

THE WORD AND THE SPIRIT



THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD OVER DISEASE AND DEATH



- ❖ Matthew 8:5–13—I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.
- ❖ Mark 1:21–26—I know who thou art.
- ❖ Mark 4:35–41—How is it that ye have no faith?
- ❖ We are spiritual Israel—Galatians 3:7, 14

MATTHEW 8:5-13; LUKE
7:1-10

. . . the centurion was tenderly attached to his servant, and greatly desired his recovery. He believed that Jesus could heal him. He had not seen the Saviour, but the reports he heard had inspired him with faith. Notwithstanding the formalism of the Jews, this Roman was convinced that their religion was superior to his own. Already he had broken through the barriers of national prejudice and hatred that separated the conquerors from the conquered people. (*DA* 315.2)

He had manifested respect for the service of God, and had shown kindness to the Jews as His worshipers. In the teaching of Christ, as it had been reported to him, he found that which met the need of the soul. All that was spiritual within him responded to the Saviour's words. But he felt unworthy to come into the presence of Jesus, and he appealed to the Jewish elders to make request for the healing of his servant. They were acquainted with the Great Teacher, and would, he thought, know how to approach Him so as to win His favor.

(DA 315.2)

Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed *are* they that have not seen, and *yet* have believed. And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

(John 20:29–31)

For the which cause I also suffer these things:
nevertheless I am not ashamed: for **I know whom
I have believed**, and am persuaded that he is able
to keep that which I have committed unto him
against that day. (2 Timothy 1:12)

Here is another case Christ presented before Nicodemus—the serpent that was lifted up in the wilderness—and declared, “Even so must the Son of man be lifted up.” John 3:14. And if He is lifted up, He will draw all men unto Him, “that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have eternal life.” Verse 15. Now just look at that brazen serpent. The children of Israel had not realized that God had been keeping them by His angels sent to their help and their protection. The people had not been destroyed by the serpents in their long travels through the wilderness. They had been an ungrateful people. (*6LtMs*, Ms 1, 1889, par. 28)

We are just so. We do not realize the thousand dangers that our heavenly Father has kept us from.

We do not realize the great blessing that He has bestowed upon us in giving us food and raiment, in preserving our lives by sending the guardian angels to watch over us. Every day we should be thankful for this. We ought to have gratitude stirring in our hearts and come to God with a gratitude offering every day. We ought to gather around the family altar every day and praise Him for His watchcare over us. The children of Israel had lost sight that God was protecting them from the venomous beasts. But when He withdrew His hand, their sting was upon them. (*6LtMs*, Ms 1, 1889, par. 29)

Ye *are* my witnesses, saith the Lord, And my servant whom I have chosen: That ye may **know and believe** me, And understand that I *am* he: Before me there was no God formed, Neither shall there be after me. (Isaiah 43:10)

Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. (John 3:11)

And what is it to believe? It is to fully accept that Jesus Christ died as our sacrifice, that He became the curse for us and took our sins upon Himself and imputed unto us His own righteousness. Therefore we claim this righteousness of Christ, we believe it, and it is our righteousness. He is our Saviour. He saves us because He said He would. (*6LtMs*, Ms 1, 1889, par. 34)

By living **faith**, by earnest prayer to God and depending upon Jesus' merits, we are clothed with His **righteousness**, and we are saved. (*6LtMs*, Ms 1, 1889, par. 39)

LIVING FAITH

❖ Abel

Isaac

❖ Enoch

Jacob

❖ Noah

Joseph

❖ Abraham

Moses

❖ Sara

Rahab

And it is that faith that works that you want. How does it work? It works by love. What love? Why, the love flashing from the cross of Calvary. It is set up midway between earth and heaven, and salvation is gained by looking at this cross. The Father has accepted it, and the angelic host have come to that cross, and God Himself has bowed in acceptance of the sacrifice. It answers the demand of heaven, and man can be saved through Jesus Christ, if we only have faith in Him. Man is reconciled to God and God to man through the full and perfect and entire sacrifice. (*6LtMs*, Ms 1, 1889, par. 42)

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is
love. (1 John 4:8)

For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love. . . . by love serve one another. . . . For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. (Galatians 5:6, 13, 14)

Through faith, that faith that works by love (to **Jesus Christ**,) and purifies the soul of its moral defilement, all have the privilege of being overcomers over every sinful trait of [character]. Through the provision that has been made for them, they may represent the character of Christ. All who are converted in mind and heart can do this through Christ Jesus. They are identified with the divine Son of God, one with Him as He is one with the Father. **God would have all understand that persons are nothing without principle.** (*11LtMs*, Lt 97, 1896, par. 62)

