

ALL HIS BIDDINGS
ARE
ENABLINGS

Section 1
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GOD'S LOVE
FOR THE
REMNANT CHURCH

Section 2
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Section One

ALL HIS BIDDINGS ARE ENABLINGS

It is Sabbath morning in old Jerusalem, bustling with worshippers en route to the temple. At the side of the pentagonal pool with its five porticos, close by the Sheep gate, lies a pathetic wreck of humanity, *'Deathlike, and coloured like a corpse's cheek.'*

For thirty eight long years, as the time approached for the periodic bubbling of elemental gases from the base of the pool, this poor wretch prevailed upon relatives and friends to carry him to the edge of the pool to await the fabled moving of the waters.

And he was not a pretty sight. Evidently paraplegic, with deep septic ulcers over the pressure areas of hips and ankles; wasted and shrunken limbs with fused, immobile joints; gaunt face with hollow, languid eyes; ever and anon lifting his head to gaze on the beckoning, sparkling waters. Always the hopelessness of the knowledge that, unaided, he could never reach the object of his long vigil – so near, and yet so far!

How could he know that on this very morning would come into his life One before whom misery, disease and even death itself must flee; at whose voice the very winds and waves were stilled – the Master of earth and sea and sky!

And yet, and yet – at this very same moment, when all hope of living until the waters should move again had almost departed, when alone and friendless, feeling that he was shut out of God's mercy, *'a tender compassionate face bent over him with the words, "Wilt thou be made whole?" -- Do you want to become well? Are you really in earnest about getting well?' John 5:6 {Amplified Bible}*

A flicker of hope came into his heart; he felt that in some way he was to have help.

'Jesus bids him *"Rise, take up thy bed and walk"*. With a new hope the sick man looks upon Jesus. The expression of His countenance,

the tones of His voice, are like no other. Love and power seem to breathe from His very presence. The cripple's faith takes hold upon Christ's word. Without question he sets his will to obey, and as he does this his whole body responds.

'Every nerve and muscle thrills with new life, and healthful action comes to his crippled limbs. Springing to his feet, he goes on his way with firm, free step, praising God and rejoicing in his new-found strength.He might have stopped to doubt, and thus have lost his one chance of healing. But no, he believed Christ's word, believed that he was made whole; immediately he made the effort, and God gave him the power; he willed to walk, and he did walk. Acting on the word of Christ, he was made whole.

'By sin we have been severed from the life of God. Our souls are palsied.....Let these desponding, struggling ones look up. The Saviour is bending over the purchase of His blood, saying with inexpressible tenderness and pity, "*Wilt thou be made whole?*" He bids you arise in health and peace. Do not wait to feel that you are made whole. Believe the Saviour's word. Put your will on the side of Christ. Will to serve Him, and in acting upon His word you will receive strength.'
MH 84

Here is a cameo portrait of the way God saves a soul and gives victory over sin in the life. When believing souls act upon their faith – make the effort to obey – God provides the power.

'As the will of man co-operates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent. Whatever is to be done at His command may be accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enablings.'
COL 333

Consider the Hebrews at the Red Sea. With the seemingly impassable barrier of the sea before them; shut in by rugged mountains, and in the distance the flashing armour and advancing chariots of the Egyptians behind them. But 'God in His providence brought the Hebrews into the mountain fastnesses before the sea, that He might manifest His power in their deliveranceThe people were weary and terrified, yet if they had held back when Moses bade them advance, God would never have opened the path

for them. It was "*by faith*" that "*they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land*." Hebrews 11:29. In marching down to the very water, they showed that they believed the word of God as spoken by Moses. They did all that was in their power to do, and **then** the Mighty One of Israel divided the sea to make a path for their feet.'

PP 290

Again, the same principle applied at the crossing of the Jordan prior to the fall of Jericho. At the appointed time, the priests moved forward bearing the ark, and not until they dipped their feet in the raging, swollen waters, did God open the path before them.

'All watched with deep interest as the priests advanced down the bank of the Jordan. They saw them with the sacred Ark move steadily forward toward the angry, surging stream, till the feet of the bearers were dipped into the waters. **Then** suddenly the tide above was swept back, while the current below flowed on, and the bed of the river was laid bare.'

PP 484

Just so the paralytic let down through the roof at Capernaum was required to **act** on his faith – "*I say unto thee, Arise,*" Mark 2:11 – and **then** the power for healing was supplied.

Similarly the man born blind, for whom Jesus made clay for his eyes, then bade him, "*Go wash in the pool of Siloam*." John 9:7. He did not receive his sight until he had obeyed the Lord's instruction. He washed, and came seeing.

Human effort was required in each case before God could fulfil His part to bring about the miracle. Throughout Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy this principle is consistent and clear. Like the Hebrews at the red Sea, we are to do all that is in our power to do, and **then** the Mighty One of Israel will graciously work in our behalf.

Does Man Have a Part to Play in His Salvation?

And yet, in spite of this clear principle, as early as 1922, 'a certain noted evangelist' taught at the late General Conference session: "Victory comes altogether the same as forgiveness The

Christian life is letting Christ do the Whole thing." {The Alpha & Omega of Apostasy – Julius Gilbert White p.24}

This is a widely accepted teaching among Adventists today. But, 'Such a substitute of the genuine righteousness of Christ by faith, taken from the confusion of Protestant religion, might appropriately be styled a "Babylonish garment."' Ibid p.25

This paper is not intended as an attack on any individual or group of people. It is born out of deep concern that God's people have moved away from our firm foundation. This is not an unnecessary theological quibble. It has vital implications for the eternal destiny of God's people.

And the issue being addressed here, in its simplest form comes down to the question: Does man have a part to play in the salvation process, or do we, as the above quoted evangelist said – "Let Christ do the whole thing?"

A few sample statements from the Messenger of the Lord will leave us in no doubt as to where Sister White stood on this question.

'But Christ has given us no assurance that to attain perfection of character is an easy matter. A noble, all-round character is not inherited. It does not come to us by accident. A noble character is earned by individual effort through the merits and grace of Christ. God gives the talents, the powers of the mind; we form the character. It is formed by hard, stern battles with self. Conflict after conflict must be waged against hereditary tendencies. We shall have to criticize ourselves closely, and allow not one unfavourable trait to remain uncorrected.'

COL 331

'Let no one imagine that it is an easy thing to overcome the enemy and that he can be borne aloft to an incorruptible inheritance without effort on his part. To look back is to grow dizzy; to let go the hold is to perish. Few appreciate the importance of striving constantly to overcome. They relax their diligence and, as a result, become selfish and self-indulgent. Spiritual vigilance is not thought to be essential.

Earnestness in human effort is not brought into the Christian life.'

5T 539

'Man must work with his human power, aided by the divine power of Christ, to resist and to conquer at any cost to himself. In short, man must overcome as Christ overcame. And then, through the victory that it is his privilege to gain by the all-powerful name of Jesus, he may become an heir of God and joint heir with Jesus Christ. This could not be the case if Christ alone did all the overcoming. Man must do **his** part; he must be victor on his own account, through the strength and grace that Christ gives him. Man must be a co-worker with Christ in the labour of overcoming, and then he will be partaker with Christ of His glory.'

4T 32, 33 –{ Emphasis in the Original}

'Everything that God could do has been done for the salvation of man. In one rich gift He poured out the treasures of heaven. He invites, He pleads, He urges; but He will not compel men to come unto Him. He waits for their co-operation. He waits for the consent of the will, that He may bestow upon the sinner the riches of His grace, reserved for him from the foundation of the world. A man does not build himself into an habitation for the Spirit, and unless there is a co-operation of man's will with God's will, the Lord can do nothing for him. Though the Lord is the great Master-worker, yet the human agent has his part to act with the divine worker, or the heavenly building cannot be completed. All the power is of God; yet all the responsibility rests with the human agent, for God can do nothing without the co-operation of man. The Lord does not design that human power should be paralysed; but that by co-operation with God, man may become a more efficient agent in his hands. Though weak, erring, frail, sinful, and imperfect, the Lord holds out to man the privilege of co-partnership with Himself.'

