience all that is foretold of it. This same generation, as with the first generation of His Disciples, is called to evangelize the world and herald His Return. Therefore, it behooves us to all the more earnestly study and pray. Line upon line. Scripture upon Scripture. With the treasury of the past generations as the foundation, our generation is not to be slack in our Watch. Because the truth is, we are observing the last Tic and Toks of the Apocalypse Clock of His Return.

Most of us can agree that the earthly Ministry of Jesus Christ began in 27 A.D. This means that we are within 3-years of the 2,000th anniversary of this major Biblical Event to occur in 2027. It is also true that according to the study of the Tabernacle Pattern that the placing of the “capstone” of the Tabernacle will occur in 2027. What I mean by this is that each Prophetic Stone of the Temple is 69-years. So, for example there were 9-periods of 69-years from Adam prior to the birth of Enoch, the 7th generation from Adam ($9 \times 69 = 621$ -years). Enoch was born in 622. There was 15-periods of 69-years from the birth of Enoch to the Flood of Noah ($15 \times 69 = 1035$ Years).

There are 24-periods ($9 + 15 = 24$) of 69-years from Adam to the Flood of Noah ($24 \times 69 = 1656$). The length of the Ark of the Covenant is 2.5 and the height is 1.5 ($2.5 \times 1.5 = 3.75$). The simple explanation of this is that the Tabernacle foretells a final “Crown” event whereby after that event there are no more measurements given. The Tabernacle is completed. This “crown” event is also then the “capstone” event as it is the final stone of the Temple. This Crown event is foretold in the Tabernacle Pattern to occur at 3.75 times the Flood (Ark) Event. $1656 \times 3.75 = 6210$ -Years. $24 \times 3.75 = 90$ periods of 69-years ($90 \times 69 = 6210$). The year 2027 completes the 89th period of 69-years. The 90th period begins in 2027. This is the Crowning Event of the entire Tabernacle.

The maximum length is 69-years. Foretold end-time events will rapidly occur during this time. Jesus could return anytime from the first to the 69th year. However based upon the observation of the past Biblical events that mirror the Tabernacle Pattern, our expectations should be based upon sooner rather than later fulfillments. In any event, these are the last Tics and Toks of the Apocalypse Clock. This generation will not pass away before His Return. Even if it were a later fulfillment, the younger among us would live to see His Return without first having tasted death. We are privileged to live in a time unequalled since the first generation of the Disciples of Christ.

It is also no accident that 621-years passed until the birth of Enoch in the 7th generation from Adam and that 6210-years pass from Adam until the 7th generation of the Book of Revelation. Consider the height of the tabernacle; it is “10” high. The “height” dimension of the Tabernacle always signifies the end glory. Just as the “crown” around the Ark of the Covenant is included in its height measurement (1.5). It is also 1.5 times the blood atonement event ($4140 \times 1.5 = 6210$).

Having said all of this, I ask you to prayerfully consider the Ministry of BibleExplorations.com. I know for certain that I would not feel comfortable sharing my presentations with any other broadcast Ministry. I do not believe others would allow me to make my presentations without attempting to edit or influence my message. Thus, anything you may have seen from me was from this Ministry. Since I am the only one that I am aware of to have this specific original message to share, this means that without BETV my message would not be heard in the past, present or future.

I speak for not only myself, but for most all of those who contribute presentations on a regular basis. Without this Ministry, most of their past preserved videos and current and future Presentations would echo in the sounds of silence. These topics would not be made public to all. For many of us, the weekly messages are a means of attending regular worship services. For those in poorer or heavily restricted areas, the Satellite is the only means of delivery of the messages.

Sandy does an incredible job along with the help of Chris when he is able. Many people contribute to the Ministry in various ways. But the truth is this BETV Ministry needs help. We are at a spiritual and prophetic time in history when our study and digestion of the Book and the subsequent messages revealed are to be broadcast and delivered to peoples, nations, tongues and even to kings. But the truth is that the regular small donations that are received are simply not going to be enough to continue broadcasting on Satellite. \$63,000 is required to fund the Satellite for another year. The hope is that 63-people could be found earnestly that could contribute \$1,000 each (equivalent to \$20/week in tithes). Of course, larger donations are most welcome if you so value this Ministry.

