

Old Paths

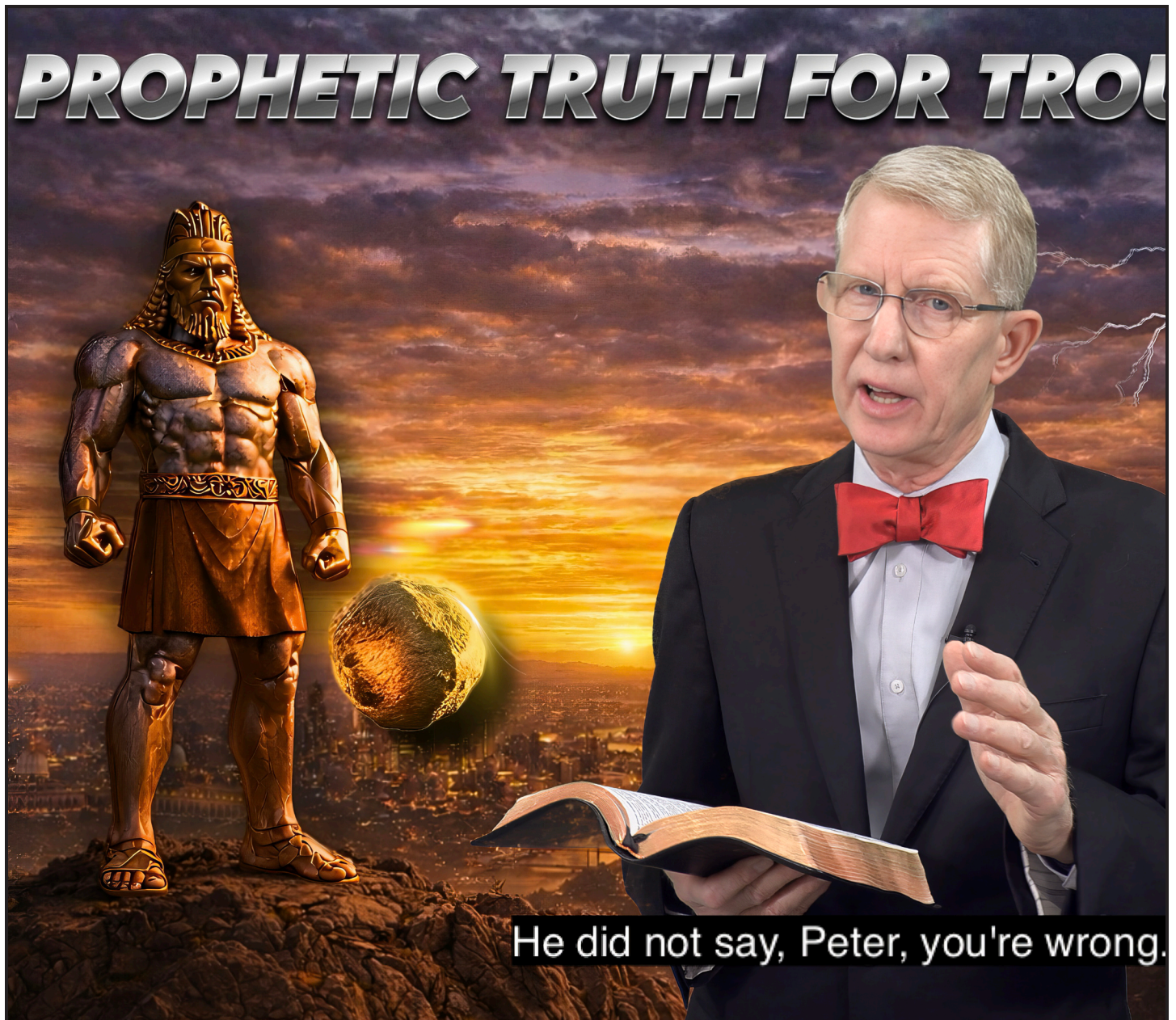
Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.
Jeremiah 6:16

The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will show them his covenant.
Psalm 25:14

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See page 20 for a report on the Zoom evangelist meetings and how you can pray for their success.



