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Revival Now!

Dan & Rose Augsburg

I. Our Need of Revival

They Were Busy Sacrificing, Praying and Fasting

Isa. 1:1 “...the days of Ussiah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.” (2Chron. 26:1)

Isa. 1:10 “To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices?”

Isa. 1:15 “Though you make many prayers, I will not hear.”

Isa. 58:2 “They seek Me daily... as a nation that did righteousness....”

Isa. 58:3 “Why have we fasted....”

Isa. 59:1,2 “Behold the Lord's hand is not shortened....”

2Chron. 36:15,16 ...they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets...

Jer. 5:30,31 ...prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule by their own power; And My people love to have it so.

Luke 13:25-28 “Lord, Lord, open for us....”

God Promised a Better Day

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

On the Day of Pentecost the Promises Were Fulfilled!

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

The Spirit Was Poured Out

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

“With great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.” Acts 4:33. Under their labors were added to the church chosen men, who, receiving the word of truth, consecrated their lives to the work of giving to others the hope that filled their hearts with peace and joy. They could not be restrained or intimidated by threatenings. The **Lord spoke through them, and as they went from place to place, the poor had the gospel preached to them, and miracles of divine grace were wrought**. – {AA 48.2}

47 **Today there are few who are heartily serving God. The most of those who**
 48 **compose our congregations are spiritually dead in trespasses and sins. They come**
 49 **and go like the door upon its hinges.** For years they have complacently listened to
 50 the most solemn, soul-stirring truths, but they have not practiced them. **They are less**
 51 **and less sensible of the preciousness and value of truth, because they neglect the**
 52 **practice of those things which are pleasing in the sight of God.** The stirring
 53 testimonies of reproof and warning do not arouse them. The sweetest melodies that
 54 come from God through human lips—justification by faith, and the righteousness of
 55 Christ—do not bring forth from them a response of love and gratitude. {RH April 4,
 56 1893 Par. 4}

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

63 **I have waited anxiously, hoping that God would put His Spirit upon some and use**
 64 **them as instruments of righteousness to awaken and set in order His church. I**
 65 **have almost despaired as I have seen, year after year, a greater departure from**
 66 **that simplicity which God has shown me should characterize the life of His**
 67 **followers.** There has been less and less interest in, and devotion to, the cause of God. I
 68 ask: Wherein have those who profess confidence in the Testimonies sought to live
 69 according to the light given in them? Wherein have they regarded the warnings given?
 70 Wherein have they heeded the instructions they have received? – {2T 484.1}

71 I saw that **great changes must be wrought in the hearts and lives of very many**
 72 **before God can work in them by His power for the salvation of others.** They must
 73 be renewed after the image of God, in righteousness and true holiness. Then the love of
 74 the world, the love of self, and every ambition of life calculated to exalt self will be
 75 changed by the grace of God and employed in the special work of saving souls for
 76 whom Christ died. Humility will take the place of pride, and haughty self-esteem will
 77 be exchanged for meekness. Every power of the heart will be controlled by
 78 disinterested love for all mankind. **Satan, I saw, will arouse when they in earnest**
 79 **commence the work of reformation in themselves.** He knows that these persons, if
 80 consecrated to God, **could prove the strength of His promises and realize a power**
 81 **working with them that the adversary would not be able to gainsay or resist. They**
 82 **would realize the life of God in the soul.** – {2T 484.2}

83

84

God's Diagnosis

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

91 **But gradually a change came. The believers began to look for defects in others.**
 92 **Dwelling upon mistakes, giving place to unkind criticism, they lost sight of the**
 93 **Saviour and His love.** They became **more strict in regard to outward ceremonies,**
 94 **more particular about the theory than the practice of the faith. In their zeal to**
 95 **condemn others, they overlooked their own errors.** They lost the brotherly love that

96 Christ had enjoined, and, **saddest of all, they were unconscious of their loss.** They
97 did not realize that happiness and joy were going out of their lives and that, having
98 shut the love of God out of their hearts, they would soon walk in darkness. {AA 548.1
99

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

101 Rev. 2:14 “... you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam....”(Num. 23:3,4)

102 Rev. 2:20,21 “...you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to
103 teach and seduce...” (1 Kings 16:31)

104 Rev, 3:1 “... you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.”

105 Rev. 3:15-17 “...do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and
106 naked....”

107

108 Will We Cheer a Half Dead Christianity?

109 In many hearts there seems to be scarcely a breath of spiritual life. This makes me very
110 sad. I fear that aggressive warfare against the world, the flesh, and the devil has not
111 been maintained. **Shall we cheer on, by a half-dead Christianity, the selfish,
112 covetous spirit of the world, sharing its ungodliness and smiling on its
113 falsehood?—Nay!** By the grace of God let us be steadfast to the principles of truth,
114 holding firm to the end the beginning of our confidence. {ISM 127.1}

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

122 **There is to be in the churches a wonderful manifestation of the power of God, but
123 it will not move upon those who have not humbled themselves before the Lord
124 and opened the door of the heart by confession and repentance.** In the
125 manifestation of that power which lightens the earth with the glory of God, **they will
126 see only something which in their blindness they think dangerous, something
127 which will arouse their fears, and they will brace themselves to resist it.** {PC
128 341.3}

129

130 Revival is Our Most Urgent Need

131 **A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our
132 needs.** To seek this should be our first work. There **must be earnest effort to obtain
133 the blessing of the Lord, not because God is not willing to bestow His blessing
134 upon us, but because we are unprepared to receive it.** Our heavenly Father is more
135 willing to give His Holy Spirit to them that ask Him, than are earthly parents to give
136 good gifts to their children. But it is our work, **by confession, humiliation,
137 repentance, and earnest prayer, to fulfill the conditions upon which God has
138 promised to grant us His blessing.** A revival need be expected **only in answer to
139 prayer.** {ISM 121.1}

140 A revival and a reformation must take place, under the ministration of the Holy Spirit.
141 **Revival and reformation are two different things. Revival signifies a renewal of
142 spiritual life, a quickening of the powers of mind and heart, a resurrection from
143 spiritual death. Reformation signifies a reorganization, a change in ideas and**

144 **theories, habits and practices.** Reformation will not bring forth the good fruit of
145 righteousness unless it is connected with the revival of the Spirit. **Revival and**
146 **reformation are to do their appointed work, and in doing this work they must**
147 **blend.**—The Review and Herald, February 25, 1902. – {1SM 128.1}

148

149

II. Pursuing Revival

150 2 Chron. 7:14 “if My people ... will humble themselves, ... pray ... seek My face, ... turn....”