Messenger, April 26, 1893

'Jesus says, He "*hath nothing in Me.*" John 14:30. His victory is an assurance that we too may come off victors in our conflicts with the enemy. But it is not our heavenly Father's purpose to save us without an effort on our part to cooperate with Christ. We must act our part; and divine power, uniting with our effort, will bring victory.'

ST, August 10, 1915

'He who determines to enter the spiritual kingdom will find that all the powers and passions of an unregenerate nature, backed by the forces of the kingdom of darkness, are arrayed against him. Selfishness and pride will make a stand against anything that would show them to be sinful. We cannot, of ourselves, conquer the evil desires and habits that strive for the mastery. We cannot overcome the mighty foe who holds us in his thrall. God alone can give us the victory. He desires us to have the mastery over ourselves, our own will and ways. But He cannot work in us without our consent and co-operation. The divine Spirit works through the faculties and powers given to man. Our energies are required to co-operate with God.'

MB 141

'Day by day and year by year we shall conquer self and grow into a noble heroism. This is our allotted task; but it cannot be accomplished without continual help from Jesus, resolute decision, unwavering purpose, continual watchfulness, and unceasing prayer. Each one has a personal battle to fight. Each must win his own way through struggles and discouragements. Those who decline the struggle lose the strength and joy of victory. No one, not even God, can carry us to heaven unless we make the necessary effort on our part.'

5T 345

'Brethren, we are far behind. Many of the things which the church should do in order to be a living church are not done. Through the indulgence of perverted appetite, many place themselves in such a condition of health that there is a constant warring against the soul's highest interests. The truth, though presented in clear lines, is not accepted. I wish to set this matter before every member of our churches. Our habits must be brought into conformity to the will of God. We are assured, *"It is God which worketh in you,"* Philippians 2:13 but man must do his part in controlling appetite and passion. The religious life requires the action of mind and heart in harmony with the divine forces. No man can of himself work out his own salvation, and God cannot do this work for him without his cooperation. But when man works earnestly, God works with him, giving him power to become a son of God.' R & H, June 4, 1914

This is only a sample of the many, many statements on this topic, but notice that it says that unless we do our part, God cannot – cannot – do His.

Think of the eternal consequences of that! If we take the position that there is nothing that man can do in the salvation process (apart from accepting Jesus Christ), and that we must "let Christ do the whole thing", we are trusting in a false hope, for Sis. White clearly states that without our part, however small, God **cannot** do His. And if He does not do His mighty saving part for us in providing the power to overcome, we will finally come to the closing scenes of earth's history with the bitter cry, *"Summer is ended, harvest is past, and I am not saved."* Jeremiah 8:20.

No Merit in Our Works

Our 'works', our 'effort', earn us nothing, *"For by grace are ye saved through faith."* Ephesians 2:8 and yet we are required to:

"Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7.

"Fight the good fight of faith." 1 Timothy 6:12.

"Deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me."
Matthew 16:24.

"Endure unto the end." Matthew 24:13.

"And the reward is to the overcomers." Revelation 3:5, 12, 21.

Overcoming implies faith that works, not a passive, "let Christ do the whole thing," experience. We are to overcome as Christ overcame by trusting in His Father for His mighty, enabling grace, and acting upon His word.

The Scriptures are abundantly clear that we are saved by grace through faith, but that we are judged and receive our rewards on the basis of our actions.

For the Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and then He shall reward every man according to his works." Matthews 16:27.

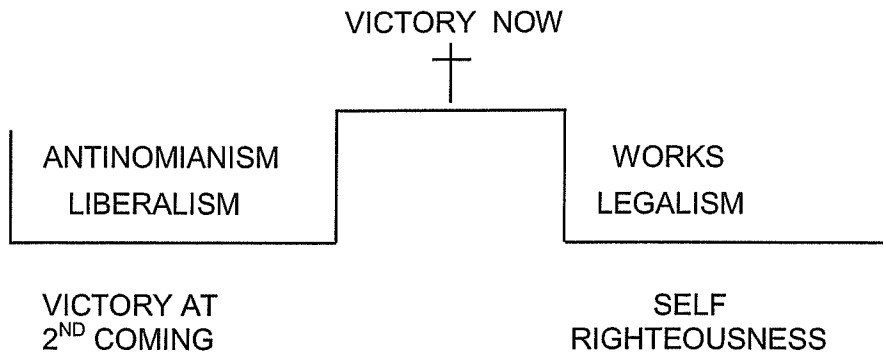
Paul, referring to the great Day of Judgment, declares that God “*will render to very man according to his deeds.*” Romans 2:6 {see also 2 Corinthians 5:10 and 1 Peter 1:17}.

There is no saving merit in our deeds, our works, our efforts, but our co-operation with God in overcoming demonstrates to God, to the unfallen worlds, to the devil that we are ‘really in earnest’ about becoming spiritually well, about overcoming in His might. Faith is believing God’s word, and acting upon it. Acting upon God’s word is the only way we can demonstrate the genuineness of our faith.

Everything in the Great Controversy has to be legal and fair, and be seen to be fair. If God were to favour people without their co-operation, Satan would cry FOUL! We have only to consider the experience of Job. Satan charged God with unfairly favouring Job, but God was vindicated by Job’s obedience and integrity.

Now some will declare, {assert emphatically – Pocket Oxford Dictionary}, that any suspicion of effort on man’s part in the salvation process is outright legalism. That would be true if believers relied on works to earn their salvation. But we have already shown that we are saved by grace, but judged by our works.

The pathway to heaven has a deep ditch on either side of it:



And the devil does not mind into which ditch we fall, so long as we do not stay in the middle of the King’s highway. And there is a spectrum of bias on either side toward each of these ditches.

On the right are the outright legalists – Pharisees – who trumpet their good deeds and proclaim the meritorious nature of their boasted righteousness. Others, nearer the middle of the road, would not go that far, but still believe somehow that they are awarded ‘Brownie Points’ for their compliance with external religious duties. There are sincere souls at every point between legalism and genuine righteousness by faith in Christ in the centre of the road.

The liberals occupy the ditch to the left of the road – antinomians. These believe that works of the law and ethical behaviour are totally excluded from righteousness by faith. To them righteousness by faith consists entirely in the justification experience, nothing more. To them there is a legal declaration of righteousness on the basis of Christ’s ‘finished work’ on Calvary. There, we were judged by Christ – the battle is over. Nothing man can do can add to that.

Just as there are shades of belief tending towards the right,
so there is a spectrum of positions on the left.

Perhaps one of the more common beliefs allows room for the sanctification experience, but holds that in seeking victory, man must get out of the way and let Christ do it all. That to put human effort into overcoming temptation is to somehow detract from Christ’s central role in the salvation process.

Justification and Sanctification

Underlying the teaching mentioned above is a misunderstanding of the relationship between justification and sanctification. These two aspects of salvation can never be **separated**. God will not justify a person whom He cannot sanctify. But neither must justification and sanctification be confused. Today there is a blurring of the distinction between the two. Let us examine these two vital components of the Gospel:

JUSTIFICATION

Title
God's work FOR us
Imputed
Work of a moment
All of Christ
Monergistic
i.e. God's work alone apart
from human effort or
work of any kind

SANCTIFICATION

Fitness
God's work IN us
Imparted
Work of a lifetime
Co-operation of man
Synergistic
i.e. A work which combines
divine power with human
effort

{see R & H June 4, 1895 par, 7}

Many today are confusing God's work IN us with God's work FOR us, and ignoring or denying the synergistic aspect of sanctification – the IMPARTED righteousness of Christ combined with human effort.

'It is thoroughly scriptural and right to say, "faith alone justifies". But it is not equally scriptural and right to say, "faith alone sanctifies". The saying requires very large qualifications. Let one fact suffice. We are frequently told that a man is "justified by faith without the deeds of the law", by St. Paul. But not once are we told that we are "sanctified by faith without the deeds of the law". On the contrary, we are expressly told by St. James that the faith whereby we are visibly and demonstratively justified before man, is a faith which *"if it hath not works is dead, being alone"*. {James 2:7}

'I may be told, in reply, that no one of course means to disparage "works" as an essential part of a holy life. It would be well, however, to make this more plain than many seem to make it these days.'

{Bishop J.C. Ryle, 'Holiness' p.9}

As the Messenger of the Lord wrote in 'Signs of the Times' June 16, 1890.6, 'We hear a great deal about faith, but we need to hear a great deal more about works.'