Fundamental Pillars — The Third Angel's Message, Part 2

By Allen Stump

Going on to perfection and the seal of God

The third angel's message when properly understood is a message of hope and what God can do in the life of any sinner who will totally surrender their life into the hands of an almighty Redeemer.

The prophet, seeing what seemed to the common eye nothing but despair ahead for the people, could pray:

Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee: (Jeremiah 32:17)

God then responded in the positive in question form where the implied answer was yes:

Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me? (Jeremiah 32:27)

There is nothing too hard for God if the human heart is willing to submit to his molding and shaping.

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. (Ellen White, *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 482.3; all emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted)

We need to pray that we might be willing to be made willing. There are times that the will of God may seem far off to us for reasons that are as various as the colors in the world. We may be tempted to think our case is unique and that we have a right to consider the broad way and disobey God or neglect known duty. At those times we do not feel a desire or

willingness to do God's will. But grace is provided, and if we will simply pray to be willing to be made willing, God will provide us with the will to do the right thing. In connection with the will, we read:

As the will of man co-operates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent. Whatever is to be done at His command may be accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enablings. (Ellen White, *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 333.1)

Those who will worship God in this final generation will have the will of God working with their will, and it will become omnipotent so that all of God's will may be done in the life of the believer, and that believer will go on to perfection!

Few portions of the Bible speak of perfection as much as the book of Hebrews. There we read that Jesus Christ was made perfect so that we might be made perfect:

⁸ Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; ⁹ And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; ¹⁰ Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec. (Hebrews 5:8–10)

The phrase "being made perfect" is from the Greek word τελειωθεις (*teleiōtheis*). This is a passive participle of τελειώ (*teleiō*), meaning to bring to an end, conclusion, make complete or perfect.¹ To be in the passive form signifies that the subject is being acted upon; that is, the subject is the receiver of the verbal action. God, working in the life of his Son, strengthened and enabled him to conclude the life and work that he gave him and because Jesus was *made*

¹ It should be noted that there was never anything imperfect in Jesus, but just as the plant can be perfect at any stage of development, it is not perfect in the sense of being mature and complete until the final stages of development.

perfect, we, too, can be made perfect by the will of God if we will submit our wills to him. Paul then goes on to state:

Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, (Hebrews 6:1)

The word “therefore” means *because of this* or *for this reason*. Because Christ was perfected, we are to be perfected. So, we are to go on to perfection, but what kind of perfection? One prominent Adventist theologian, Norman Gulley, teaches that perfection means to have a perfect relationship. Having a perfect relationship with God is vital and important, but to some people that leaves out our actions or how we relate to God in our lifestyle. Gulley writes:

Salvation must be understood in the context of the cosmic controversy in which the damaged image of God is being restored in willing humans and Satan is being defeated—which is an unfolding in history of the victory of the Cross. Salvation includes perfection as a perfect relationship with God, a likeness to Him, a reflection of the relational Trinity. (Norman Gulley, *Systematic Theology: Creation, Christ, Salvation*, pp. 674, 675)

Interestingly, notice how this concept is related to the supposed trinity. We need the perfection that Jesus had. He certainly had a perfect relationship with God, but what does that look like from the biblical perspective? Jesus said:

And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him. (John 8:29)

If we are not keeping the commandments, we are certainly not pleasing God, but to try to keep them in our own strength is folly. We need to abide in Christ to have perfect obedience.