151 Acts 2:38 “... Repent, and let every one of you be baptized....”

152

153

God Greatly Blessed at Pentecost

154 What was the result of the outpouring of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost? The glad
155 tidings of a risen Saviour were carried to the uttermost parts of the inhabited world. ...
156 The church beheld converts flocking to her from all directions. Backsliders were
157 reconverted. Sinners united with believers in seeking the pearl of great price. {AA
158 48:1}

159

160

Everything Has Changed In Our Day!

161 2Tim 4:3 “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine....”

162

163 A new order of things has come into the ministry. ... The young ministers seek to be
164 original, and to introduce new ideas and new plans for labor. Some open revival
165 meetings, and by this means call large numbers into the church. But when the
166 excitement is over, where are the converted ones? ... Repentance and confession of sin
167 are not seen. The sinner is entreated to believe in Christ and accept Him, without
168 regard to his past life of sin and rebellion. The heart is not broken. There is no
169 contrition of soul. The supposed converted ones have not fallen upon the Rock, Christ
170 Jesus. ... – {2SM 18.4}

171

172

God’s Remedy

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

178

179

We Must Confess

180 Matt. 3:16 “Confessing their sins....”

181 Acts 19:18 “Confessing and telling their deeds....”

182 James 5:16 “Confess your trespasses to one....”

183 Ps. 32:5 “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD

184 1John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive....”

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

187 It was by the confession and forsaking of sin, by earnest prayer and consecration of
188 themselves to God, that the early disciples prepared for the outpouring of the Holy

189 Spirit on the day of Pentecost. The same work, only in greater degree, must be done
190 now. {RH March 2, 1897 Par. 4}

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

197

198

III. What's To Confess?

199

Idols Bring A Lack of Power

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

208

209

Self Is The Greatest Idol

210 **Many have their hearts filled with the love of self. They are not aware that the**
211 **great heavenly Artist is taking cognizance of every act, every word; that their**
212 **deportment, and even the thoughts and intents of the heart, stand faithfully**
213 **delineated; and that old and young will have the faithful picture presented to**
214 **them in all its deformity at the execution of the judgment.** Those vain, frivolous
215 words are all written in the book. Those words are written. Those deceptive acts,
216 whose motives were concealed from human eyes, but discerned by the all-seeing eye
217 of Jehovah, are all written in living characters. Every selfish act will be exposed. Signs
218 of the Times, May 1, 1884. {ST, May 1, 1884 par. 4}

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

222

223

Self Manifests Itself In Many Ways

224

Selfishness

225 **The sin which is indulged to the greatest extent, and which separates us from God**
226 **and produces so many contagious spiritual disorders, is selfishness.** There can be
227 **no returning to the Lord except by self-denial.** Of ourselves we can do nothing; but,
228 **through God strengthening us, we can live to do good to others, and in this way**
229 **shun the evil of selfishness.** [Testimonies, vol. 2 p. 132]

230 There is a great deal said about religion, and many claim to possess religion. But **true**
231 **religion is very rare.** There are many external forms, but **in many cases these only**
232 **serve as a cloak to cover up the most soul-destroying selfishness.** — {10MR 54.2}

233

234

Self-Exaltation

235 If Satan can get us to enshroud ourselves in garments of self-righteousness, then we
236 will not wear the robe of Christ's righteousness. **Self-exaltation and pride of position**

237 **and self-importance were the sins of Satan in heaven. True religion dies out of the**
238 **heart when these take possession and are developed in the character. {21MR 330.3}**
239 **The reason that more power does not attend the proclamation of the truth for this**
240 **time, is that there is too much reliance placed upon the ability of man, too much**
241 **trust in the talent and tact of the workers, and not enough reliance upon the arm of**
242 **Infinite Power. The gospel of truth is not preached in demonstration of the Spirit and in**
243 **the power of God. Self is ready to take the credit if any measure of success attends**
244 **the work, self is flattered, self is exalted, and the impression is not made upon**
245 **minds that God is all and in all. Signs Of The Times, April 7, 1890. {ST, April 7,**
246 **1890 par. 2}**

247

248

Self-Sufficiency

249 **The most hopeless, the most incurable of all sins is pride, self-sufficiency. This sin**
250 **stands in the way of all advancement, all growth in grace. It has caused the ruin**
251 **of thousands and thousands of souls. A man may be a great sinner, but if he realizes**
252 **that he has sinned against God, if he repents and confesses his sin, and strives to**
253 **make restitution for the past, he will receive forgiveness. {ST, April 9, 1902 par.**
254 **1}**

255

256

Self-Complacency

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

266 **Oh, how many flatter themselves that they have goodness and righteousness,**
267 **when the true light of God reveals that all their lives they have only lived to please**
268 **themselves! Their whole conduct is abhorred of God. How many are alive without the**
269 **law! In their gross darkness they view themselves with complacency; but let the law**
270 **of God be revealed to their consciences, as it was to Paul, and they would see that**
271 **they are sold under sin and must die to the carnal mind. Self must be slain. {3T**
272 **475.1}**

273

274

Self-Esteem

275 **From the light which God has given me, I know that the Lord would do far more for**
276 **us as a people if we would walk in humility before him. Every one of God's people**
277 **will be tested and proved, and we want you to be in a position where you will bear the**
278 **proving of God, and not be found wanting when your moral worth is weighed in the**
279 **balances of the sanctuary. We want you to be constantly moving onward and upward;**
280 **but that which hinders your progress in a large degree is your self-esteem, the**
281 **high opinion that you entertain of your own ability. If there was ever a place**
282 **where self needed to die, it is here. Let us see the death struggle. Let us hear the**
283 **dying groans. Review and Herald, June 18, 1889. {RH, June 18, 1889 par. 2}**

284

285

287 **We need to learn that indulged appetite is the greatest hindrance to mental**
 288 **improvement and soul sanctification.** With all our profession of health reform, many
 289 of us eat improperly. Indulgence of appetite is the greatest cause of physical and
 290 mental debility, and lies largely at the foundation of feebleness and premature death.
 291 **Let the individual who is seeking to possess purity of spirit bear in mind that in**
 292 **Christ there is power to control the appetite.** {9T 156.2}