'The Testimonies for the Church' were not written so much to instruct the church in justification, (God's part alone), but to give guidance in the sanctification process in which we have a part. The Testimonies

describe the relationship to God that will lead the Christian to live reverently, knowing that his daily conduct reflects his attitude to God.'

7 BC 555.

'True sanctification is a Bible doctrine.... The followers of Christ are to become like Him – by the grace of God to form characters in harmony with the principles of His holy law. This is Bible sanctification.'

GC 469 – Chapter 'Modern Revivals'

The Gospel Call

In Matthew's gospel, Chapter 11 and verses 28 and 29 is recorded the sublime appeal or summons of the Saviour to a sin-burdened and weary world. V. 28 *"Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will GIVE you rest."*

This is the amazing gift of pardon and peace at Justification. When in contrition and penitence we heed the Saviour's call, having repented of our sins and sincerely confessed them, *"the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin."* 1 John 1:7 Calvary's crimson blood is applied to the record of confessed sins, and 'pardon' is written against those humiliating offences. *"Therefore being JUSTIFIED by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* Romans 5:1. *"For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."* Jeremiah 31:34.

But as with all of God's gracious promises, Romans 5:1 and Jeremiah 31:34 are conditional upon maintaining our forgiven status with heaven through daily contrition and confession. Just so long as we do this, we may be assured that once our sins are covered by the precious blood, those sins are remembered no more. We may then have a conscience void of offence toward God through His gracious merit. And when God looks at us in Christ, He sees not the filthy garment stained and polluted with sin, but the glorious white garment of Christ's righteousness. We may thus rest in the assurance of His love, and go on our way rejoicing.

This is the **rest** that Jesus **gives** to the *"heavy laden"* in verse 28. It is absolutely free, it cannot be bought or earned, and it speaks to us of the unspeakable riches of the gift God gave in giving His only

begotten Son. This is our Title to heaven – the work of a moment – the IMPUTED righteousness of Christ.

But in verse 29 we find there is more: *"Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall FIND rest unto your souls."*

The Messenger of the Lord has this to say: 'When in conversion the sinner finds peace with God through the blood of the atonement, the Christian life has but just begun. Now he is to *"go on unto perfection;"* to grow up *"unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."* And Peter sets before us the steps by which Bible sanctification is to be attained: *"Giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. . . . If ye do these things, ye shall never fall."* 2 Peter 1:5-10. GC 470

'These words are full of instruction, and strike the keynote of victory. The apostle presents before the believers the ladder of Christian progress, every step of which represents advancement in the knowledge of God, and in the climbing of which there is to be no standstill. Faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity are the rounds of the ladder. We are saved by climbing round after round, mounting step after step, to the height of Christ's ideal for us.' AA 530

'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 Saviour showed that through co-operation 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.' AA 531

Jesus assures us that in yoking up with Him, in entering the school of Christ, we shall FIND rest to our souls. *"For My yoke is EASY, and My burden is LIGHT."*

It is a co-operative, progressive process –
the work of a lifetime –
the IMPARTED righteousness of Christ –
our fitness for heaven –

SANCTIFICATION.

In the transaction of JUSTIFICATION

Jesus GIVES us rest.

In the lifelong process of SANCTIFICATION

we will FIND rest.

Day by day in our walk with the Lord, He takes the heavy end of the load. In all our trials and perplexities, we shall encounter nothing for which the Lord has not made provision, and He has promised never to leave us or forsake us. This is the experience we have been discussing throughout this paper. Praise God for our Mighty Helper, and that He has made provision for our every need, so that we may find rest and enabling power, no matter what circumstances may arise.

Some Wise Counsel

'Our interest must be submerged in Christ and we be able to say: *"I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me."* Christ has told us how to make everything easy and happy as we pass along: *"Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls."* The great difficulty is, there is so little meekness and lowliness that the yoke galls and the burden is heavy. When we possess true meekness and lowliness we are so lost in Christ that we do not take neglect or slights to heart; we are deaf to reproach and blind to scorn and insult.' 2T 566

'In trusting faith commit the keeping of your souls to God as unto a faithful Creator. Be not continually in fear and apprehension that God will leave you. He never will unless you depart from Him. Christ will come in and dwell with you if you will open the door of your hearts to

Him. There may be perfect harmony between you and the Father and His Son if you will die to self and live unto God.' 3T 542

Brethren, I too, am a learner in the school of Christ, and in many ways I have to admit, to my shame, that I have often been a slow learner. But thank the Lord, He is a wise and patient teacher, and to His eternal praise and glory, He is helping me to understand that

'ALL HIS BIDDINGS ARE ENABLINGS.'

SECTION TWO

Part 1

GOD'S LOVE FOR THE REMNANT CHURCH

PERFECTION REQUIRED

It is clearly taught in the Bible and in the Testimonies that those who will be redeemed from among men at Christ's second coming will be without fault. {Revelation 14:5}. Before they can have their sins blotted out and receive the refreshing of the latter rain – before they can be sealed with the seal of God – they must, through the means of grace which God has given in Jesus, attain to perfection of character.

All must have the righteousness of Christ imputed unto justification, and imparted unto sanctification. Under the power of the early rain they must be clothed with the robe of His righteousness. Through faith in Him they must do the works of His right-doing. We must attain unto holiness of life.

"Be ye holy; for I am holy." 1 Peter 1:16

"Be diligent that ye may be found of Him in peace, without spot, and blameless." 2 Peter 3:14

"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." 2 Corinthians 7:1

"That we may present every one perfect in Christ Jesus."

Colossians 1:28

"Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy." Romans 12:1

"Now yield your bodies servants to righteousness unto holiness."
Romans 6:19

"This is the will of God, even your sanctification."

1 Thessalonians 4:3

"God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness."
1 Thessalonians 4:7

"The very God of peace sanctify you wholly." 1 Thessalonians 5:23

"Be ye therefore perfect." Matthew 5:48

"Awake to righteousness, and sin not." 1 Corinthians 15:34

"Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not: Whosoever sinneth hath not seen Him, neither known Him." 1 John 3:6

"Not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified." Romans 2:13

"A glorious church, not having spot or wrinkleholy and without blemish." Ephesians 5:27

"Let us go on unto perfection." Hebrews 6:1

"Blessed are they that do His commandments." Revelation 22:14

"Sanctify them through Thy truth." John 17:17

"If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His."
Romans 8:9

"As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."
Romans 8:14

"He that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still." Revelation 22:11

"Holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Hebrews 12:14

"Holiness is agreement with God." 5T 743

"Holiness is wholeness for God; it is the entire surrender of heart, and life to the indwelling of the principles of heaven." DA 555

"True sanctification means perfect love, perfect obedience, perfect conformity to the will of God." AA 565

"Holiness is not rapture; it is the result of surrendering all to God; it is doing the will of our heavenly Father." MB 149

"Let a living faith run like threads of gold through the performance of even the smallest duties. Then all the daily work will promote Christian growth. There will be a continual looking unto Jesus. Love

for Him will give vital force to everything that is undertaken. Thus through the right use of our talents, we may link ourselves by a golden chain to the higher world. This is true sanctification; for sanctification consists in the cheerful performance of daily duties in perfect obedience to the will of God.' COL 360

'The ethics inculcated by the gospel acknowledge no standard but the perfection of God's mind, God's will. All righteous attributes of character dwell in God as a perfect, harmonious whole. Everyone who receives Christ as his personal Saviour is privileged to possess these attributes. This is the science of holiness.' 7T 276

'Sanctification is not merely a theory, an emotion, or a form of words, but a living, active principle, entering into the everyday life. It requires that our habits of eating, drinking, and dressing be such as to secure the preservation of physical, mental, and moral health....' CH 67

'Holiness is not rapture: it is an entire surrender of the will to God; it is living by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God; it is doing the will of our heavenly Father; it is trusting God in trial, in darkness as well as in the light; it is walking by faith and not by sight; it is relying on God with unquestioning confidence, and resting in His love.' AA 51

'Sanctification is not the work of a moment, an hour, a day, but of a lifetime. It is not gained by a happy flight of feeling, but is the result of constantly dying to sin, and constantly living for Christ.' AA 560

The holiest Christians are the humblest Christians. No one will ever parade or boast his own holiness. The nearer he comes to Christ, the more faulty he will look to himself – the more he will realize what a failure his whole past life has been.