In the Old Testament, the people strived for perfection through the services of the temple. Paul, however, addresses the incompleteness of the Levitical priesthood in Hebrews 7, showing that perfection could not come through it:

If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron? (Hebrews 7:11)

Paul is straight and forthright. No person was or could be made perfect through the Levitical priesthood. He further writes:

For the law [of sacrifices] made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God. (Hebrews 7:19)

Paul is emphatic that perfection was not found in either the Levitical priesthood nor in the sacrificial law, but, on the

other hand, Paul says a better hope has been introduced through which we draw near to God. Perfection is not via the old system but by the priesthood of Christ. Focusing on the main issue of the old system, Paul noted that it:

. . . was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; (Hebrews 9:9)

The conscience, or the mind, is the battleground of the Christian. While health reform is important, the flesh, or the body, of a man may be very deformed, but he may still be an upright Christian if he has a “clean conscience.” The Bible does not say to have the flesh of Jesus Christ, for we already have that, but what we need is the mind of Jesus (Philippians 2:5). Jesus came in sinful flesh and conquered in that flesh, and that victory is promised to each one who lives by faith. What a great promise and gift of God!

But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:57)

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. (1 John 5:4)

¹¹ But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹² he entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. (Hebrews 9:11–12 RSV)

In Christ we receive the eternal redemption needed which could not be provided for by the sacrificial law or any law, for that matter. Paul then goes on to reinforce this point in verses 13 and 14:

¹³ For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: ¹⁴ How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? (Hebrews 9:13–14)

The sacrifices of the Levitical system were designed to teach wonderful truths about the plan of salvation, but they had no power within themselves to cleanse our minds, or consciences. However, Christ can “purge your conscience from dead works.” The Bible says that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). Sin brings death, and dead works are works of sin. In the life of the believer there are to be no dead works or works that bring death—sin.

Continuing in chapter 10 of Hebrews, Paul reinforces his point again that the law was a shadow, or a lesson book, of the better priesthood that was to come.

¹ For the law having a shadow of good things to come,

and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. ²For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. ³But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. ⁴For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. (Hebrews 10:1-4)

Paul again states that no perfection could be found in the Levitical priesthood. Perfection is the goal all the way through. That is perfection in relationship, for sure, but a relationship that also results in obedience. Paul is continually contrasting the Levitical priesthood with its feasts and sacrifices with that of the true priestly ministry of Jesus. One system could not produce perfection, and the other could.

In the light of these and other plain statements we shall look at, it is a denial of the gospel to say that God's people cannot obtain perfection of character which comes by obedience.²

Many do not believe that all victory over sin is possible; yet, this philosophy is actually saying that the new covenant is no better and has no more power than the old covenant. We are told by modernists that perfection, which includes total victory over sin, is not attainable and that our goal should, rather, be to simply get close to the mark, but the Scriptures say that God's plan is to have no more conscienceness of sins. God does not say some conscienceness of sins.

⁵ Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: ⁶ In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. ⁷ Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. (Hebrews 10:5-7)

Paul continues by quoting Psalm 40:6-8:

⁸ Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; ⁹ Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. (Hebrews 10:8-9)

Paul is very plain. The first system that was to be done away with was the sacrifices and offerings. The second that would be established is the will of God.

Paul uses Psalm 40:6-8 to prove that the old system was done away with when Christ came to do the will of God, that is, to provide an effective sacrifice.

² "Thus actions repeated form habits, habits form character, and by the character our destiny for time and for eternity is decide" (Ellen White, *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 356.2)

The passing away of the old is indicated by the statement that God had no pleasure in the sacrifices offered by the law. The establishment of the new is indicated by the statement that Christ did the will of God in providing the true sacrifice.

The fact that the old system was obsolete was a difficult point for the Hebrew Christians, and even some today, to grasp. How feeble it is for those who try to keep the feasts of the old system today. They had a purpose and were glorious in their day, but that light is faded like the light of the moon compared to the sun. The moon only reflects light from the sun while the sun is the real light. In like manner the feasts were a type of reflected light, but Christ and his cross on Calvary with his priesthood in heaven are the true light. Paul is attempting to prove to all that this change of systems was predicted in the Old Testament, the writings held sacred by those who lived under the old system. Instead of continual systems, there is the one true sacrifice of Christ.