I believe the 69-Year capstone will be laid no later than 2027. I do not honestly know whether this is the beginning to the foretold Latter Rain or any of the other foretold last generation events. I know we are only scratching the surface of what we need to be studying and sharing with others. In the end, the LORD will determine and Bless those He has Called. It is my hope that we are among them and that we have collectively done all that we can to be

found worthy of His Calling. Consider the early Church and how they pooled together for their common good and their mission.

Finally, I want to thank all of those who contribute regularly to BETV. Whether that is with tithes and offerings, loyal attendance, spiritual support, and everything and anything at all that you may do to encourage Sandy and her Ministry to continue to persevere and to overcome this world.

OBEDIENCE CONDITION OR RESULT OF SALVATION?

By Ted Schultz

THE MAJORITY WILL FORSAKE US

These terrible workings will not just be done by a very few off in the corner somewhere. It will involve the majority. “Many will stand in our pulpits with the torch of false prophecy in their hands, kindled from the hellish torch of Satan.” Testimonies to Ministers, p. 409,410. The light that will shine from the hellish torches of these ministers is not the light that shines more and more upon the path of the just. No, no. It will be Satan’s counterfeit of that “special light” which the Lord’s messenger told us is yet to shine upon His people. “Soon God’s people will be tested by fiery trials, and the great proportion of those who now appear to be genuine and true will prove to be base metal. To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few — this will be our test. At this time we must gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, loyalty from their treason. Testimonies for the Church, p. 136, emphasis supplied.

According to these statements, ministers will be advocating keeping the first day of the week. These will be Seventh-day Adventist ministers standing in the pulpits of Seventh-day Adventist churches holding high Satan’s hellish torch. This will be done with the approval of Seventh-day Adventist leadership. Even now, only those approved by the powers to be can stand in the pulpits to speak. So it will be then.

Ellen White in vision was shown a time in the future that she referred to as the Omega apostasy. Among a number of things she said would take place during the omega apostasy was: “The Sabbath of course, would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it. Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement.” Letters to Physicians and Ministers, Series B, No. 2, p. 55, emphasis supplied. The attitude of these ministers toward the Sabbath is the same as that of those who rejected the

1888 message when they said “the Sabbath doesn’t amount to much.” The work of these “ministers” and “men in responsible positions” will yield a terrible harvest. “Then I was shown a company who were howling in agony. On their garments was written in large characters, ‘Thou art weighed in the balance, and found wanting.’ I asked who this company were. The angel said, ‘These are they who have once kept the Sabbath and have given it up.’” Early Writings, p. 37. Dear reader, “Hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.” Revelation 3:11.

So what will be the safeguard of God’s faithful people in such a time? “The Bible, and the Bible alone, is to be our creed, the sole bond of union; all who bow to this Holy Word will be in harmony.” Review and Herald, December 15, 1885. “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” Isaiah 8:20. It cannot be emphasized enough. “Don’t trust any living man to interpret the Bible for you.” Faith and Works, p. 77. Contrary to the law and the testimony men have arisen declaring that sanctification is a mute theological issue. Issues, p. 109. If this is true, then the Sabbath would be the sign of a mute theological issue. To such ones “the Sabbath doesn’t amount to much.” History indeed is in the process of repeating itself.

“OBEDIENCE IS THE FRUITAGE OF SALVATION”?

If “obedience is the fruitage of salvation in Christ” (Seventh-Day Adventists Believe... 27, p. 232, 244), as many believe, it would mean that obedience follows salvation. If obedience follows salvation it cannot be a condition of salvation. Certainly those who are saved will be obedient, but it will only be so because they have already met the condition of their salvation which is obedience. It is said, “Salvation is all of grace and not of works, but its fruitage is obedience to the Commandments.” Ibid. p. 232. The Scriptures keep us on track on this point. “What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. James 2:14, 17, 26. A dead faith will produce “dead works.” Hebrews 6:1. These dead things must be repented of. Only as we are established in the doctrine of Christ by faith are we prepared to go on unto perfection as Paul talks about in Hebrews. Perhaps it is because many are not established in the biblical doctrine of Christ that the subject of Christian perfection is viewed as legalism and perfectionism. Is man saved by a dead faith? Did Jesus have a dead faith? The saints are identified by two features. They “keep the commandments of God, and have

the faith of Jesus.” Rev. 14:12. Remember, “The condition of eternal life is now just what it has been, - just what it was in Paradise before the fall of our first parents, - perfect obedience to the law of God, perfect righteousness. If eternal life were granted on any condition short of this, then the happiness of the whole universe would be imperiled.” Steps to Christ, p. 62.