While living a life of victory, he fully recognizes that his natural flesh is no good thing, that his own righteousness is filthy rags. The life he now lives of triumph over sin, he lives by constant trust in Jesus. This victory he enjoys in Christ calls forth from his heart constant praise and gives him sacred holy joy. All who gain this experience will find that during the coming time of trial they will be unable to 'bring their sins to remembrance.'

GC 620

Do not become discouraged as you read the remainder of this chapter. God means exactly what He says and in the next chapter we shall learn the secrets of victory. May these solemn words lead us to full repentance. Heaven and Jesus, peace and pardon, are worth every earthly treasure.

'The least deviation from right and principle will lead to separation from God and may end in apostasy.' 4T 578

'Those who fail to grow in grace, not seeking to reach the highest standard in divine attainments, will be overcome.' 5T 104

'What we do not overcome, will overcome us and work out our destruction.' SC 32

'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.' 5T 214

'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..... None can neglect or defer this work but at the most fearful peril to their souls.' GC 623

'The obedience that Christ rendered God requires from human beings today. He served His Father with love, in willingness and freedom. *"I delight to do Thy will, O My God,"* He declared; *"yea, Thy law is within My heart."* Psalms 40:8. Christ counted no sacrifice too great, no toil too hard, in order to accomplish the work which He came to do.' COL 282

'Almost Christians, yet not fully Christians, they seem near the kingdom of heaven, but they cannot enter there. Almost but not wholly saved, means to be not almost but wholly lost.' COL 118

'In order that the earthly tabernacle might represent the heavenly, it must be perfect in all its parts, and it must be, in every smallest detail, like the pattern in the heavens. So it is with the characters of those who are finally accepted in the sight of heaven.' CT 60

'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.'

COL 315

'The righteousness of Christ will not cover one cherished sin.'

COL 316

'The Lord expects no less of the soul now than He expected of man in Paradise, perfect obedience, unblemished righteousness. The requirement under the covenant of grace is just as broad as the requirement made in Eden--harmony with God's law, which is holy, just, and good.'

COL 391

'But unless the human agent brings his will into harmony with the will of God, unless he forsakes every idol and overcomes every wrong practice, he will not succeed in the warfare, but will be finally overcome. Those who would be conquerors must engage in conflict with unseen agencies; inward corruption must be overcome, and every thought must be brought into subjection to Christ.' CT 237

'Those who receive the seal of the living God and are protected in the time of trouble must reflect the image of Jesus fully.' EW 71

'If you choose sin, and refuse to separate from it, the presence of God, which consumes sin, must consume you.' MB 62

'God is leading out a people who are peculiar. He will cleanse and purify them, and fit them for translation. Every carnal thing will be separated from God's peculiar treasures until they shall be like gold seven times purified.'

1T 430

'I know that a work must be done for the people, or many will not be prepared to receive the light of the angel sent down from heaven to lighten the whole earth with his glory. Do not think that you will be found as vessels unto honor in the time of the latter rain, to receive the glory of God, if you are lifting up your souls unto vanity, speaking perverse things, in secret cherishing roots of bitterness.' TM 468

'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.'

8T 331

'To him prayer was as the breath of the soul. He lived in the atmosphere of heaven.'

8T 330

'I entreat you, brethren, to come to Christ and drink; drink freely of the water of salvation. Do not appeal to your own feelings. Do not think that sentimentalism is religion. Shake yourself from every human prop and lean heavily upon Christ.....Each one will have a close struggle to overcome sin in his own heart.....we should look to Jesus and put on the robe of His righteousness. Everyone who enters the pearly gates of the city of God will enter there as a conqueror, and his greatest conquest will have been the conquest of self.'

9T 182

'Not to all who would enter will the gates of that city be opened, but to those only who have studied to know God's will, and have yielded their lives to His control.'

CT 109

'We do not belong to Christ unless we are His wholly.'

COL 50

'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.'

5T 216

'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.'

EW 71

'No sin can be tolerated in those who shall walk with Christ in white. The filthy garments are to be removed, and Christ's robe of righteousness is to be placed upon us. By repentance and faith we are enabled to render obedience to all the commandments of God, and are found without blame before Him. Those who shall meet the approval of God are now afflicting their souls, confessing their sins, and earnestly pleading for pardon through Jesus their Advocate.'

5T 472

'...The righteousness and strength of Christ avail for all who will claim His merits. Then let earnest and determined effort be made to beat back the terrible foe. We want on the whole armour of righteousness. Time is passing, and we are fast approaching the close of our probation.'

5T 384

'No deficiency of character will be immortalized and mar heaven with its imperfection.'

R & H, November 20, 1894

'God leads His people on, step by step. He brings them up to different points calculated to manifest what is in the heart. Some endure at one point, but fall off at the next. At every advanced point the heart is tested and tried a little closer. If the professed people of God find their hearts opposed to this straight work, it should convince them that they have a work to do to overcome, if they would not be spewed out of the mouth of the Lord. Said the angel: "God will bring His work closer and closer to test and prove every one of His people." Some are willing to receive one point; but when God brings them to another testing point, they shrink from it and stand back, because they find that it strikes directly at some cherished idol. Here they have opportunity to see what is in their hearts that shuts out Jesus.'

'They prize something higher than the truth, and their hearts are not prepared to receive Jesus. 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 these 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.'

1T 187

'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.'

'The soul that is yielded to Christ becomes His own fortress, which He holds in a revolted world, and He intends that no authority shall

be known in it but His own. A soul thus kept in possession by the heavenly agencies is impregnable to the assaults of Satan.

'But unless we do yield ourselves to the control of Christ, we shall be dominated by the wicked one. We must inevitably be under the control of the one or the other of the two great powers that are contending for the supremacy of the world.

'It is not necessary for us deliberately to choose the service of the kingdom of darkness in order to come under its dominion. We have only to neglect to ally ourselves with the kingdom of light. If we do not co-operate with the heavenly agencies, Satan will take possession of the heart, and will make it his abiding place.

'The only defense against evil is the indwelling of Christ in the heart through faith in His righteousness.

'Unless we become vitally connected with God, we can never resist the unhallowed effects of self-love, self-indulgence, and temptation to sin. We may leave off many bad habits, for the time we may part company with Satan; but without a vital connection with God, through the surrender of ourselves to Him moment by moment, we shall be overcome. Without a personal acquaintance with Christ, and a continual communion, we are at the mercy of the enemy, and shall do his bidding in the end.'

DA 324

"He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels." Revelation 3:5

SECTION TWO

Part 2

GOD'S LOVE FOR THE REMNANT CHURCH

PERFECTION POSSIBLE

In the chain which God has let down from heaven to save this lost world, there are three links –

Justification is for the repenting sinner

Sanctification is for the justified

Glorification at the coming of Jesus is for the sanctified

To enter into justification, the new-birth state, where the sinner becomes a child of God, one must take four steps. These four steps are:

Accepting Jesus as a personal Saviour
Repentance
Confession
Baptism

He who sincerely takes these four steps will have his sins forgiven and will have his name written in the 'Book of Life' in heaven. The Holy Spirit will then enter his heart to teach him all truths, to assist him in gaining the victory over all sin, and in perfecting holiness of life.

One reason many do not grow in grace unto sanctification more quickly, is that they have not fully entered into justification. We will therefore spend a little time on this beginning step, before going on to consider the means of grace provided for complete victory over sin. Study this statement very carefully:

'God requires the entire surrender of the heart, before justification can take place; and in order for man to retain justification, there must be continual obedience, through active, living faith that works by love and purifies the soul.' R & H, November 4, 1890

True repentance is to stop every thing we know to be wrong – all that is out of harmony with the will of God – and to do every thing that we know is our duty to do. When we do this and in the name of Jesus confess our sins, God forgives.

We will not take space in this small volume for a lengthy study on faith, repentance, and confession – the steps which lead us to God and forgiveness for past sins. We urge you to study these from the Bible and the Testimonies. We have been told that our people are more ignorant of the plan of salvation than of any other doctrine. This book is especially for those who are determined to go on beyond justification to holiness of life that they might share in the loud cry of the third angel and be ready for translation. We do, however, add a few more statements to help you in taking the first step.