By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. (Hebrews 10:10)

What is God's will on the matter of perfection and overcoming sin? May the word of God explain.

For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: (1 Thessalonians 4:3)

The word of God is plain on his will concerning this, but is this will attainable? Jesus said:

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. (Matthew 5:48)

Paul teaches that it is part of the will of God to give spiritual gifts to his church for this very reason:

⁸ Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. . . . ¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: ¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: Ephesians 4:8; 12-13)

God says very clearly that his people are to come to the state of being perfect men and women, even to the measure or standard "of the fulness of Christ." This perfection is found only in Christ.

²⁰ Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, ²¹ Make you perfect in every good work . . . (Hebrews 13:20-21)

God's will is sanctification for the believer and since that involves no more consciousness of sin, the ministry of Jesus

must take away our sins, and this it does do. The law, no law, cannot do this.

Therefore by the deeds of *the* law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by *the* law is the knowledge of sin. (Romans 3:20)

The definite article *the*, though not italicized in the KJV, is a supplied word. If we do not insert, it the text reads “by the deeds of law there shall no flesh be justified.” The idea is that there is no law that can be kept to justify someone, not even the Ten Commandments. In fact, “the law worketh wrath” (Romans 4:15).

Outside of Christ, the law can only crush us, but if Christ is in us (Colossians 1:27), we may meet the law’s demands which Hebrews 10:10 declares to be the will of God (Hebrews 12:1–4).³

The ministry of Jesus to perfection

Though Paul has said much about contrasting law and grace, our efforts and the work of Jesus, he is not done yet but continues to press his point:

And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: (Hebrews 10:11)

The old covenant cannot take away sins, and anything that tries to bring back the old cannot either. By perfectly doing the perfect will of God through the empowering of Jesus Christ, we establish perfection.

¹² But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; ¹³ From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. ¹⁴ For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. (Hebrews 10:12–14)

The Greek word for “perfected” is from the same root word as we saw in Hebrews 5:9, and it is also found in John 19:30 where Jesus said it is “finished.” At each step in the plan of salvation, Christ has perfected and finished that stage of the plan, and step-by-step he will bring the believer to perfection through a new and living way. The fruit becomes ripe.

¹⁵ Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for

3 “Were the law understood apart from Christ, it would have a crushing power upon sinful men, blotting the sinner out of existence. But by understanding the law in connection with Christ, receiving him by faith as his substitute and surety, man sees himself as a prisoner of hope. The truth as it is in Jesus is an acquaintance with the holy, just, and good law of God, as this law is elevated, and its immutability demonstrated, in Christ. He magnified the law, expanded its every precept, and in his obedience left man an example, that he also may meet its demands” (Ellen White, *The Review and Herald*, February 8, 1898, par. 5).

after that he had said before, ¹⁶ This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; ¹⁷ And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. ¹⁸ Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. (Hebrews 10:15–18)

God declares that he will remember our sins no more! All this is obtained by the ministry of Christ. God’s new way involves receiving from him a new heart, a new mind.

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. (Ezekiel 36:26)

Paul under inspiration appropriately called this new heart experience a new and living way.

By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh. (Hebrews 10:20)

Through the flesh of Christ, through his coming to live as we have to live and obtaining victory as we must obtain victory, we have the assurance of perfection in our lives, as we have Christ.

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; (Hebrews 2:14)

Through his flesh, Jesus has consecrated for us a new and living way.

For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore. (Hebrews 7:28)

If you wish to be perfect as Christ, then you need to be as consecrated as Christ. He was sinless:

For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; (Hebrews 7:26)

Yet, his humanity reaches us. He who was born with sinful flesh but not a sinner will help all who come to him as he ministers as our high priest in heaven today.

Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God? (Psalm 77:13)

²¹ And having an high priest over the house of God; ²² Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) (Hebrews 10:21–23)

We may have hearts full of assurance because we have Jesus who overcame in sinful flesh.