293

294

Withholding of Means

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

306 **Many live for themselves alone. They look upon their lives with great**
 307 **complacency, flattering themselves that they are blameless, when in fact they are**
 308 **doing nothing for God, and are living in direct opposition to his expressed word.**
 309 ... There should be a perfect trust in God, a childlike dependence upon his promises,
 310 and an utter consecration of self to his will. {RH, February 19, 1880 par. 6}

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

315

316

Quarreling and Relational Differences

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

320 There are in our churches those who profess the truth who are only hindrances to the
 321 work of reform. They are clogs to the wheels of the car of salvation. **This class are**
 322 **frequently in trial. Doubts, jealousies, and suspicion, are the fruits of selfishness,**
 323 **and seem to be interwoven with their very natures. I shall name this class chronic**
 324 **church-grumblers. They do more harm in a church than two ministers can undo.**
 325 They are a tax to the church and a great weight to the ministers of Christ. They live in
 326 an atmosphere of doubts, jealousies, and surmisings. Much time and labor of the
 327 ambassadors of Christ are required to undo their work of evil, and restore harmony and
 328 union in the church. {ST, September 4, 1879 par. 13}

329 **Unity is the strength of the church.** Satan knows this, and he **employs his whole**
 330 **force to bring in dissension.** He desires to see a lack of harmony among the members
 331 of the church of God. {1NL 22.2}

332 **Envy, evil surmising, backbiting, and faultfinding,--let these not be named among**
 333 **Christ's disciples. These things are the cause of the present feebleness of the**
 334 **church.** We have a perfect Pattern, even the life of Christ. It is to be our eager desire to

335 do as he has done, to live as he lived, that others, by seeing our good works, may be
336 led to glorify God. The blessing of heaven will rest upon those who try to help others
337 by doing the work that Christ came to do. {RH, May 10, 1906 par. 13}

338

339

Ungodly Amusements

340 2 Tim. 3:4 “Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.”

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

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

354 You need to study carefully the question of amusements. Ask yourself, What is the
355 influence of amusements on mind and character, and on the work which I have come
356 to do? **Ask yourself, What bearing has the question of amusements on my**
357 **religious life, on my character as a Christian? Do the games in which you**
358 **participate, fit you to engage in prayer and in the service of God? Do they aid you**
359 **to bring as much zeal and earnestness into the Lord's work as you put into the**
360 **games you play?** Have not these amusements in which you have engaged, absorbed
361 your interest so that you have not been able to put as much fervor into the learning of
362 your lessons as you should have done? Which is to have the supremacy,—the service of
363 God, or the service of self? Let every student closely examine the ground on which he
364 is standing. {YI, May 17, 1894 par. 7}

365 I was told by my Guide: “Look ye, and behold the idolatry of My people, to whom I
366 have been speaking, rising up early, and presenting to them their dangers. I looked that
367 they should bring forth fruit.” There were **some who were striving for the mastery,**
368 **each trying to excel the other in the swift running of their bicycles**. There was a
369 spirit of strife and contention among them as to which should be the greatest. **The**
370 **spirit was similar to that manifested in the baseball games on the college ground**.
371 Said my Guide: “**These things are an offense to God**. Both near and afar off souls are
372 perishing for the bread of life and the water of salvation.” When Satan is defeated in
373 one line, he will be all ready with other schemes and plans which will appear attractive
374 and needful, and which will absorb money and thought, and encourage selfishness, so
375 that he can overcome those who are so easily led into a false and selfish indulgence.
376 {8T 52.1}

377 **Pleasure-lovers may have their names upon the church-records,** they may stand
378 high as worldly-wise men; **but they have no connection with Christ of Calvary**. The
379 apostle Paul describes a class who are “lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;
380 having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.” Concerning them he says,
381 “From such turn away.” [2 Timothy 3:4, 5.] Be not deceived by them, do not imitate
382 their practices. {4SP 295.1}

383

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

394 **No compromise with sin can ever be accepted by a pure and holy God. No**
 395 **conversion is genuine which does not radically change the heart, the character,**
 396 **-278- and every line of conduct.** "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature." **The**
 397 **gift of the Lord Jesus is a new character, a new creature in Christ Jesus.** Not a
 398 moment should be wasted on a patchwork religion. We must shine as lights in the
 399 world. May the Lord bless you and your family, that you may reveal Christ in a life of
 400 faith, purity, true godliness and holiness. {18MR 277.4}

401

402

Ungodly Influence

403 It is **not an increase of light that is needed; it is the surrendering of the soul to**
 404 **God, that by the power of His grace He may make the light He has caused to**
 405 **shine into the heart a living principle of action.** When a man who has had great
 406 light, who is supposed to be led and taught by God, turns out of the way because of
 407 self-confidence, he makes false paths for his feet. **He follows crooked practices, and**
 408 **many who have admired the supposed nobility and integrity of his character,**
 409 **follow his example,** thinking that the Lord is leading him. **The false step he took**
 410 **resulted in thousands of false steps.** {11MR 102.2}

411

412

Partial Surrender

413 **Until the heart is surrendered unconditionally to God, the human agent is not**
 414 **abiding in the true vine, and can not flourish in the vine, and bear rich clusters of**
 415 **fruit.** God will not make the slightest compromise with sin. If he could have done this,
 416 Christ need not have come to our world to suffer and die. No conversion is genuine
 417 which does not change both the character and the conduct of those who accept the
 418 truth. The truth works by love, and purifieth the soul. 1311 {1888 1310.2}

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

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

433 **Why the Christian life is so difficult to many is because they have a divided heart.**
434 They are double-minded, which makes them unstable in all their ways. **Were they**
435 **richly imbued with Christian zeal, which is ever the result of consecration to God,**
436 instead of the mournful cry, “My leanness! my leanness!” the language of the soul
437 would be, “Hear what the Lord has done for me.” {PH099 28.2}

438

439

IV. Making Things Right!

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

454

455

How To Confess?

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

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

468 **Keep nothing back from God, and neglect not the confession of your faults to**
469 **your brethren.** “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye
470 may be healed” (James 5:16). Many a sin is left unconfessed to confront the sinner in
471 the day of final account; better far to confront your sins now, to confess them and put
472 them away, while the atoning Sacrifice pleads in your behalf. Do not fail to learn the
473 will of God on this subject. {1SM 326.2}

474

475

We Must Make Things Right!