'The righteousness by which we are justified is imputed; the righteousness by which we are sanctified is imparted. The first is our title to heaven; the second is our fitness for heaven.'

RH, June 4, 1895

'No repentance is genuine that does not work reformation. The righteousness of Christ is not a cloak to cover unconfessed and unforsaken sin; it is a principle of life that transforms the character and controls the conduct. Holiness is wholeness for God; it is the entire surrender of heart and life to the indwelling of the principles of heaven.' DA 555.

'There are some who seem to be always seeking for the heavenly pearl. But they do not make an entire surrender of their wrong habits. They do not die to self that Christ may live in them. Therefore they do not find the precious pearl. They have not overcome unholy ambition and their love for worldly attractions. They do not take up the cross and follow Christ in the path of self-denial and sacrifice. Almost Christians, yet not fully Christians, they seem near the kingdom of

heaven, but they cannot enter there. Almost but not wholly saved, means to be not almost but wholly lost.' COL 118

'When the thought of evil is loved and cherished, however secretly, said Jesus, it shows that sin still reigns in the heart. The soul is still in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity.....To prevent disease from spreading to the body and destroying life, a man would submit to part even with his right hand. Much more should he be willing to surrender that which imperils the life of the soul.' MB 60

'He who does not give himself wholly to God is under the control of another power, listening to another voice, whose suggestions are of an entirely different character. Half-and-half service places the human agent on the side of the enemy as a successful ally of the hosts of darkness..... The strongest bulwark of vice in our world is not the iniquitous life of the abandoned sinner or the degraded outcast; it is that life which otherwise appears virtuous, honorable, and noble, but in which one sin is fostered, one vice indulged.'

MB 94

'But the way to life is narrow and the entrance strait. If you cling to any besetting sin you will find the way too narrow for you to enter.'

MB 139

'Those who would rather die than perform a wrong act are the only ones who will be found faithful.'

5T 53

'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.'

5T 103

'Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God's ideal for His children. Godliness – godlikeness – is the goal to be reached. Before the student there is opened a path of continual progress. He has an object to achieve, a standard to attain, that includes everything good, and pure, and noble. He will advance as fast and as far as possible in every branch of true knowledge. But his efforts will be directed to objects as much higher than mere selfish and temporal interests as the heavens are higher than the earth.'

Ed 18

'Even the heathen who choose the right as far as they can distinguish it are in a more favorable condition than are those who have had great light, and profess to serve God, but who disregard the light, and by their daily life contradict their profession.'

DA 239

'We are living at a time when Satan is at work on the right hand and on the left, before and behind us; and yet as a people we are asleep. God wills that a voice shall be heard arousing His people to action.'

5T 708

'By every sin Jesus is wounded afresh; and as we look upon Him whom we have pierced, we mourn for the sins that have brought anguish upon Him. Such mourning will lead to the renunciation of sin.'

DA 300

'He who desires to know the truth must be willing to accept all that it reveals. He can make no compromise with error. To be wavering and half-hearted in allegiance to truth is to choose the darkness of error and satanic delusion.'

DA 312

'Worldly policy and the undeviating principles of righteousness do not blend into each other imperceptibly, like the colours of the rainbow. Between the two a broad, clear line is drawn by the eternal God. The likeness of Christ stands out as distinct from that of Satan as midday in contrast with midnight. And only those who live the life of Christ are His co-workers. If one sin is cherished in the soul, or one wrong practice retained in the life, the whole being is contaminated. The man becomes an instrument of unrighteousness.'

DA 313

Since it is through test and trial that we become strong, and grow in faith and love, we also give a few precious statements on this means of grace.

'Our work must be accompanied with deep humiliation, fasting, and prayer. We must not expect all peace and joy. There will be sadness; but if we sow in tears we shall reap in joy. Darkness and despondency may at times enter the heart of the self-sacrificing ones; but this is not against them. It may be God's design to cause them to seek Him more earnestly.'

5T 134

'Worry is blind, and cannot discern the future; but Jesus sees the end from the beginning. In every difficulty He has His way prepared to bring relief. Our heavenly Father has a thousand ways to provide for us, of which we know nothing. Those who accept the one principle of making the service and honour of God supreme will find perplexities vanish, and a plain path before their feet.'

DA 330

'I saw that God would be to you a very present help if you would only trust yourself with Him; but you worry yourself out of the arms of your dear, loving Saviour.'

2T 319

'Jesus cares for each one as though there were not another individual on the face of the earth. As Deity He exerts mighty power in our behalf, while as our Elder Brother He feels for all our woes. The Majesty of heaven held not Himself aloof from degraded, sinful humanity. We have not a high priest who is so high, so lifted up, that He cannot notice us or sympathize with us, but one who was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.'

5T 346

'You commit sin and deny your Saviour by dwelling on gloomy things, by gathering trials to yourself, and by borrowing troubles. You bring the troubles of tomorrow into today, and embitter your own heart, and bring burdens and a cloud upon those around you, by manufacturing trials.'

3T 332

'The truth of God received into the heart is able to make you wise unto salvation. In believing and obeying it you will receive grace sufficient for the duties and trials of today. Grace for tomorrow you do not need. You should feel that you have only to do with today. Overcome for today; deny self for today; watch and pray for today; obtain victories in God for today.'

3T 333

'Through affliction God reveals to us the plague spots in our characters, that by His grace we may overcome our faults. Unknown chapters in regard to ourselves are opened to us, and the test comes, whether we will accept the reproof and the counsel of God. When brought into trial, we are not to fret and complain. We should not rebel, or worry ourselves out of the hand of Christ.'

DA 301

'The more closely the people of God strive to imitate Christ, the more perseveringly will they be pursued by the enemy; but their nearness to Christ strengthens them to resist the efforts of our wily foe to draw them from Christ.'

1T 405

'Not one of us is excusable, under any form of trial, for letting our hold upon God become loosened. He is our source of strength, our stronghold in every trial. When we cry unto Him for help, his hand will be stretched forth mightily to save.'

4T 328

'The purification of the people of God cannot be accomplished without their suffering. God permits the fires of affliction to consume

the dross, to separate the worthless from the valuable, that the pure metal may shine forth. He passes us from one fire to another, testing our true worth. If we cannot bear these trials, what will we do in the time of trouble? If prosperity or adversity discover falseness, pride, or selfishness in our hearts, what shall we do when God tries every man's work as by fire, and lays bare the secrets of all hearts?'

4T 85

'God's work of refining and purifying must go on until His servants are so humbled, so dead to self, that, when called into active service, their eye will be single to His glory. He will then accept their efforts; they will not move rashly, from impulse; they will not rush on and imperil the Lord's cause, being slaves to temptations and passions and followers of their own carnal minds set on fire by Satan. Oh, how fearfully is the cause of God marred by man's perverse will and unsubdued temper! How much suffering he brings upon himself by following his own headstrong passions! God brings men over the ground again and again, increasing the pressure until perfect humility and a transformation of character bring them into harmony with Christ and the spirit of heaven, and they are victors over themselves.'

4T 86

'Those who have not the peculiar trials to which another is subjected may flatter themselves that they are better than he. But place them in the furnace of trial, and they might not endure it nearly as well as the one they censure and misjudge. How little we can know of the heart anguish of another.'

5T 55

'You need not be surprised if with hammer and chisel God cuts away the sharp corners of your character until you are prepared to fill the place He has for you. No human being can accomplish this work. Only by God can it be done. And be assured that He will not strike one useless blow. His every blow is struck in love, for your eternal happiness. He knows your infirmities and works to restore, not to destroy.'

7T 264

'The fact that we are called upon to endure trial proves that the Lord Jesus sees in us something very precious, which He desires to develop. If He saw in us nothing whereby He might glorify His name He would not spend time in refining us. We do not take special pains in pruning brambles. Christ does not cast worthless stones into His furnace. It is valuable ore that He tests.'

7T 214

'The perfect fruit of faith, meekness, and love often matures best amid storm clouds and darkness.'

COL 61

'Outward troubles cannot reach the life that is lived by faith in the Son of God.'