¹⁸ For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, ¹⁹ And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: (Hebrews 12:18–19)

²² But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, ²³ To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, ²⁴ And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. ²⁵ See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: (Hebrews 12:22–25)

It has been almost 2,000 years since the apostle Paul gave up all for Christ and followed the path of Christian perfection. Why did he do it? The love of Christ constrained him, and the 144,000 will be constrained by the faith and love of Christ to stand in defense of the truth, even amidst apostasy and among cold companions.⁴

God wants everyone, but it will only be a few good men and women who will be ready when Jesus comes. As seen by Ezekiel (9:8, 9), there is only to be a small, final remnant, but you can be a part of it. The seal of God can be for you. You may have perfection of character because Christ has trodden the path for you and has consecrated it with his own blood. The will of God is clear and unmovable. You have more than a target to aim at; you have the very power of God through Christ who is able to keep you from falling (Jude 24). You can be one of God's special men or women who will stand on the sea of glass and sing the song of Moses and of the Lamb (Revelation 15:1–3). You can be a part of the group of men and women who will continue in the face of the assault of the enemy and give the vital messages, the three angels' messages.

⁴ "Let us strive with all the power that God has given us to be among the hundred and forty-four thousand" (*Maranatha*, p. 241.9).

Parenting God's Way

By Sheri Stump

"In the 1960s, secular progressives stormed the ramparts of American culture. They took a sledgehammer to anything and everything traditional and erected the false gods of their new religions, the most insidious of which has been therapeutic psychology. The new psychology, unleashed from the restraints of objectivity, was programmed to aid in the destruction of the intact nuclear family, and a good job it has done. Mental health professionals attacked the legitimacy of the traditional marriage and demoralized traditional child rearing, both of which are founded on biblical principles. Parenting according to Dr. So-and-So replaced parenting according to God's design, and it's been a downhill ride ever since." (John Rosemond, *Parenting by The Book*, p. 11)

One woman, commenting on her parenting experience said: "My husband and I have experienced more problems in just four years with two children than my parents had with all ten of us throughout our entire childhood."

Can you identify with this comment? I certainly can.

As the quote above helps us to understand, our world has been invaded by modern and, in my opinion, satanic influences that are specifically designed to break down solid biblical parenting principles that have in the past produced solid citizens and ethical future leaders. I clearly see this change within my lifetime. You do not have to look back very far to see the decline of our families and the kinds of adults that are being released into our work force. Parents today have a huge challenge in countering the currently accepted parenting mindset. This current mindset is not achieving the healthy, mature adults we need.

As Christians we know that even though the world is changing around us biblical principles do not change. Biblical principles are the *constants* that do not change no matter what year you live in. Whether is it 1960 or 2026, biblical standards and laws are constant. These constants include morality, maturity, spirituality, and the role and goals of parenting, just to name a few. These biblical attributes are constant, unchanging absolutes.

One of the greatest changes began with the invention of the television in the 1920s. In the first stage of television, the infant stage, television embraced core biblical values. Programming is a very appropriate word for the content of television. The programs on television program everyone to believe and embrace whatever the world leaders desired. This began very innocently with programs such as *I Love Lucy*, *The Donna Reed Show*, *Father Knows Best*, *Leave It to Beaver*, *Lassie*, and many more. Gradually we became 'hooked,' and the masses began to schedule their daily activ-

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Specific Words Used for Baptism?

Is there any special power or efficacy for salvation in a certain formula of words pronounced at baptism?

By David Sims

What words did the disciples of Jesus use when baptizing someone while Christ was on the earth?