476 Ezek. 33:15 “If the wicked restore the pledge....”

477 Luke 19:8 “If I have taken any thing...”

478 Let those who have committed wrong **give proof of their repentance by seeking to**
479 **make full restitution,** let them in their after-life give evidence of a genuine
480 reformation, and they will assuredly enjoy the peace of Heaven. – {RH January 3,
481 1882 Par. 7}

482 God requires repentance and confession, and restitution will always follow genuine
483 repentance. **If you have prevaricated, if you have borne false witness, if you have**
484 **misjudged and misinterpreted your brother, if you have misstated his words,**
485 **ridiculed him, if you have injured his influence in any way, go right to the persons**
486 **with whom you have conversed about him, with whom you have united in this**
487 **work, and take all your injurious misstatements back.** Confess the wrong that you
488 have done your brother; for **your sin will stand charged against you in the books of**
489 **record until you do all that lies in your power to correct the evil your words have**
490 **wrought.** When you have done all that God requires of you, pardon will be written
491 against your name. {RH, May 28, 1889 par. 13}

492 **There are many who will not be blessed till they make restitution of the tithe**
493 **which they have withheld.** God is waiting for you to redeem the past. The hand of the
494 holy law is laid upon every soul who enjoys God's benefits. **Let those who have kept**
495 **back their tithe make an accurate reckoning, and bring to the Lord that of which**
496 **they have robbed His work.** Make restitution, and bring the Lord peace offerings.
497 "Let him take hold of my strength, that he may make peace with me; and he shall make
498 peace with me." If you acknowledge that you have done wrong in misappropriating
499 His goods, and freely and fully repent, He will forgive your transgression. {RH,
500 December 10, 1901 par. 9}

501

502 Humbling Is Also Needed.

503 James 4:10 "Humble yourselves...."

504 Deut. 8:16 "... that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good
505 in the end."

506 2 Chron. 7:14 "...will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from
507 their wicked ways, then I will hear"

508 Isa. 57:15 "... with him *who* has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the
509 humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones."

510 2 Cor. 7:10 "Godly sorrow produces repentance...."

511 1 Pet. 5:6 "Therefore humble yourselves ... that He may exalt you in due time...."

512 I saw that many prayed for God to humble them; but if God should answer their
513 prayers, it would be by terrible things in righteousness. **It was their duty to humble**
514 **themselves.** I saw that if self-exaltation was suffered to come in, it would surely lead
515 souls astray, and if not overcome would prove their ruin. When one begins to get lifted
516 up in his own eyes and thinks he can do something, the Spirit of God is withdrawn, and
517 he goes on in his own strength until he is overthrown. I saw that one saint, if he were
518 right, could move the arm of God; but a multitude together, if they were wrong, would
519 be weak and could effect nothing. {EW 120.2}

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

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

525 **At the very heart of the work there is necessity for sincere, true humiliation,**
526 **which has not yet been seen.** God will vindicate every message He has given to His
527 people. He will justify all His dealings with them. They have departed out of the way,
528 and **the only course that can bring relief and hope and success in bearing the**
529 **solemn message for this time is for them to humble themselves under the mighty**
530 **hand of God.** {11MR 100.3} There is a careless, venturesome spirit which needs to

531 be guarded. **It is humiliating for us to acknowledge that we have done wrong, but**
532 **this is -101- often necessary.** The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man
533 availeth much. Prayer **will draw down from heaven great blessings when those who**
534 **claim to believe the truth shall come down from their stilts of self-exaltation and**
535 **afflict their souls, even as Daniel afflicted his soul.** {11MR 100.4}

536

537 V. Repentance Is More Than Feeling Sorry

538 Joel 2:14 “Rend your hearts and not your garments....”

539 Matt. 3:2 “Repent for the kingdom....”

540 Matt. 4:17 (“Repent, for the Kingdom....”

541 Acts 2:38 (“Repent... and be converted....”

542 Acts 17:30 “Commands men everywhere....”

543 Acts 26:19,20 “That they should repent...”

544

545 Repentance is Necessary

546 The Old and New Testament Scriptures show us the only way in which this work
547 should be done. Repent, repent, repent was the message rung out by John the Baptist in
548 the wilderness. Christ’s message to the people was “Except ye repent, ye shall all
549 likewise perish” (Luke 13:5). And the apostles were commanded to preach everywhere
550 that men should repent. – {2SM 19.1}

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

554

555 Repentance Is A Gift From God

556 Rom. 2:4 “Goodness of God leads to repentance....”

557 The Spirit of God will answer the cry of every penitent heart; **for repentance is the**
558 **gift of God,** and an evidence that Christ is drawing the soul to Himself. **We can no**
559 **more repent of sin without Christ, than we can be pardoned without Christ,** and
560 yet it is a humiliation to man with his human passion and pride to go to Jesus
561 straightway, believing and trusting Him for everything which he needs. . . . {1NL
562 65.4}

563

564 Repentance Is More Than Feeling Sorry

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

572

573 Remove the Hindrances

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

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

583 Our churches are in need of a spiritual revival. Now is the time for the work of
584 repentance and confession of sin to extend deeper. **Now is the time for God's people**
585 **to allow the Holy Spirit to make clean and thorough work, in order that all**
586 **selfishness, all wrong**, may be uprooted from their hearts. May the Lord help you and
587 the whole church, is my prayer. – {AUGleaner September 9, 1903 Par. 8}

588

589

Repentance Will Change Our Churches

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

598 Who is willing to take himself in hand? Who is willing to lay his finger **upon his**
599 **cherished idols of sin**, and allow Christ to purify the temple by casting out the buyers
600 and sellers? Who is prepared to allow Jesus to enter the soul and **cleanse it from every**
601 **thing that tarnishes or corrupts?** The standard is, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as
602 your Father which is in heaven is perfect." God calls upon men and women to empty
603 their hearts of self. Then His Spirit can find unobstructed entrance. **Stop trying to do**
604 **the work yourself. Ask God to work in and through you** until the words of the
605 apostle become yours: "I live; ye not I, but Christ liveth in me." – {RH February 7,
606 1957 Par. 12}

607

608

The Outcome Will Be Wonderful!