MB 85

'The blessed Saviour stands by many whose eyes are so blinded by tears that they do not discern Him. He longs to clasp our hands, to have us look to Him in simple faith, permitting Him to guide us. His heart is open to our griefs, our sorrows, and our trials. He has loved us with an everlasting love and with loving-kindness compassed us about. We may keep the heart stayed upon Him and meditate upon His loving-kindness all the day. He will lift the soul above the daily sorrow and perplexity, into a realm of peace.'

MB 12

'Every one should be taught to cherish hope and faith; but even when we give ourselves to Christ and know that He accepts us, we are not beyond the reach of temptation. God's word declares, "*Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried.*" Dan. 12:10. Only he who endures the trial will receive the crown of life. (James 1:12.)'

COL 155

'In the whole Satanic force there is not power to overcome one soul who in simple trust casts himself on Christ. "*He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might He increaseth strength.*" Isaiah 40:29.'

COL 157

'Neither wicked men nor devils can hinder the work of God, or shut out His presence from His people, if they will, with subdued, contrite hearts, confess and put away their sins, and in faith claim His promises. Every temptation, every opposing influence, whether open or secret, may be successfully resisted, "*not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.*" Zechariah 4:6.'

GC 529

'When trials arise that seem unexplainable, we should not allow our peace to be spoiled. However unjustly we may be treated, let not passion arise. By indulging a spirit of retaliation we injure ourselves. We destroy our own confidence in God, and grieve the Holy Spirit. There is by our side a witness, a heavenly messenger, who will lift up for us a standard against the enemy. He will shut us in with the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness. Beyond this Satan cannot penetrate. He cannot pass this shield of holy light.'

COL 171

'If we surrender our lives to His service, we can never be placed in a position for which God has not made provision. Whatever may be our situation, we have a Guide to direct our way; whatever our perplexities, we have a sure Counselor; whatever our sorrow, bereavement, or loneliness, we have a sympathizing Friend. If in our ignorance we make missteps, Christ does not leave us. His voice, clear and distinct, is heard saying, *"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life."* John 14:6. *"He shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper."* Psalms 72:12.' COL 173

'Notwithstanding the many influences which arise to divert and distract the mind, those who honestly seek God for wisdom will be guided into the right course. Every man must at last stand or fall for himself, not according to the opinion of the party that sustains or opposes him, not according to the judgment of any man, but according to his real character in the sight of God. The church may warn, counsel, and admonish, but it cannot compel any to take a right course. Whoever persists in disregarding the word of God must bear his own burden, answer to God for himself, and suffer the consequences of his own course.' 5T 247

'God does not say, Ask once, and you shall receive. He bids us ask. Unwearyingly persist in prayer. The persistent asking brings the petitioner into a more earnest attitude, and gives him an increased desire to receive the things for which he asks.' COL 145

'Into the experience of all there come times of keen disappointment and utter discouragement--days when sorrow is the portion, and it is hard to believe that God is still the kind benefactor of His earthborn children; days when troubles harass the soul, till death seems preferable to life. It is then that many lose their hold on God and are brought into the slavery of doubt, the bondage of unbelief. Could we at such times discern with spiritual insight the meaning of God's providences we should see angels seeking to save us from ourselves, striving to plant our feet upon a foundation more firm than the everlasting hills, and new faith, new life, would spring into being.' PK 162

God has given to us *".....exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye (we) might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."* 2 Peter 1:4

Altogether we find seven means of grace whereby we are to grow into perfection – into the divine nature. These are:

Faith
Trial
Bible and Testimony Study
The Former-Rain of the Holy Spirit
The Help of Angels
Prayer
Service

Any one who will feed upon the promises in the remainder of this section, and appropriate these wonderful means of grace to himself, if he is willing to part with all sin, cannot fail of living a victorious life, and will be ready for the refreshing latter rain. *"So then faith cometh by hearing,..... the word of God."* Romans 10:17

'No matter how weak you are, or how strong a hold sin has upon you, Christ can make you free. The Bible records many difficult cases. Four men took such an interest in one poor man that they carried him to Jesus. When he came into the presence of the Healer, via the roof, Jesus commanded him to do the very thing he had been unable to do for years – told him to arise and walk. When he willed to obey, Jesus performed a miracle to enable him to walk. He will do the same for us.

'Job was a man naturally good but he needed Jesus also. Of him we read: 'When Job caught a glimpse of his Creator, he abhorred himself and repented in dust and ashes. Then the Lord was able to bless him abundantly and to make his last years the best of his life.' PK 164

To the woman taken in adultery Jesus said: *"..... 'Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more."* John 8:11. Her heart was melted, and she cast herself at the feet of Jesus, sobbing out her grateful love, and with bitter tears confessing her sins. This was to her the beginning of a new life, a life of purity and peace, devoted to the service of God. In the uplifting of this fallen soul, Jesus performed a greater miracle than in healing the most grievous physical disease; He cured the spiritual malady which is unto death everlasting. This

penitent woman became one of His most steadfast followers. With self-sacrificing love and devotion she repaid His forgiving mercy.'

DA 462.

Those who have been forgiven much love much. 'Mary had been looked upon as a great sinner, but Christ knew the circumstances that had shaped her life. He might have extinguished every spark of hope in her soul, but He did not. It was He who had lifted her from despair and ruin. Seven times she had heard His rebuke of the demons that controlled her heart and mind. She had heard His strong cries to the Father in her behalf. She knew how offensive is sin to His unsullied purity, and in His strength she had overcome.'

Praise God for such a Saviour. 'When to human eyes her case appeared hopeless, Christ saw in Mary capabilities for good. He saw the better traits of her character. The plan of redemption has invested humanity with great possibilities, and in Mary these possibilities were to be realized. Through His grace she became a partaker of the divine nature. The one who had fallen, and whose mind had been a habitation of demons, was brought very near to the Saviour in fellowship and ministry. It was Mary who sat at His feet and learned of Him. It was Mary who poured upon His head the precious anointing oil, and bathed His feet with her tears. Mary stood beside the cross, and followed Him to the sepulcher. Mary was first at the tomb after His resurrection. It was Mary who first proclaimed a risen Saviour.'

DA 568.

Before quoting these many precious promises, we will call your attention to the chapter in 'Early Writings' on "The Shaking". Here Sister White gives us a word picture of the two classes of professed Christians which are in the church just before the latter rain falls. That time is now! We all belong to one class or the other.

Of those who are finally to receive the latter rain because they had obtained the victory under the early rain, she says:

'I saw some, with strong faith and agonizing cries, pleading with God. Their countenances were pale and marked with deep anxiety, expressive of their internal struggle. Firmness and great

earnestness was expressed in their countenances; large drops of perspiration fell from their foreheads. Now and then their faces would light up with the marks of God's approbation, and again the same solemn, earnest, anxious look would settle upon them.'

EW 269

Evil angels crowded around them but God's good angels were there also to help them in their struggle for victory – to give them courage to accept and preach the straight testimony.

The other class were careless and indifferent. They did not take part in the work of agonizing and pleading for victory. The angels of God finally leave them to the control of evil angels and hasten to aid those who are in earnest. Those who did not prize salvation enough to exalt the straight testimony in their lives, who were not willing to heed the counsel of the True Witness and meet every test and overcome, who would not pray earnestly for it, and in faith reach forth for perfection – they were forsaken by the holy angels and were shaken out of the church. They will be shaken out of the church because they are – shaky about the straight testimony.

The thought we wish to notice here is that the fully-surrendered, earnest, praying company, who exalt the standard and do not rebel at the straight testimony, *obtain the victory!* 'It called forth from them the deepest gratitude and holy, sacred joy.' EW 270

Evil angels can now have no power over them. They are clothed with the armour of Ephesians 6, and they unitedly preach the truth with power. Much real fruit is gathered. The servant of the Lord asked her angel what had caused the great change, and he replied: 'It is the latter rain, the refreshing from the presence of the Lord, the loud cry of the third angel.'