The prejudice of the Jews was aroused because the disciples of Jesus did not use the exact words of John in the rite of baptism. John baptized unto repentance, but the disciples of Jesus, on profession of the faith, baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The teachings of John were in perfect harmony with those of Jesus, yet his disciples became jealous for fear his influence was diminishing. A dispute arose between them and the disciples of Jesus in regard to the form of words proper to use at baptism, and finally as to the right of the latter to baptize at all. (Ellen White, *The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 2, p. 136.3)

There was a controversy about the exact words proper to use at baptism. It does not say the exact words John used but says he baptized unto repentance, but it does imply that the disciples of Jesus baptized using the words "Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

But notice that this statement does not say, or even imply, that there was anything wrong with John's baptism or that anyone who had been baptized with John's baptism needed re-baptism, even though Jesus' disciples had already started baptizing.

Some important points to notice are these: the teachings of John were in perfect harmony with those of Jesus, implying that for that reason there should have been no controversy concerning the exact words, for the teaching received before baptism was what was important, and was the basis for the baptism.

What were those teachings?

¹ In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, ² And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (Matthew 3:1-2)

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. (John 1:29)

I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost. (Mark 1:8)

So, John taught repentance toward God and faith toward Jesus as the Savior from sin and that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit. Jesus taught the same thing.

From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (Matthew 4:17)

Paul confirms what John taught.

Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. (Acts 19:4)

Paul taught the same thing.

Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 20:21)

The disciples taught the same thing.

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (Acts 2:38)

In fact, the very meaning of baptism, which is still taught today, is that it signifies repentance and acceptance of Christ (see Romans 6). As can be seen, the message and baptism of John was essentially the same as that of Christ and of the disciples and still holds true today.

Furthermore, in speaking of the same incident, Ellen White says in *The Desire of Ages*: "Thus He set His seal upon the mission of His forerunner" (p. 178.2). In other words, Jesus was endorsing John's baptism! The statement as it appears in both *The Spirit of Prophecy* and *The Desire of Ages* places the incident in a negative light that there should be discussion or argument upon such a minor point as to the exact form of words used at the baptism. So we repeat, there was nothing wrong with John's baptism, and those that received his baptism did not need re-baptism with some other expression.

But the disciples of John looked with jealousy upon the growing popularity of Jesus. They stood ready to criticize His work, and it was not long before they found occasion. A question arose between them and the Jews as to whether baptism availed to cleanse the soul from sin; they maintained that the baptism of Jesus differed essentially from that of John. Soon they were in dispute with Christ's disciples in regard to the form of words proper to use at baptism, and finally as to the right of the latter to baptize at all. (Ibid.)

John's baptism

Why were believers at Ephesus re-baptized when they had been baptized with John's baptism?

¹ And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, ² He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. ³ And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. ⁴ Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. (Acts 19:1-4)

If these believers at Ephesus had been baptized by John the Baptist, they would have heard him preach and would have heard him teach concerning the Holy Spirit.

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: (Matthew 3:11)

So, they certainly would have known about the Holy Spirit and that John taught that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit. As we will see, Waggoner points out that these believers were baptized not by John but by someone who gave an incomplete message the person had heard from John. If they had been truly baptized with John's baptism, they would have been aware of the Holy Spirit, for John taught about the Holy Spirit. The problem was not with the form of words used at their baptism but with the teaching that preceded it.

After Jesus' resurrection, Jesus further endorsed John's baptism when he said:

⁴ And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. ⁵ For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. (Acts 1:4-5)

They were not told that they needed re-baptism before being baptized with the Holy Spirit. The opposite is true. Jesus implied that the first step, water baptism, was met and accomplished in the reception of John's baptism, and now all that remained was to wait until the Holy Spirit would be poured out, which took place on the day of Pentecost.

Now read what is said of the twelve disciples whom Paul met at Ephesus, and asked, "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?" Their reply was, "We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost." Paul then asked in surprise, "Unto what then were ye baptized?" and they said, "Unto John's baptism." Then Paul said, "John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on Him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus;" and when they heard, this "they were

baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus."