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

616

617

VI. Reveling In God's Mercy

618 Rom. 5:1 "... we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...."

619 Rom. 5:8,9 "while we were still sinners, Christ died for us...."

620 Rom. 5:19 "... by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous."

621 Php. 3:9 "...be found in Him, not having my own righteousness ... that which is
622 through faith in Christ...."

623 **No deep-seated love for Jesus can dwell in the heart that does not see and realize**
624 **its own sinfulness**. The soul that is transformed by grace will admire his divine
625 character; but **if we do not see our own moral deformity, it is unmistakable**

626 **evidence that we have not had a view of the beauty and excellence of Christ.** The
627 less we see to esteem in ourselves, the more we shall see to esteem in the infinite
628 purity and loveliness of our Saviour. **A view of our own sinfulness drives us to Him**
629 **who can pardon. Jesus will accept us; for his word is pledged. As our substitute,**
630 **he takes our guilt on his own soul, and imputes his righteousness to the sinner.**
631 {RH, February 17, 1885 par. 18}

632 The thought that the righteousness of Christ is imputed to us, not because of any merit
633 on our part, but **as a free gift from God**, is a precious thought. The enemy of God and
634 man **is not willing that this truth should be clearly presented; for he knows that if**
635 **the people receive it fully, his power will be broken.** {RH, December 24, 1908 par.
636 2}

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

648 **More than this, Christ changes the heart. He abides in your heart by faith. You**
649 **are to maintain this connection with Christ by faith and the continual surrender**
650 **of your will to Him;** and so long as you do this, He will work in you to will and to do
651 according to His good pleasure. So you may say, "The life which I now live in the
652 flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me."
653 Galatians 2:20. So Jesus said to His disciples, "It is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of
654 your Father which speaketh in you." Matthew 10:20. Then with Christ working in you,
655 you will manifest the same spirit and do the same good works --works of
656 righteousness, obedience. {SC 62.3}

657 **My dear sister in Christ Jesus, you cannot keep yourself one moment. You are**
658 **kept by the power of God through faith. Let your faith rest in His merits, rely**
659 **upon His mercy, trust in the sufficiency of His grace to keep you every moment.**
660 **Never allow the enemy to obtain an advantage over you because you do not think**
661 **you are good enough to be called a child of God. By faith you are constantly to**
662 **repose in the righteousness which God has provided you through His Substitute,**
663 **Jesus Christ the Righteous.** He forgiveth sins and pardoneth iniquities and
664 transgressions. He takes away our sin, and in its place imputes His own righteousness.
665 What a blessing this is for us! It is only as you take God at His word, and accept Jesus
666 Christ as your Redeemer that you preserve the honor of God and show that you are
667 "kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last
668 time" (1 Peter 1:5). {12MR 36.2}

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

674
675

676

VII. Taking Up The Cross

677 Ezek. 36:25,26 "... I will cleanse you ... I will give you a new heart...."

678 Rom. 6:1-5 "... Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not...."

679 Gal. 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live...."

680 2 Cor. 5:17 "If any man is in Christ he is a new creation...."

681

682

The Bible is the Great Transforming Agent

683 Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Romans 10:17. The
684 **Scriptures are the great agency in the transformation of character.** Christ prayed,
685 "Sanctify them through Thy truth; Thy word is truth." John 17:17. **If studied and**
686 **obeyed, the word of God works in the heart, subduing every unholy attribute.** The
687 Holy Spirit comes to convict of sin, and the faith that springs up in the heart works by
688 love to Christ, conforming us in body, soul, and spirit to His own image. Then God can
689 use us to do His will. The power given us works from within outwardly, leading us to
690 communicate to others the truth that has been communicated to us. – {COL 100.1}

691 Received into the heart, the leaven of truth will regulate the desires, purify the
692 thoughts, and sweeten the disposition. It quickens the faculties of the mind and the
693 energies of the soul. It enlarges the capacity for feeling, for loving. – {COL 101.1}

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

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

708

709

Secret Prayer is Also Key

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

713

714

God's Special Messages Should Be Studied Too

715 There are not many of you that really know what is contained in the Testimonies. You
716 are not familiar with the Scriptures. If you had made God's Word your study, with a
717 desire to reach the Bible standard and attain to Christian perfection, you would not
718 have needed the Testimonies. It is **because you have neglected to acquaint**
719 **yourselves with God's inspired Book that He has sought to reach you by simple,**
720 **direct testimonies, calling your attention to the words of inspiration which you**
721 **had neglected to obey,** and urging you to fashion your lives in accordance with its
722 pure and elevated teachings. 119 {CCh 92.5}

723

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

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

734

735

We Must Die to Self

736 Mark 10:21 “...One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have ... take up
 737 the cross, and follow Me.”

738 Luke 9:23 “... ‘take up his cross daily, and follow Me.’”

739 1 Cor. 15:31 “I die daily.” (also note Eph. 5:18)

740 2 Cor. 4:11,12 “For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus’ sake....”

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

745 **It is because men are not more than half converted that the church is so dead and**
 746 **lifeless. There are many who are and have been all their lives half Christians.**
 747 Their names are in the Book of Life, and if they turn to the Lord with full purpose of
 748 heart, they then respect the voice that says unto them, “Seek ye My face,” and reply,
 749 “Thy face, Lord, will I seek,” and they shall see God with a clear, elevated, spiritual
 750 sense. The religious sentiment awakened in the heart is recognized as God’s call, and
 751 is obeyed. – {21MR 368.2} **Everyone will be tested and tried in the very way that**
 752 **is the most trying.** Men cannot trust to their own wisdom. **Self-sufficiency, if**
 753 **indulged, will be their stumbling block. Self must die and not have a resurrection**
 754 **every other day.** The words must be truly spoken, “I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in
 755 me.” **The “I” is a very hard personality to kill. “I” rises into life in full**
 756 **proportions if given the least opportunity or encouragement.** Then, confident in
 757 their own supposed wisdom, men forsake the right way. – {21MR 368.3}

758 “He selects men of His own wisdom who make Him their trust, their dependence, their
 759 efficiency. He hews and polishes the rough stones He has quarried out of the world. He
 760 **works through men who realize that they must submit to the axe, the chisel, and**
 761 **the hammer, lying passive under the divine hand.** Through those who voluntarily
 762 submit themselves to Him in all matters, who seek Him in faith and hope, He works
 763 out His plans. {BEcho, August 12, 1901 par. 1}