Principles after the divine similitude are everything, all and in all. Individually we are deciding our eternal destiny, whether we shall enjoy the highest honor, even an eternal weight of glory, or be ranked with Satan by possessing his character and dishonoring God by professing to be Christians when we are misrepresenting Christ. Those who choose to reveal the character of the arch deceiver identify themselves with the prince of darkness beyond the possibility of a change, because they choose not to see themselves as being wrong. This is the course Satan pursued. (*II Lt Ms*, Lt 97, 1896, par. 63)

The principles of righteousness need to be cherished and cultivated. The redeemed are called, “The Order of the King of Righteousness.” **What is righteousness? The doing of the commandments of God, under all circumstances. Principles are everything in God’s sight.**

Christ redeemed the fallen race, which was under forfeiture. He paid the ransom for men, and they are granted a probation, a test, to see if they will become loyal. Christ has purchased all the race. If they will not represent the character of God, if they choose to follow the impulse of their natural hearts, they will be treated the same as was Satan, because they have practiced his attributes. (*11LtMs*, Lt 97, 1896, par. 61)

Don't you know that when the young man came to Christ and asked Him what he should do that he might have life, Christ told him to keep the commandments? Said he, "I have done it." Now the Lord wanted to bring this lesson right home. "What lack I yet? I am perfectly whole" See Matthew 19. He did not see that there was a thing the matter with him, or why he should not have eternal life. "I have done it," he said. Now Christ touches the plague spot of his heart. He says, "Come, follow Me, and ye shall have life." (*6LtMs*, Ms 1, 1889, par. 35)

What did he do? He turned away very sorrowful, for he had great possessions. (*6LtMs*, Ms 1, 1889, par. 36)

Now, he had not kept the commandments at all. He should have accepted Jesus Christ as his Saviour and taken hold of His righteousness. Then, as he had the righteousness of Christ, he could keep the law of God. The young ruler could not trample that law under his feet. He must respect it; he must love it. Then Christ would bring divine power to combine with man's efforts. (*6LtMs*, Ms 1, 1889, par. 37)

Jacob was ensnared. He defrauded his brother of his birthright. As he wrestled with Christ, and his sins came up before him. And the Angel wrestled with him and said, "Let Me go," and Jacob said, "I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me." Genesis 32:26.
(*6LtMs*, Ms 1, 1889, par. 54)

Jacob obtained the victory and his name was changed that day. It was when he prevailed with God. I am so thankful that God has made a way that we may have full and free salvation. We need not look at the shadows that Satan casts on our path. He would eclipse heaven and Jesus and the light and power of heaven to us, and we keep talking of the power of Satan. But we need not talk of that. Isaiah presents it this way: "Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6. Does not that say that I and My Father are one? (*6LtMs*, Ms 1, 1889, par. 56)

The man who makes the working of miracles the test of his faith, will find that Satan can, through a species of deceptions, perform wonders that will appear to be genuine miracles. (7MR 357.2)

Heresies are now arising among the people of God, and they will continue to arise. As we near the end of time, falsehood will be so mingled with truth, that only those who have the guidance of the Holy Spirit will be able to distinguish truth from error. We need to make every effort to keep the way of the Lord. We must in no case turn from His guidance to put our trust in man. The Lord's angels are appointed to keep strict watch over those who put their faith in the Lord, and these angels are to be our special help in every time of need. (*7MR 359.2*)

Every day we are to come to the Lord with full assurance of faith, and to look to Him for wisdom. The ministers who teach the truth for this time are to strengthen their hearts by studying the word of God. “It is the spirit that quickeneth,” Christ said, “the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life” (John 6:63). Those who are guided by the word of the Lord will discern with certainty between falsehood and truth, between sin and righteousness. (*7MR* 359.2)

LUKE 5:17-26

I will refer to the paralytic who had not used his limbs for many years. There he was. The priests, the rulers, and scribes examined his case and pronounced it hopeless. They told him that by his own sin he had brought himself into this condition and there was no hope for him. But the word was brought to him that there was a man called Jesus who was doing mighty works. He was healing the sick, and He had even raised the dead. “But how can I go to Him?” he said.
(*6LtMs*, Ms 1, 1889, par. 19)

“We will carry you to Jesus,” his friends replied, “right into His presence; we have heard He has come to such a place.” (*6LtMs*, Ms 1, 1889, par. 20)

And so they took the hopeless man and bore him to where they knew Jesus was. But the multitude surrounded the building so closely where Jesus was that there was no chance for them, not so much as to come at the door.

What were they going to do? The paralytic suggested that they open the roof and take off the tiling and let him down through the roof.