EW 271

You may be among this happy, victorious company who receive the refreshing seal, if you will pay the price. Now read these wonderful, life-giving promises:

'When it becomes the habit of the soul to converse with God, the power of the evil one is broken; for Satan cannot abide near the soul that draws nigh unto God.' R & H Dec. 3, 1889

'Those who overcome much, love Jesus the most, and in that day, when every one is rewarded according to his works, they will be put next to Christ, within the inner circle; honored, yes, greatly honored. *"He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels."* Revelation 3:5. ST, October 22, 1896

'To all who are reaching out to feel the guiding hand of God, the moment of greatest discouragement is the time when divine help is nearest. They will look back with thankfulness upon the darkest part of their way. *"The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly,"* 2 Peter 2:9. From every temptation and every trial He will bring them forth with firmer faith and a richer experience.' DA 528

'Christ promised that the Holy Spirit should abide with those who wrestle for victory over sin, to demonstrate the power of divine might by endowing the human agent with supernatural strength and instructing the ignorant in the mysteries of the kingdom of God. Of what avail would it be to us that the only begotten Son of God humbled Himself, endured the temptations of the wily foe, and died, the just for the unjust, if the Spirit had not been given as a constant, working, regenerating agent, to make effectual in each individual case what has been wrought out by the world's Redeemer?' GW 286

'All who long to bear the likeness of the character of God shall be satisfied. The Holy Spirit never leaves unassisted the soul who is looking unto Jesus. He takes of the things of Christ and shows them unto him. If the eye is kept fixed on Christ, the work of the Spirit ceases not until the soul is conformed to His image.' DA 302

'We cannot discern the character of God, or accept Christ by faith, unless 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. In Christ *"dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and in Him ye are made full."* Colossians 2:9, 10, R. V.' DA 181

'Christ always separates the contrite soul from sin. He came to destroy the works of the devil, and He has made provision that the Holy Spirit shall be imparted to every repentant soul, to keep him from sinning.' DA 311

'Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church.' DA 671

'Impress upon all the necessity of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the sanctification of the members of the church, so that they will be living, growing, fruit-bearing trees of the Lord's planting.' 6T 85

'The impartation of the Spirit is the impartation of the life of Christ. Those only who are thus taught of God, those only who possess the inward working of the Spirit, and in whose life the Christ-life is manifested, can stand as true representatives of the Saviour.' GW 285

'For our God delights to do *"exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think."* Ephesians 3:20. 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. Our Lord Himself has given the command, *"Be filled with the Spirit"* Ephesians 5:18, and this command is also a promise of its fulfillment. It was the good pleasure of the Father that in Christ should *"all the fullness dwell,"* Colossians 1:19, R.V and *"in Him ye are made full."* Colossians 2:10, R.V.' MB 20

'Prayer is heaven's ordained means of success in the conflict with sin and the development of Christian character. The divine influences that come in answer to the prayer of faith will accomplish in the soul of the suppliant all for which he pleads. For the pardon of sin, for the Holy Spirit, for a Christlike temper, for wisdom and strength to do His work, for any gift He has promised, we may ask; and the promise is, *"Ye shall receive."* AA 564.

'We may close every door to impure imaginings and unholy thoughts by lifting the soul into the presence of God through sincere prayer. Those whose hearts are open to receive the support and blessing of God will walk in a holier atmosphere than that of earth and will have constant communion with heaven.' SC 99

'I saw how this grace could be obtained. Go to your closet, and there alone plead with God: *"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."* Psalms 51:10 Be in earnest, be sincere. Fervent prayer availeth much. Jacob-like, wrestle in prayer. Agonize. Jesus, in the garden, sweat great drops of blood; you must make an effort. Do not leave your closet until you feel strong in God; then watch, and just as long as you watch and pray you can keep these evil besetments under, and the grace of God can and will appear in you.'

1T 158

'Those who will put on the whole armor of God and devote some time every day to meditation and prayer and to the study of the Scriptures will be connected with heaven and will have a saving, transforming influence upon those around them. Great thoughts, noble aspirations, clear perceptions of truth and duty to God, will be theirs. They will be yearning for purity, for light, for love, for all the graces of heavenly birth. Their earnest prayers will enter into that within the veil. This class will have a sanctified boldness to come into the presence of the Infinite One. They will feel that heaven's light and glories are for them, and they will become refined, elevated, ennobled by this intimate acquaintance with God. Such is the privilege of true Christians.'

5T 112

'The greatest victories which are gained to the cause are not by labored argument, ample facilities, abundance of influence, and plenty of means; but they are those victories which are gained in the audience chamber with God, when earnest, agonizing faith lays hold upon the mighty arm of power.'

4T 443

'Only the work accomplished with much prayer, and sanctified by the merit of Christ, will in the end prove to have been efficient for good.'

DA 362

'All that man has, God has given him, and he who improves his abilities to God's glory will be an instrument to do good; but we can no more live a religious life without constant prayer and the performance of religious duties than we can have physical strength without partaking of temporal food.'

4T 560

'If the Saviour of men, with His divine strength, felt the need of prayer, how much more should feeble, sinful mortals feel the necessity of prayer--fervent, constant prayer! When Christ was the

most fiercely beset by temptation, He ate nothing. He committed Himself to God and, through earnest prayer and perfect submission to the will of His Father, came off conqueror. Those who profess the truth for these last days, above every other class of professed Christians, should imitate the great Exemplar in prayer.'

2T 202

'No man is safe for a day or an hour without prayer.'

GC 530

'With watchfulness and prayer their weakest points can be so guarded as to become their strongest points, and they can encounter temptation without being overcome.'

2T 511

'The path of sincerity and integrity is not a path free from obstruction, but in every difficulty we are to see a call to prayer.'

DA 667

'Men and women who profess to be disciples of Christ and to keep all the commandments of God will have to feel in their daily lives the true spirit of agonizing to enter in at the strait gate. The agonizing ones are the only ones who will urge their passage through the strait gate and narrow way that lead to life eternal, to fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore. Those who merely seek to enter in will never be able. The entire Christian life of many will be spent in no greater effort than that of seeking, and their only reward will be to find it an utter impossibility for them to enter in at that strait gate.'

2T 479

"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me."

Psalms 66:18

"He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination." Proverbs 28:9

"Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." James 4:3

'The Bible should be read every day.'

3T 194

'Never should the Bible be studied without prayer. Before opening its pages we should ask for the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, and it will be given.'

SC 91

'A sense of the power and wisdom of God, and of our inability to comprehend His greatness, should inspire us with humility, and we should open His word, as we would enter His presence, with holy awe.'

5T 704

'Satan well knows that all whom he can lead to neglect prayer and the searching of the Scriptures, will be overcome by his attacks.'
GC 519

'Those who study the Bible, counsel with God, and rely upon Christ will be enabled to act wisely at all times and under all circumstances.'
5T 43

'The soul dwelling in the pure atmosphere of holy thought is transformed by intercourse with God through the study of His word.'
8T 322

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."
Psalms 119:11

"But He answered and said, 'It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.'"
Matthew 4:4

"One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in His temple."
Psalms 27:4

'Strength and grace have been provided through Christ to be brought by ministering angels to every believing soul.'
SC 52

'When you rise in the morning, do you feel your helplessness and your need of strength from God? and do you humbly, heartily make known your wants to your heavenly Father? If so, angels mark your prayers, and if these prayers have not gone forth out of feigned lips, when you are in danger of unconsciously doing wrong and exerting an influence which will lead others to do wrong, your guardian angel will be by your side, prompting you to a better course, choosing your words for you, and influencing your actions.'
3T 363

'Over every man, good and evil angels strive. This is no make-believe conflict. It is not mimic battles in which we are engaged. We have to meet most powerful adversaries, and it rests with us to determine which shall win.'
7T 213

'The miracles of Christ for the afflicted and suffering were wrought by the power of God through the ministration of the angels. And it is through Christ, by the ministration of His heavenly messengers, that every blessing comes from God to us.'
DA 143

'All who engage in ministry are God's helping hand. They are co-workers with the angels; rather, they are the human agencies through whom the angels accomplish their mission. Angels speak through their voices, and work by their hands. And the human workers, co-operating with heavenly agencies, have the benefit of their education and experience. As a means of education, what "university course" can equal this?'
Ed 271

'But it is not the work of good angels to control the minds of men against their will. If they yield to the enemy, and make no effort to resist him, then the angels of God can do but little more than hold in check the host of Satan, that they shall not destroy, until further light be given to those in peril, to move them to arouse and look to heaven for help. Jesus will not commission holy angels to extricate those who make no effort to help themselves.'
1T 345

'He would sooner send every angel out of heaven to protect His people than leave one soul that trusts in Him to be overcome by Satan.'
GC 560

'Not one soul that in penitence and faith has claimed His protection will Christ permit to pass under the enemy's power. His word is pledged: *"Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with Me."* Isaiah 27:5. The promise given to Joshua is made to all: *"If thou wilt keep My charge, . . . I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by."* Zechariah 3:7. Angels of God will walk on either side of them, even in this world, and they will stand at last among the angels that surround the throne of God.'
5T 470

'Those who have tempted the devil to tempt them will have to make desperate efforts to free themselves from his power. But when they begin to work for themselves, then angels of God whom they have grieved will come to their rescue. Satan and his angels are unwilling to lose their prey. They contend and battle with the holy angels, and the conflict is severe. But if those who have erred continue to plead, and in deep humility confess their wrongs, angels who excel in strength will prevail and wrench them from the power of the evil angels.'
1T 301

'When it is in the heart to obey God, when efforts are put forth to this end, Jesus accepts this disposition and effort as man's best service, and he makes up for the deficiency with his own divine merit.'