764 **“Why is it so hard to lead a self-denying, humble life? Because professed**
 765 **Christians are not dead to the world. It is easy living after we are dead.** But there
 766 is a hankering after the leeks and onions of Egypt. They have a disposition to dress and
 767 act as much like the world as possible, and yet go to heaven. Such climb up some other
 768 way. They do not enter through the narrow way and straight gate. {RH, January 6,
 769 1863 par. 10}

770 The new birth is a rare experience in this age of the world. This is the reason why there
 771 are so many perplexities in the churches. Many, so many, who assume the name of
 772 Christ are unsanctified and unholy. **They have been baptized, but they were buried**

773 **alive. Self did not die, and therefore they did not rise to newness of life in Christ.**
774 {12MR 51.1}

775

776

VIII. Becoming Emptied to Be Filled

777 **We cannot retain self and yet be filled with the fullness of God. We must be**
778 **emptied of self.** If heaven is gained by us at last, it will be only through the
779 renunciation of self, and the receiving of the mind of Christ. Pride and self-sufficiency
780 must be crucified, and the vacuum supplied with the Spirit and power of God. **Are we**
781 **willing to pay the price required of us for eternal life? Are we ready to sit down**
782 **and count the cost, and conclude that heaven is worth the sacrifice of dying to**
783 **self, of having our will brought into perfect conformity with the will of God? Until**
784 **we are willing, the transforming grace of God will not be manifested upon us.**
785 **When we present our emptied nature to God, he will by his Holy Spirit supply the**
786 **vacuum made by the renunciation of self, and give us of his fullness.** The Lord
787 would not have us perish. He would have us consecrate to his service all there is of us;
788 for he desires to bless us more than we desire to be blessed. He would have us abide in
789 Christ, receive his blessing, and diffuse it to others while we live, that we may enjoy a
790 blessed eternity. Life is short, but eternity is endless. {ST, November 21, 1892 par. 4}

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

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

804

805

Filled by Our Indwelling Saviour

806 The Lord Jesus loves his people, and when they put their trust in him, depending
807 wholly upon him, he strengthens them. **He will live through them, giving them the**
808 **inspiration of his sanctifying Spirit, imparting to the soul a vital transfusion of**
809 **himself.** He acts through their faculties, and causes them **to choose his will and to act**
810 **out his character.** {SSW, February 1, 1896 par. 3}

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

818 **At the altar of self-sacrifice,—the appointed place of meeting between God and**
819 **the soul,—we receive from the hand of God the celestial torch, which searches the**
820 heart, revealing our great need of an abiding Christ. — {ST October 11, 1899 Par. 14}
821 **When we feel our heart need, when we long after the quickening influence of the**

822 **Holy Spirit, Christ draws nigh to us. Self is crucified. Christ lives in us,** and the
823 power of the Spirit attends our efforts; then the soul is refined and elevated. Light from
824 the heavenly sanctuary shines upon us, and we are enabled to exert an influence which
825 is a savor of life unto life. **By a union with Christ, by living faith, we are privileged**
826 **to enjoy the efficacy of His mediation. We are crucified with Christ, buried with**
827 **Christ, risen with Christ, to walk in newness of life.** – {ST October 11, 1899 Par.
828 15}

829

830 IX. Staying In The Fire

831 Rom. 8:28 "... all things work together for good...."

832 Eph. 5:20 "...giving thanks always for all things...."

833 1Thess. 5:17,18 "... in everything give thanks; for this is the will of"

834 Heb. 5:8 "... He learned obedience by the things which He suffered."

835 **The purification of God's people cannot be accomplished without suffering. God**
836 **permits the fire of affliction to consume the dross, to separate the worthless from**
837 **the valuable, in order that the pure metal may shine forth. He passes us from one**
838 **fire to another, testing our true worth.** True grace is willing to be tried. If we are
839 loath to be searched by the Lord, our condition is one of peril. **God is the refiner and**
840 **purifier of souls. He places us in the heat of the furnace, that the dross may be**
841 **forever separated from the true gold of Christian character. Jesus watches the**
842 **test. He knows just what fire of temptation and trial is needed to purify the**
843 **precious metal, in order that the radiance of divine love may be reflected.** {RH,
844 April 10, 1894 par. 3}

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

853 God has shown me that **he gave his people a bitter cup to drink to purify and**
854 **cleanse them. It is a bitter draught, and they can make it still more bitter by**
855 **murmuring, complaining, and repining. But those who receive it thus, must have**
856 **another draught, for the first does not have its designed effect upon the heart.**
857 **And if the second does not effect the work, then they must have another, and**
858 **another, until it does have its designed effect,** or they will be left filthy and impure
859 in heart. I saw that **this bitter cup can be sweetened by patience, endurance and**
860 **prayer,** and that it will have its designed effect upon the hearts of those who thus
861 received it, and God will be honored and glorified.—{EW 47.1}

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

871

872

Victory Will Come

873 Do you ask, “How am I to abide in Christ?” In the same way as you received Him at
874 first. “As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him.” “The
875 just shall live by faith.” Colossians 2:6; Hebrews 10:38. You gave yourself to God, to
876 be His wholly, to serve and obey Him, and you took Christ as your Saviour. You could
877 not yourself atone for your sins or change your heart; but having given yourself to
878 God, you believe that He for Christ's sake did all this for you. By faith you became
879 Christ's, and by faith you are to grow up in Him--**by giving and taking. You are to**
880 **give all,--your heart, your will, your service,--**give yourself to Him to obey all His
881 requirements; and **you must take all,--Christ, the fullness of all blessing, to abide in**
882 **your heart, to be your strength, your righteousness, your everlasting helper,--to**
883 **give you power to obey.** {SC 69.2}

884

885

X. Adopting Christ's Lifestyle

886

God Wants To Bring Revival

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

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

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

900

901

Satan Cannot Stop Revival

902 There is **nothing that Satan fears so much as that the people of God shall clear the**
903 **way by removing every hindrance**, so that the Lord can pour out His Spirit upon a
904 languishing church and an impenitent congregation. If Satan had his way, there would
905 never be another awakening, great or small, to the end of time. But we are not ignorant
906 of his devices. It is possible to resist his power. **When the way is prepared for the**
907 **Spirit of God, the blessing will come**. Satan can no more hinder a shower of blessing
908 from descending upon God's people than he can close the windows of heaven that rain
909 cannot come upon the earth. **Wicked men and devils cannot hinder the work of**
910 **God**, or shut out His presence from the assemblies of His people, if they will, with
911 subdued, contrite hearts, confess and put away their sins, and in faith claim His
912 promises. – {1SM 124.2}

