

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD IN THE HEART



- ❖ God's written word and man's written words, translations
- ❖ God's spoken word to man—the process of inspiration, all scripture is given by inspiration
- ❖ Power of God in creation
- ❖ Power of God in the new birth
- ❖ Power of God on the heart

- ❖ Ephesians 4:20-24—the new creature
- ❖ Colossians 3:8-11
- ❖ Psalm 51:6-10

- ❖ *Some* is used as an adjective, and adverb, or a pronoun, but never an article
- ❖ “And he gave *some*”—*Autos* is a pronoun translated he. He is repeated for emphasis. He gave *he* apostles or he himself gave apostles. (Louw-Nida: “a reference to a definite person or persons spoken or written about”)
- ❖ “Some prophets”—The Greek word for *some* is *ho* and is an article. In English, the word *some* is never an article. In Greek *ho* is an article and means *the*.

But now, O Lord, thou *art* our father; We *are* the
clay, and thou our potter; And we all *are* the
work of thy hand. (Isaiah 64:8)

- ❖ Ephesians 4:20-24—the new creature
- ❖ Colossians 3:8-11—the new man
- ❖ Psalm 51:6-10

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

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the **image** of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. (Romans 8:29)

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge:
Because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also
reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me:
(Hosea 4:6, first part)

Therefore my people are gone into captivity,
because *they have* no knowledge: And their
honourable men *are* famished, And their
multitude dried up with thirst. (Isaiah 5:13)

The knowledge of God as revealed in Christ is the knowledge that all who are saved must have. This is the **knowledge** that works transformation of character. Received into the life, it will re-create the soul in the **image** of Christ. This is the knowledge that God invites His children to receive, beside which all else is vanity and nothingness. (*AA* 475.1)

- ❖ Ephesians 4:20-24—the new creature
- ❖ Colossians 3:8-11—the new man
- ❖ Psalm 51:6-10—create in me a clean heart

- ❖ Inward parts—*tūhôt*—in secrecy, in the dark, a sense of the innermost part of a person
- ❖ The hidden part—to shut up or keep close, enclosed and is is where God will make us to know wisdom.

But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their **inward parts**, And write it in their **hearts**; And will be their God, And they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: For they shall all know me, From the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: For I will forgive their iniquity, And I will remember their sin no more. (Jeremiah 31:33-34)

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do *them*.

(Ezekiel 36:26–27)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. (Hebrews 13:12)

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is
truth. (John 17:17)

For this is the will of God, *even* your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; (1 Thessalonians 4:3-4)

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly;
and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and
body be preserved blameless unto the coming of
our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful *is* he that calleth
you, who also will do *it*. (1 Thessalonians 5:23–24)

Search me, O God, and know my heart: Try me,
and know my thoughts: And see if *there be any*
wicked way in me, And lead me in the way
everlasting. (Psalm 139:23-24)

Hide thy face from my sins, And blot out all
mine iniquities. (Psalm 51:9)

I, *even* I, *am* he that blotteth out thy
transgressions for mine own sake, And will not
remember thy sins. (Isaiah 43:25)

I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy
transgressions, And, as a cloud, thy sins: Return
unto me; for I have redeemed thee. (Isaiah 44:22)

Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts:
And in the hidden *part* thou shalt make me to
know wisdom. (Psalm 51:6)

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most
High shall abide under the shadow of the
Almighty. (Psalm 91:1)

Keep me as the apple of the eye, Hide me under
the shadow of thy wings, (Psalm 17:8)

For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his
pavilion: In the secret of his tabernacle shall he
hide me; He shall set me up upon a rock. (Psalm
27:5)

And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in
knowledge after the **image** of him that created him:
(Colossians 3:10)

IMAGE OF GOD

- ❖ Christ is the express image of the person of God—Hebrews 1:3; the image of the invisible God—Colossians 1:15
- ❖ Man is made in the image of God—Genesis 1:26, 27
- ❖ Seth was in Adam' likeness—Genesis 5:3

- ❖ The image on a coin—Matthew 22:20
- ❖ The image of the beast—Revelation 13:14
- ❖ The image of God in man, in Christ—Genesis 1:26, 27; Ephesians 4:24; Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 4:4 (Colossians 3:10; 1 Corinthians 15:49; Colossians 1:15)

IMAGE OF GOD

- ❖ Hebrews 1:3—*charaktēr*—and is translated image. Christ is the express image of God’s person.
- ❖ When Christ is said to be the “express image” of the Father’s person, it is more than outward likeness. He is the true expression of the Father. “He that hath seen me hath seen the Father” (John 14:9) and “I and my Father are one” (John 10:30). Christ came to reveal the Father.

IMAGE OF GOD

- ❖ Colossians 1:15—*eikōn* and is also translated image. Christ is the image of the invisible God, and it means similitude, likeness, copy, and exact representation
- ❖ In Colossians 3:10, Paul declares that the Christian is renewed after the image—*eikōn*—of him that created him.
- ❖ In Matthew 22:20, *eikōn* is translated image and refers to the image on a coin of the Roman emperor.

IMAGE OF GOD

- ❖ Man is made in the image of God—Genesis 1:26, 27
- ❖ *selem*—something cut out. Used 16 times, refers to a representation, a likeness, made as the image of something, such as man is made in the image of God, the golden mice and emeralds images made by the Philistines (1 Samuel 6:5, 11), or idols made of supposed gods
- ❖ Seth, was in Adam's likeness—Genesis 5:3

May 29, 1849: “Get ready, get ready, love not this world, love not the wicked, but God and those who have His image” (EGW to the Hastings and in particular to her children) (*1EGWLM* 174.1).