SALVATION IS NOT EARNED BY OBEDIENCE

Let it be understood that we do not earn salvation by our obedience. Neither is there any merit in our obedience. Nevertheless, obedience is a condition of salvation. “We do not earn salvation by our obedience; for salvation is the free gift of God, to be received by faith. But obedience is the fruit of faith.” Ibid. p. 61.

“Let the subject be made distinct and plain that it is not possible to affect anything in our standing before God or in the gift of God to us through creature merit. Should faith and works purchase the gift of salvation for anyone, then the Creator is under obligation to the creature. Here is an opportunity for falsehood to be accepted as truth. If any man can merit salvation by anything he may do, then he is in the same position as the Catholic to do penance for his sins. Salvation, then, is partly of debt, that may be earned as wages. If man cannot, by any of his good works merit salvation, then it must be wholly of grace, received by man as a sinner because he receives and believes in Jesus. It is wholly a free gift.” Faith and Works, p.19, 20.

Our salvation is indeed wholly of grace, but how is this grace obtained? “We have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand.” Romans 5:2. Our access into this saving grace is not made possible by a dead faith. When by the faith of Jesus man finds access to the grace of God the result is “the righteousness of faith.” Romans 4:13. It is often asked, what is grace? The answer is just as often given that grace is unmerited favor. While that answer is true, the impression is often given that there is nothing that the human agent is to do to obtain God’s grace. We have seen, however, that we have access to God’s grace by faith. Man must exercise the faith given to him. Exercise of faith comes through obedience. Grace, faith, love, repentance, power to overcome, the new birth, righteousness, the saving truths of the Scriptures, cleansing, regeneration and renewing of the soul are all gifts from God. There is no merit on man’s part when he reaches out in faith to receive these gifts.

“True grace, which is of inestimable value, and which will endure the test of trial and adversity, is only obtained through faith and humble, prayerful obedience.” Testimonies for the Church, Vol.4, p.89, emphasis supplied.

“God’s inexhaustible supply of grace is awaiting the demand of every soul. It will heal every spiritual disease. By it hearts may be cleansed from all defilement. It unites human beings with Christ, enabling them to walk in the path of willing obedience. Through the influence of the Spirit of God, man is transformed; his taste is refined, his judgment sanctified, his heart cleansed; he becomes complete in Christ.” Signs of the Times, June 4, 1902.

“In order to have the benefits of God’s grace we must do our part; we must faithfully work and bring forth fruits meet for repentance. [Matt. 3:8].” Faith and Works, p. 47.

“Effort and labor are required on the part of the receiver of God’s grace.” Selected Messages, Book One, p. 381, 382.

FAITH NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR OBEDIENCE

The Nicolaitans of which Jesus warned in Revelation 2:6, 15 were a Gnostic sect that troubled the early Christian church with a false doctrine that is now troubling the church.

“But the doctrine is now largely taught that the Gospel of Christ has made the Law of God of no effect; that by “believing” we are released from the necessity of being doers of the word. But this is the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which Christ so unsparingly condemned.

“Those who are teaching this doctrine today have much to say in regard to faith and the righteousness of Christ; but they pervert the truth, and make it serve the cause of error. They declare that we have only to believe on Jesus Christ, and that faith is all sufficient; that the righteousness of Christ is the sinner’s credentials; that this imputed righteousness fulfills the law for us, and that we are under no obligation to obey the law of God. This class claims that Christ came to save sinners, and that He has saved them. ‘I am saved,’ they will repeat over and over again. But are they saved while transgressing the law of Jehovah? — No; for the garments of Christ’s righteousness are not a cloak for iniquity. Such teaching is a gross deception, and Christ became to these persons a stumbling-block as He did to the Jews, — to the Jews because they would not receive him as their personal Saviour; to these professed believers in Christ, because they separate Christ and the Law, and regard faith as a substitute for obedience.” The Signs of the Times, February 25, 1897, True Righteousness.

The apostle John, who warned of the evil works and teachings of the Gnostics (2 John 7-11), also warned the early Christians to not be deceived on what constitutes true righteousness. “Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is

righteous.” 1 John 3:7. James states the warning perhaps even stronger by warning everyone not to deceive themselves. “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. James 1:22. The Lord instructed Moses to tell the people what true righteousness is. “And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us.” Deuteronomy 6:25.