913

914

Why Then Is Revival Lacking

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

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

922

923 What Is God's Solution?

924 Matt. 11:28 "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you
925 rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart:
926 and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

927

928 We Must Not Make False Yokes

929 Does He not tell us the truth when He says, "My yoke is easy"? **If we manufacture**
930 **yokes for ourselves, as many are doing, we shall find them extremely galling;** but
931 if we take the yoke that Christ has prepared for us, and become meek and lowly in
932 heart, self will be hid with Christ in God. This is the correct position for us to occupy.
933 – {2SAT 275.1}

934 We often think we are having a hard time in bearing burdens, and it is too often the
935 case, because **God has not made any provision for us to carry these burdens;** but
936 when we bear His yoke and carry His burdens, we can testify that the yoke of Christ is
937 easy and His burdens are light, because He has made provision for these. {5BC
938 1091.2}

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

943

944 We Must Take God's Yoke

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

951

952 What is God's Yoke?

953 The Yoke of Obedience

954 The Yoke of Service

955 Worn in Meekness and Lowliness

956

957 Yoke of Obedience

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

960 John 6:38 "... not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me."

961 Rom. 12:1,2 "... present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God,
962 which is your reasonable service...."

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

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

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

974

975

Yoke of Service

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

980 The **yoke that binds to service is the law of God.** The great law of love revealed in
981 Eden, proclaimed upon Sinai, and in the new covenant written in the heart, is that
982 which binds the human worker to the will of God. ...

983 If you will seek the Lord and be converted every day; if you will of your own spiritual
984 choice be free and joyous in God; if with gladsome consent of heart to His gracious
985 call, you come wearing the yoke of Christ,--the yoke of obedience **and service**,--all
986 your murmurings will be stilled, all your difficulties will be removed, all the
987 perplexing problems that now confront you will be solved.--Thoughts From the Mount
988 of Blessing, p. 101. (1896)

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

995

996

Worn in Meekness and Lowliness

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

998 Ps. 37:11 “... the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves....”

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

1000 Micah 6:8 “... to walk humbly with your God?”

1001 Matt. 5:5 “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”

1002 **We are to take his yoke** of submission, restraint, and obedience, **in meekness and**
1003 **lowliness of heart.** Those who yoke up with Christ will find rest and peace. {GH,
1004 December 1, 1899 par. 6}

1005 Meekness is a precious, Christian attribute. The meekness and lowliness of Christ are
1006 only learned by wearing Christ's yoke. . . . **That yoke signifies entire submission.**
1007 {HP 236.2}

1008 Those who **educate themselves to pick flaws in the characters of others**, reveal a
1009 deformity that makes families unhappy, that turns souls from the truth to choose fables.
1010 Your **leaven of distrust**, your **want of confidence**, your **power of accusing**, closes
1011 against you the door of admittance. Within this door **nothing can enter that could**

1012 **possibly mar the happiness of the dwellers** by marring their perfect trust in one
1013 another. ...

1014 In our separation from God, in our pride and darkness, we are constantly seeking to
1015 elevate ourselves, and we forget that **lowliness of mind is power**. Our Saviour's power
1016 was not in a strong array of sharp words that would pierce through the very soul; **it**
1017 **was His gentleness and His plain, unassuming manners that made Him a**
1018 **conqueror of hearts**. Pride and self-importance, when compared with lowliness and
1019 humility, are indeed weakness. – {3T 477.1}

1020 The **meekness and lowliness of Christ is the Christian's power**. It is indeed more
1021 precious than all things which genius can create or wealth can buy. – {CH 403.1}

1022 Jesus expects that **his gentleness and condescension will be reproduced in those**
1023 **whom he blesses**. Jesus came to our world, and chose the lowliest life, took the
1024 humblest position, leaving us an example that we should follow in his steps. The
1025 Majesty of heaven **was meek and lowly in heart, and he expects all his followers to**
1026 **catch his spirit** of meekness and lowliness.... {ST August 22, 1895 Par. 1}

1027 In the world the Christian will be **slighted and dishonored**, and will consent to be
1028 **least of all and servant of all**. He will **submit to be injured, to be despitefully used**
1029 **and persecuted**, but wearing the yoke of Christ he will find rest unto his soul, and the
1030 yoke will not be galling. {ST August 22, 1895 Par. 5}

1031 Meekness is a precious grace, **willing to suffer silently, willing to endure trials**.
1032 Meekness **is patient and labors to be happy under all circumstances**. Meekness is
1033 **always thankful** and makes its own songs of happiness, making melody in the heart to
1034 God. Meekness **will suffer disappointment and wrong, and will not retaliate**.
1035 Meekness **is not to be silent and sulky. A morose temper is the opposite of**
1036 **meekness**; for this only wounds and gives pain to others, and takes no pleasure to
1037 itself. {3T 335.1}

1038

1039 God's Yoke is Easy

1040 It was the **spirit of uncomplaining submission in which our Saviour did His duty**
1041 **that made His yoke easy** and His burden light. He conformed to the law of obedience
1042 and service, and **the same principle that made Him so useful everywhere, He**
1043 **requires His followers to obey**. In this way every man must be educated before he can
1044 love God supremely and his neighbor as himself. {ST, June 16, 1898 par. 9}

1045 When you **find your work hard**, when you **complain of difficulties and trials**, when
1046 you say that **you have no strength** to withstand temptation, that **you cannot**
1047 **overcome** impatience, and that **the Christian life is uphill work, be sure that you**
1048 **are not bearing the yoke of Christ**; you are bearing the yoke of another master. {CG
1049 267.3}

1050

1051 How Do We Wear Christ's Yoke

1052 Take hold of the arm of God, and say, "**I am nothing, and Thou art everything**.
1053 Thou hast said, 'Without me ye can do nothing.' **Now, Lord, I must have Thee**
1054 **abiding in me, that I may abide in Thee.**" Then advance step by step, by living faith
1055 abiding in Jesus Christ. **This is wearing His yoke**, the yoke of obedience (MS 85,
1056 1901). {5BC 1092.1}