The crowns of the saints were of the purest gold, and were decked with stars, and shone like the sun, as they moved all together to the top of the city. Their faces shone with glory, for they were in the **express image** of Jesus. (*1EGWLM* 239.4)

Oh, let us dwell upon Jesus' lovely, spotless character, and by beholding we shall become changed to the same image. Be of good courage. Have faith in God. (*1EGWLM* 469.2)

At the time of their conversion and baptism the Colossian believers pledged themselves to put away beliefs and practices that had hitherto been a part of their lives, and to be true to their allegiance to Christ. In his letter, Paul reminded them of this, and entreated them not to forget that in order to keep their pledge they must put forth constant effort against the evils that would seek for mastery over them. “If ye then be risen with Christ,” he said, “seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.” (*AA* 475.3)

“If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” 2 Corinthians 5:17. Through the power of Christ, men and women have broken the chains of sinful habit. They have renounced selfishness. The profane have become reverent, the drunken sober, the profligate pure. Souls that have borne the likeness of Satan have become transformed into the image of God. **This change is in itself the miracle of miracles.** A change wrought by the Word, it is one of the deepest mysteries of the Word. We cannot understand it; we can only believe, as declared by the Scriptures, it is “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” (*AA* 476.1)

The work of gaining salvation is one of copartnership, a joint operation. There is to be co-operation between God and the repentant sinner. This is necessary for the formation of right principles in the character. Man is to make earnest efforts to overcome that which hinders him from attaining to perfection. But he is wholly dependent upon God for success. Human effort of itself is not sufficient. Without the aid of divine power it avails nothing. God works and man works. Resistance of temptation must come from man, who must draw his power from God. On the one side there is infinite wisdom, compassion, and power; on the other, weakness, sinfulness, absolute helplessness. (*AA* 482.2)

God wishes us to have the mastery over ourselves. But He cannot help us without our consent and co-operation. The divine Spirit works through the powers and faculties given to man. Of ourselves, we are not able to bring the purposes and desires and inclinations into harmony with the will of God; but if we are “willing to be made willing,” the Saviour will accomplish this for us, “Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.” 2 Corinthians 10:5.

(AA 482.3)

Though he was a prisoner, Paul was not discouraged. Instead, a note of triumph rings through the letters that he wrote from Rome to the churches. “Rejoice in the Lord alway,” he wrote to the Philippians, “and again I say, Rejoice.... Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

(AA 484.2)

So will it be with all who behold Christ. The nearer we come to Jesus, and the more clearly we discern the purity of His character, the more clearly shall we see the exceeding sinfulness of sin, and the less shall we feel like exalting ourselves. There will be a continual reaching out of the soul after God, a continual, earnest, heartbreaking confession of sin and humbling of the heart before Him. At every advance step in our Christian experience our repentance will deepen. We shall know that our sufficiency is in Christ alone and shall make the apostle's confession our own: "I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing." "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." Romans 7:18; Galatians 6:14.

(AA 561.2)

“Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

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

In His prayer to the Father, Christ gave to the world a lesson which should be graven on mind and soul. “This is life eternal,” He said, “that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent.” John 17:3. This is true education. It imparts power. **The experimental knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ whom He has sent, transforms man into the image of God.** It gives to man the mastery of himself, bringing every impulse and passion of the lower nature under the control of the higher powers of the mind. It makes its possessor a son of God and an heir of heaven. It brings him into communion with the mind of the Infinite, and opens to him the rich treasures of the universe. (*COL* 114.2)

This is the knowledge which is obtained by searching the word of God. And this treasure may be found by every soul who will give all to obtain it. (*COL* 114.3)

“If thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; if thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.” Proverbs 2:3-5. (*COL* 114.4)

In Christ are “hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Colossians 2:3. He is “made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.” 1 Corinthians 1:30. All that can satisfy the needs and longings of the human soul, for this world and for the world to come, is found in Christ.

Our Redeemer is the pearl so precious that in comparison all things else may be accounted loss.

(COL 115.1)

The truth as it is in Jesus can be experienced, but never explained. Its height and breadth and depth pass our knowledge. We may task our imagination to the utmost, and then we shall see only dimly the outlines of a love that is unexplainable, that is as high as heaven, but that stooped to the earth to stamp the image of God on all mankind. (*COL* 129.1)

Our life is to be bound up with the life of Christ; we are to draw constantly from Him, partaking of Him, the living Bread that came down from heaven, drawing from a fountain ever fresh, ever giving forth its abundant treasures. If we keep the Lord ever before us, allowing our hearts to go out in thanksgiving and praise to Him, we shall have a continual freshness in our religious life. Our prayers will take the form of a conversation with God as we would talk with a friend. (*COL* 129.3)

He will speak His mysteries to us personally. Often there will come to us a sweet joyful sense of the presence of Jesus. Often our hearts will burn within us as He draws nigh to commune with us as He did with Enoch. When this is in truth the experience of the Christian, there is seen in his life a simplicity, a humility, meekness, and lowliness of heart, that show to all with whom he associates that he has been with Jesus and learned of Him. (*COL* 129.3)