A subtle version of the Gnostic attack upon the law of God has come into the church. “Satan declared that it was impossible for the sons and daughters of Adam to keep the law of God, and thus charged upon God a lack of wisdom and love. If they could not keep the law, then there was fault with the Lawgiver. Men who are under the control of Satan repeat these accusations against God, in asserting that men cannot keep the law of God.” *The Signs of the Time*, January 16, 1896

THE ACTIVE OBEDIENCE OF FAITH

While it may not be outwardly stated that we cannot keep the law of God, it is nevertheless strongly implied if not stated outright that we cannot stop sinning. But the Scriptures says that “sin is the transgression of the law.” So to say, therefore, that one cannot stop sinning is the same as saying one cannot keep the law of God, which is the charge brought against God by those “who are under the control of Satan.”

It has been claimed that “the nature of sin” has “never been settled among Christians, much less among Seventh-day Adventists.” *Issues*, p.109. This is completely contrary to both Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy.

“Ministers who exhort sinners to be converted should distinctly define what sin is and what conversion from sin is. Sin is the transgression of the law. The convicted sinner must exercise repentance toward God for transgression of his law, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. The apostle gives us the true definition of sin. ‘Sin is the transgression of the law.’” *Redemption, or the Temptation of Christ in the Wilderness* (1874), p. 76, (*Review and Herald*, March 4, 1875).

Though we are not saved by our works, we are judged by them (Rev. 20:12). This is not to say that works — meaning works of faith — do not play a part in our salvation. Consider the faithful patriarch Noah. “By faith Noah being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.” Hebrews 11:7. Noah began building the ark one hundred and twenty years before the rain began to fall. For one hundred and twenty long years he preached and built. At last the ark was

finished. “Thus Noah did according to all that God commanded him, so did he.” Genesis 6:22.

Then the Lord gave command to gather his family together and enter into the ark. Again the word of God testifies: “And Noah did according unto all that the Lord commanded him.” Genesis 7:5. It took great faith for Noah to do what he did. Noah obeyed God, not just partially, but whole heartedly. Because Noah obeyed God’s command to build an ark, they had an ark to get into before the flood came. To state it clearly, Noah’s obedience preceded his salvation from the flood. “Noah obeyed and was saved.” *The Desire of Ages*, p. 634.

So it was with the three Hebrews who refused to bow to the image on the plain of Dura. They did not obey the king’s command, but obeyed God’s command instead. As a result they were thrown into the fiery furnace by the enraged king, but God saved them through the fire. Again obedience to God preceded their salvation from the fiery furnace. Daniel obeyed God instead of the king’s decree and was thrown into the lion’s den, but God saved him out of it. Daniel’s obedience preceded God’s salvation from the hungry lions.

Because of Gideon’s obedience, he was used as God’s instrument to save Israel from the Midianites. “Thus was Midian subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted up their heads no more. And the country was in quietness forty years in the days of Gideon.” Judges 8:28. Israel’s salvation from Midian followed Gideon’s obedience to God. What a lesson is here recorded for those who are in leadership positions. Many are the instances where victory for others is on account of the faithfulness of a few. Obedience to God always precedes salvation and deliverance by God. There are many examples in the Bible.

“Let us turn to the story of the paralytic at Bethesda. The poor sufferer was helpless; he had not used his limbs for thirty-eight years. Yet Jesus bade him, ‘Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.’ The sick man might have said, ‘Lord, if Thou wilt make me whole, I will obey Thy word.’ But, no, he believed Christ’s word, believed that he was made whole, and he made the effort at once; he willed to walk, and he did walk. He acted on the word of Christ, and God gave the power. He was made whole.” *Steps to Christ*, p. 50, emphasis supplied.

In effect, the paralytic might have said, “save me from my helpless condition, then I will obey you.” Instead he set his will to obey first and as he did this he received strength to obey the command of Christ.

“Jesus does not ask this sufferer to exercise faith in Him. He simply says, ‘Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.’ But the man’s faith takes hold upon that word. Every nerve and muscle thrills with new life, and healthful action comes to his crippled limbs. Without question he sets his will to obey the command of Christ, and all his muscles respond to his will. Springing to his feet, he finds himself an active man. . . . Jesus had given him no assurance of divine help. The man might have stopped to doubt, and lost his one chance of healing. But he believed Christ’s word, and in acting upon it he received strength.” *The Desire of Ages*, p, 202, 203, emphasis supplied.