1057 **Lowliness of heart, that meekness which is the fruit of abiding in Christ, is the**
1058 **true secret of blessing**. ... It was through the desire for self-exaltation that sin entered
1059 into the world, and our first parents lost the dominion over this fair earth, their
1060 kingdom. **It is through self-abnegation that Christ redeems that which was lost.**

1061 **And He says we are to overcome as He did.** Through humility and self-surrender we
1062 may become heirs with Him, when the “meek shall inherit the earth.” [49] – {SD
1063 303.5}

1064

1065

Blessings of Obeying

1066 The **blessings connected with Christ’s invitation can be realized and enjoyed by**
1067 **those only who wear Christ’s yoke.** Accepting this invitation, you withdraw your
1068 sympathy, your affections, from the world, and place them where you can enjoy the
1069 blessing of close fellowship and communion with God. By coming to Christ, you bind
1070 up your interests with his. – {RH October 23, 1900 Par. 10}

1071 “In earnest, determined exercise as faithful soldiers, obeying the orders of the Captain
1072 of our salvation, there is genuine enjoyment such as can be obtained in no other
1073 employment. The peace of Christ will be in the heart of the faithful soldier. **There is**
1074 **rest for the soul in wearing Christ's yoke, in lifting Christ's burdens.** It seems a
1075 contradiction to say that **there is no rest for the soul except that which is found in**
1076 **continuous and devoted service. But this is true.** Happiness comes in willing,
1077 obedient service, where all the powers of our being are moving in happy, healthy,
1078 harmonious action in obeying our Captain's orders. **The more responsible the task**
1079 **assigned to Christ's soldiers, the more the soul exults in the Saviour's love and**
1080 **approval. The soul realizes a freedom in the performance of the weightiest and**
1081 **most taxing duties.”** Youth Instructor, December 22, 1886

1082 Oh, **what wonderful blessings and opportunities God has in store for those who**
1083 **wear Christ's yoke!** Trouble comes to us because we manufacture yokes for
1084 ourselves, refusing to wear the yoke of Christ. {PUR, January 15, 1903 par. 3}

1085

1086

XI. Making Sure Your Prayers Are Heard

1087 Deut. 4:29,30 “You will find Him....”

1088 2Chron. 6:37,38 “Repent and Pray....”

1089 2Chron. 7:11-14 “if My People... pray....”

1090 The old standard bearers **knew what it was to wrestle with God in prayer, and to**
1091 **enjoy the outpouring of His Spirit.** But these are passing off from the stage of action;
1092 and who are coming up to fill their places? **How is it with the rising generation? Are**
1093 **they converted to God? Are we awake to the work that is going on in the heavenly**
1094 **sanctuary,** or are we waiting for some compelling power to come upon the church
1095 before we shall arouse? Are we hoping to see the whole church revived? That time will
1096 never come. – {ISM 122.1}

1097 **God wants to be inquired of by his people, before he pours out his Holy Spirit**
1098 **upon the church.** How earnestly should every member pray and labor, and labor and
1099 pray for the deep movings of Spirit of God! – {RH June 26, 1888 Par. 8}

1100 There should be **more prayer and weeping, and more confession of sin to God and**
1101 **to one another.** Let the indifference be broken up, let the complaining and faultfinding
1102 cease, and the time heretofore worse than wasted in this manner be spent in prayers of
1103 living faith for the refreshing from the presence of the Lord. Let us arouse as one man,
1104 and unitedly call upon God to send down his grace upon the souls of his people, and to
1105 revive his work in the midst of the years. – {GW92 224.4}

1106 **Prayer is both a duty and a privilege.** We must have help which God alone can give,
1107 and **that help will not come unasked.** If we are too self-righteous to feel our need of
1108 help from God, we shall not have his help when we need it most. **If we are too**
1109 **independent and self-sufficient to throw ourselves daily by earnest prayer upon**

1110 **the merits of a crucified and risen Saviour, we shall be left subject to Satan's**
1111 **temptations.** – {RH July 24, 1883 Par. 19}

1112 **I asked the angel why there was not more power in Israel. Said he, "Ye let go of**
1113 **the promises of God too quick.** Press your petitions to the throne, and hold on by
1114 faith. Believe ye receive the things ye ask for, and ye shall have them." I was then
1115 pointed to Elijah. He was subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly.
1116 His faith endured the trial. Seven times he prayed before the Lord, and at last the cloud
1117 was seen. – {19MR 130.1}

1118 I have been **shown angels of God all ready to impart grace and power to those who**
1119 **feel their need of divine strength. But these heavenly messengers will not bestow**
1120 **blessings unless solicited.** They have waited for the cry from souls hungering and
1121 thirsting for the blessing of God; often have they waited in vain. **There were, indeed,**
1122 **casual prayers, but not the earnest supplication from humble, contrite hearts.**
1123 Meeting after meeting has closed with but little manifestation of the Spirit and power
1124 of God. **The people seemed to be satisfied to reach no higher; they seemed to**
1125 **expect no revival of the work of God;** but with grief and disappointment angels
1126 turned from the scene of confusion where tents were being removed, and the people
1127 preparing to return to their homes without the blessing which Heaven was more than
1128 willing to give them. – {RH July 24, 1883 Par. 21}

1129

1130

What Will Be The Outcome

1131 **Christ's love in the heart, revealing through the life its wondrous power—this is**
1132 **the greatest miracle that can be performed before a fallen, quarreling world.** Let
1133 us try to work this miracle, not in our own power, but in the name of the Lord Jesus
1134 Christ, whose we are and whom we serve. **Let us put on Christ, and the miracle-**
1135 **working power of His grace will be so plainly revealed in the transformation of**
1136 **character that the world will be convinced that God has sent His Son into the**
1137 **world to make men as angels in character and life.** {OFC 273.2}

1138 **God rebukes His people for their sins, that He may humble them, and lead them**
1139 **to seek His face. As they reform, and His love revives in their hearts, His loving**
1140 **answers will come to their requests.** He will strengthen them in reformatory action,
1141 lifting up for them a standard against the enemy. His rich blessing will rest upon them,
1142 and in bright rays they will reflect the light of heaven. **Then a multitude not of their**
1143 **faith, seeing that God is with His people, will unite with them in serving the**
1144 **Redeemer.** {RH, February 25, 1902 par. 16}

1145

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