ST, June 16, 1890

'Satan is well aware that the weakest soul who abides in Christ is more than a match for the hosts of darkness, and that, should he reveal himself openly, he would be met and resisted. Therefore he seeks to draw away the soldiers of the cross from their strong fortification, while he lies in ambush with his forces, ready to destroy all who venture upon his ground. Only in humble reliance upon God, and obedience to all His commandments, can we be secure.'

GC 530

'As we walk with Jesus in this life, we may be filled with His love, satisfied with His presence. All that human nature can bear, we may receive here. But what is this compared with the hereafter?' DA 331

'The Lord will never forsake the soul that trusts in Him and seeks His aid. The crown of life is placed only upon the brow of the overcomer.'

5T 70

'As the people of God afflict their souls before Him, pleading for purity of heart, the command is given, "*Take away the filthy garments*" Zechariah 3:4 from them, and the encouraging words are spoken, "*Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.*" Zechariah 3:4. The spotless robe of Christ's righteousness is placed upon the tried, tempted, yet faithful children of God. The despised remnant are clothed in glorious apparel, nevermore to be defiled by the corruptions of the world.

'Their names are retained in the Lamb's book of life, enrolled among the faithful of all ages. They have resisted the wiles of the deceiver; they have not been turned from their loyalty by the dragon's roar. Now they are eternally secure from the tempter's devices. Their sins are transferred to the originator of sin. And the remnant are not only pardoned and accepted, but honored. "A fair miter" is set upon their heads. They are to be as kings and priests unto God. While Satan was urging his accusations and seeking to destroy this company, holy angels, unseen, were passing to and fro, placing upon them the seal of the living God.'

5T 475

'In a little while every one who is a child of God will have His seal placed upon him. O that it may be placed upon our foreheads! Who can endure the thought of being passed by when the angel goes forth to seal the servants of God in their foreheads?'

RH, May 28, 1889

'When Christ reigns in the soul, there is purity, freedom from sin.'

COL 419

'Righteousness is holiness, likeness to God, and "*God is love.*" 1 John 4:16. It is conformity to the law of God, for "*all Thy commandments are righteousness*" Psalm 119:172, and "*love is the fulfilling of the law*" Romans 13:10. Righteousness is love, and love is the light and the life of God. The righteousness of God is embodied in Christ. We receive righteousness by receiving Him.' MB 18

'Men and women may reach God's ideal for them if they will take Christ as their Helper.'

7T 49

'Through faith we receive the grace of God; but faith is not our Saviour. It earns nothing. It is the hand by which we lay hold upon Christ, and appropriate His merits, the remedy for sin. And we cannot even repent without the aid of the Spirit of God.'

DA 175

'In some instances of healing, Jesus did not at once grant the blessing sought. But in the case of leprosy, no sooner was the appeal made than it was granted. When we pray for earthly blessings, the answer to our prayer may be delayed, or God may give us something other than we ask, but not so when we ask for deliverance from sin.'

DA 266

'The expulsion of sin is the act of the soul itself. True, we have no power to free ourselves from Satan's control; but when we desire to be set free from sin, and in our great need cry out for a power out of and above ourselves, the powers of the soul are imbued with the divine energy of the Holy Spirit, and they obey the dictates of the will in fulfilling the will of God.'

DA 466

'Jesus revealed no qualities, and exercised no powers, that men may not have through faith in Him. His perfect humanity is that which all His followers may possess, if they will be in subjection to God as He was.'

DA 664

'It is the will of God to cleanse us from sin, to make us His children, and to enable us to live a holy life. So we may ask for these blessings, and believe that we receive them, and thank God that we have received them.'

SC 51

'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.'

DA 672

'For the pardon of sin, for the Holy Spirit, for a Christlike temper, for wisdom and strength to do His work, for any gift He has promised, we may ask; then we are to believe that we receive, and return thanks to God that we have received.'

'We need look for no outward evidence of the blessing. The gift is in the promise, and we may go about our work assured that what God has promised He is able to perform, and that the gift, which we already possess, will be realized when we need it most.'

Ed 258

'No one is so situated that he cannot be a true and faithful Christian. However great the obstacles, all who are determined to obey God will find the way opening as they go forward.'

5T 182

'As they work upon the plan of addition in securing the graces of the Spirit, God will work in their behalf upon the plan of multiplication.'

4T 449

"As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." John 1:12. This power is not in the human agent. It is the power of God. When a soul receives Christ, he receives power to live the life of Christ.'

COL 314

'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.'

9T 22

'All that Christ received from God we too may have. Then ask and receive. With the persevering faith of Jacob, with the unyielding persistence of Elijah, claim for yourself all that God has promised.'

COL 149

'In every command and in every promise of the word of God is the power, the very life of God, by which the command may be fulfilled and the promise realized. He who by faith receives the word is receiving the very life and character of God.'

COL 38

'The religion of Christ in the heart will gain for its possessor a complete victory over those passions that are seeking for the mastery.'

4T 610

'But when we give ourselves wholly to God and in our work follow His directions, He makes Himself responsible for its accomplishment. He would not have us conjecture as to the success of our honest endeavors. Not once should we even think of failure. We are to co-operate with One who knows no failure.'

COL 363

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

COL 159

'To human beings striving for conformity to the divine image there is imparted an outlay of heaven's treasure, an excellency of power, that will place them higher than even the angels who have never fallen.'

COL 162

'Before the believer is held out the wonderful possibility of being like Christ, obedient to all the principles of the law. But of himself man is utterly unable to reach this condition. The holiness that God's word declares he must have before he can be saved is the result of the working of divine grace as he bows in submission to the discipline and restraining influences of the Spirit of truth. Man's obedience can be made perfect only by the incense of Christ's righteousness, which fills with divine fragrance every act of obedience. The part of the Christian is to persevere in overcoming every fault. Constantly he is to pray to the Saviour to heal the disorders of his sin-sick soul. He has not the wisdom or the strength to overcome; these belong to the Lord, and He bestows them on those who in humiliation and contrition seek Him for help.'

AA 532

'All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. And if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses. The will, refined and sanctified, will find its highest delight in doing His service. When we know God as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience. Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to us.'

DA 668

Read carefully the whole page. We close this section by counseling you to make a book of God's promises. There are hundreds more than these. God wants us to triumph in Christ. Triumph is overwhelming victory. Follow Jeremiah 50:5 *"They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, saying, Come, and let us join ourselves to the LORD in a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten."*

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ABBREVIATIONS

AA	Acts of the Apostles, The
COL	Christ's Object Lessons
CH	Counsels on Health.
CT	Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students
DA	Desire of Ages, The
EW	Early Writings
Ed	Education
GC	Great Controversy, The
GW	Gospel Workers
MH	Ministry of Healing, The
PP	Patriarchs and Prophets
PK	Prophets and Kings
7BC	Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, The Vol. 7
SC	Steps to Christ
TM	Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers
MB	Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing
1T	Testimonies for the Church. 9 vols. {1T, 2T, etc}
RH	The Review and Herald
ST	The Signs of the Times