It was by the infinite power of God that the paralytic was healed; but the paralytic did not receive healing until he had both believed and acted upon Christ’s word. It was only as he set his will to obey that he received strength to obey the command of Christ. He did not merely believe, but he believed and acted upon the command of Christ. This is an example of active, living faith. “Through the same faith we may receive spiritual healing... Believe His word, and it will be fulfilled. Put your will on the side of Christ. Will to serve Him, and in acting upon His word you will receive strength.” *Ibid*.

The paralytic did nothing to earn or merit the healing that he received. The healing was a free gift from Christ. But if the paralytic had not obeyed Christ’s command he would not have received the free gift of healing. His healing came with a condition - his obedience to Christ’s command. So it is with us spiritually. “We do not earn salvation by our obedience; for salvation is the free gift of God, to be received by faith.” *Steps to Christ*, p. 61.

...To Be Continued

PRAYER BRINGS INCREASED SPIRITUAL STRENGTH

By Ellen White

Those who seek God in secret telling the Lord their needs and pleading for help, will not plead in vain. “Thy Father which seeth in secret Himself shall reward thee openly.” As we make Christ our daily companion we shall feel that the powers of an unseen world are all around us; and by looking unto Jesus we shall become assimilated to His image. By beholding we become changed. The character is softened, refined, and ennobled for the heavenly kingdom. The sure result of our intercourse and fellowship with our Lord will be to increase piety, purity, and fervor. There will be a growing intelligence in prayer. We are receiving a divine education, and this is illustrated in a life of diligence and zeal. *Pr* 82.1

The soul that turns to God for its help, its support, its power, by daily, earnest prayer, will have noble

aspirations, clear perceptions of truth and duty, lofty purposes of action, and a continual hungering and thirsting after righteousness. By maintaining a connection with God, we shall be enabled to diffuse to others, through our association with them, the light, the peace, the serenity, that rule in our hearts. The strength acquired in prayer to God, united with persevering effort in training the mind in thoughtfulness and care-taking, prepares one for daily duties and keeps the spirit in peace under all circumstances. Strength and grace can be found in prayer. Sincere love is to be the ruling principle of the heart.

Devote your mind to spiritual things. Keep your mind from dwelling upon yourself. Cultivate a contented, cheerful spirit. You talk too much upon unimportant things. You gain no spiritual strength from this. If the strength spent in talking were devoted to prayer, you would receive spiritual strength and would make melody in your heart to God.

The greatest blessing that God can give to man is the spirit of earnest prayer. All heaven is open before the man of prayer....The ambassadors of Christ will have power with the people after they have, with earnest supplication, come before God.

We do not value the power and efficacy of prayer as we should. Prayer and faith will do what no power on earth can accomplish. We are seldom, in all respects, placed in the same position twice. We continually have new scenes and new trials to pass through, where past experience cannot be a sufficient guide. We must have the continual light that comes from God.



The strength acquired in prayer to God will prepare us for our daily duties. The temptations to which we are daily exposed make prayer a necessity. In order that we may be kept by the power of God through faith, the desires of the mind should be continually ascending in silent prayer. When we are surrounded by influences calculated to lead us away from God, our petitions for help and strength must be unwearied. Unless, this is so, we shall never be successful in breaking down pride and overcoming the power of temptation to sinful indulgences which keep us from the Saviour. The light of truth, sanctifying the life, will discover to the receiver the sinful passions of his heart which are striving for the mastery, and which make it necessary for him to stretch every nerve and exert all his powers to resist Satan that he may conquer through the merits of Christ.

You may have a deep and abiding sense of eternal things and that love for humanity which Christ has shown in His

life. A close connection with heaven will give the right tone to your fidelity and will be the ground of your success. Your feeling of dependence will drive you to prayer, and your sense of duty summon you to effort. Prayer and effort, effort and prayer, will be the business of your life. You must pray as though the efficiency and praise were all due to God, and labor as though duty were all your own. If you want power you may have it; it is waiting your draft upon it. Only believe in God, take Him at His word, act by faith, and blessings will come.

Pr 82.1-84.1- (Prayer Power, Chap 9)

I write this because many in the church are represented to me as seeing men like trees walking. They must have another and deeper experience before they discern the snares spread to take them in the net of the deceiver. There must be no halfway work done now. The Lord calls for stanch, decided, whole-souled men and women to stand in the gap, and make up the hedge.

There is a decided testimony to be borne by all our ministers in all our churches. God has permitted apostasies to take place in order to show how little dependence can be placed in man. We are always to look to God; His word is not Yea and Nay, but Yea and Amen. (NL No. 19, pp. 2, 3). 4BC 1152.8-9

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