(6LtMs, Ms 1, 1889, par. 21)

And so he manifested his earnest faith. They did it, and he was brought right before Jesus, where He could look at him. And Jesus, as He looked at him, pitied him, and He said, "Son, thy sins be forgiven thee." Mark 2:5. Well, what a joy that was! Jesus knew just what that sin-sick soul needed. He knew that he had been tortured on account of his own conscience, so He said, "Thy sins be forgiven thee." What a relief came to his mind! What hope filled his heart! (*6LtMs*, Ms 1, 1889, par. 22)

There was the impotent man, and as Christ talked with him, he told the pitiful story of how, that just as soon as he would go down into the water to be healed, somebody else would step in before him. Christ asked him, “Wilt thou be made whole?” John 5:6. What a question! That was what he was there for, but Christ wanted to call forth the expression of desire in that man’s heart to be made whole. And when Christ bade him to rise, take up his bed, and walk, he did just as Christ told him to do. He did not say, “Why, I have been here thirty years and have not taken a step during that time.” He did not stop to argue, but did just as he was bidden. He took up his bed and walked out and was healed from that time. (*6LtMs*, Ms 1, 1889, par. 26)

For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love. (Galatians 5:6)

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. (James 2:26)

For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
(Galatians 5:14)

For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, *ye are* God's building.
(1 Corinthians 3:9)

It is the faith that works by love that is witnessed by Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary. . . . I must be a laborer with Him. I must take His yoke upon myself. I must wear the yoke of Christ. I must lift His burdens. (*FW* 72.2)

Here is the patience of the saints: here *are* they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. (Revelation 14:12)

Nouns in genitive case. Jesus is the source (or the possessor of the faith); God is the source of the commandments.

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.
(Hebrews 12:2)

Faith—*pistis*—to believe in, to trust, to have faith in, assurance, guarantee (Acts 17:31)

❖ Keep—keep or observe or watch over or guard (a person) as in Acts 24:23; 25:4

True faith lays hold of and claims the promised blessing before it is realized and felt. We must send up our petitions in faith within the second veil and let our faith take hold of the promised blessing and claim it as ours. We are then to believe that we receive the blessing, because our faith has hold of it, and according to the Word it is ours. “What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.” Mark 11:24. Here is faith, naked faith, to believe that we receive the blessing, even before we realize it. When the promised blessing is realized and enjoyed, faith is swallowed up. (*EW* 72.2)

But many suppose they have much faith when sharing largely of the Holy Spirit and that they cannot have faith unless they feel the power of the Spirit. Such confound faith with the blessing that comes through faith. The very time to exercise faith is when we feel destitute of the Spirit. When thick clouds of darkness seem to hover over the mind, then is the time to let living faith pierce the darkness and scatter the clouds. True faith rests on the promises contained in the Word of God, and those only who obey that Word can claim its glorious promises. “If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” John 15:7. “Whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.” 1 John 3:22. (*EW* 72.2)

When we do not receive the very things we asked for, at the time we ask, we are still to believe that the Lord hears and that He will answer our prayers.... When our prayers seem not to be answered, we are to cling to the promise; for the time of answering will surely come, and we shall receive the blessing we need most.... God is too wise to err, and too good to withhold any good thing from them that walk uprightly. (*CSA 27.4*)

Jesus loved righteousness and hated iniquity. What is righteousness?—It is the satisfaction that Christ gave the divine law in our behalf. He bore the test on every point on which the sinner must bear it. He was tempted in all points as we are tempted, and through all the temptations that it was possible for the synagogue of Satan to bring upon him, he did not yield in the least degree to the power of the enemy.

Righteousness means being good and doing good. (*RH*
August 21, 1894, par. 5, 6)

When we bring our lives to complete obedience to the law of God, regarding God as our supreme Guide, and clinging to Christ as our hope of righteousness, God will work in our behalf. **This is a righteousness of faith**, a righteousness hidden in a mystery of which the worldling knows nothing, and which he cannot understand. Sophistry and strife follow in the train of the serpent; but the commandments of God, diligently studied and practiced, open to us communication with heaven and distinguish for us the true from the false. This obedience works out for us the divine will, bringing into our lives the righteousness and perfection that was seen in the life of Christ. (*22LtMs, Ms 43, 1907, par. 14*)

Then what is it? It is to hear and to see that with the righteousness of Christ which you hold by faith, [i.e.] righteousness supplied by His efforts and His divine power, you can keep the commandments of God. (6LtMs, Ms 1, 1889, par. 40)

Paul's object was to preach the righteousness that comes by faith on Jesus Christ. He took the position that every soul must have a genuine experience in this righteousness. The burning zeal in the heart of Paul compelled him to give the message. He gave assurance of his own faith on the message he bore, and the Holy Spirit accompanied his words with convincing power.

(7MR 356.2)