Whoever has read the record of John's work ought to be able to perceive at once that these men had not been baptized by him, and that they had never heard John preach. If they had, they would have known about the Holy Ghost; for John proclaimed the baptism of the Spirit. There is in the Scriptures no disparagement of the teaching of John, or of the baptism which he administered. By a comparison of Matt. iii. 2 and Mark. i. 14, 15, it will be seen that Jesus preached exactly the same thing that John did, namely, repentance and the Gospel of the Kingdom. Paul's words, "John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance," were not a criticism of John's teaching and baptism, but an explanation of what it really was; for they were evidently ignorant of it. It is plain that these men had been baptized, not by John, but by some person who might or might not have heard John, and that they had been baptized in the name of John. This is confirmed by the words that follow those last quoted. "Saying unto the people that they should believe on Him that should come after him." That is, John had not preached that people should believe on him, but on the One who should come after him; and this is what is to be preached unto this day. As soon as the men heard the truth concerning John's baptism, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. They had not really been baptized before; for baptism that is not in the name of the Lord Jesus is of no more value than an ordinary bath, if it be as much as that. If John had taught and baptized the man, they would not have needed a second baptism. (E. J. Waggoner, *Present Truth*, UK ed., p. 128.5-.6, February 19, 1903)

The name of Christ is inclusive of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The disciples were to carry their work forward in Christ's name. Their every word and act was to fasten attention on His name, as possessing that vital power by which sinners may be saved. Their faith was to center in Him who is the source of mercy and power. In His name they were to present their petitions to the Father, and they would receive answer. They were to baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Christ's name was to be their watchword, their badge of distinction, their bond of union, the authority for their course of action, and the source of their success. Nothing was to be recognized in His kingdom that did not bear His name and superscription.

When Christ said to the disciples, Go forth in My name to gather into the church all who believe, He plainly set before them the necessity of maintaining simplicity. . . . (Ellen White, *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 28.2, .3)

These brethren knew nothing of the mission of the Holy Spirit. When asked by Paul if they had received the

Holy Ghost, they answered, “We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.” “Unto what then were ye baptized?” Paul inquired, and they said, “Unto John’s baptism.”

Then the apostle set before them the great truths that are the foundation of the Christian’s hope. He told them of Christ’s life on this earth and of His cruel death of shame. He told them how the Lord of life had broken the barriers of the tomb and risen triumphant over death. He repeated the Saviour’s commission to His disciples: “All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”

Matthew 28:18, 19. He told them also of Christ’s promise to send the Comforter, through whose power mighty signs and wonders would be wrought, and he described how gloriously this promise had been fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost.

With deep interest and grateful, wondering joy the brethren listened to Paul’s words. By faith they grasped the wonderful truth of Christ’s atoning sacrifice and received Him as their Redeemer. They were then baptized in the name of Jesus, and as Paul “laid his hands upon them,” they received also the baptism of the Holy Spirit, by which they were enabled to speak the languages of other nations and to prophesy. Thus they were qualified to labor as missionaries in Ephesus and its vicinity and also to go forth to proclaim the gospel in Asia Minor. (Ibid., pp. 282.2–283.1)

He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (John 3:18)

In the name of Jesus

This means simply that they shall be indeed a Church of Christ-members of His body. This is evident from the fact that the church is the body of Christ, and people become

members of it by baptism (See 1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:27, which have already been quoted); and further that those who are thus baptized into Christ are baptized into the name of the Son, as well as that of the Father and of the Holy Ghost. Matthew 18:19. To be assembled in the name of Jesus, therefore, is to be assembled in humble subjection to Him as the only Head

of the church, and the only one having authority to issue commands to it. (Waggoner, *Present Truth*, UK ed., p. 339.9, May 30, 1895)

When his ministers are sent forth to preach “in his name,” they are also commanded to baptize in his name: “Baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ.”

Acts 2:38. If the

preaching has been done in his name, the baptizing can be done in his name. Otherwise not, for in that case the persons to be baptized will not know his name; and if they do not know his name, how can they be baptized—buried, overwhelmed, lost sight of—in his name; for this is what baptism in his name signifies. (A. T. Jones, “Preaching and Baptizing in His Name,” *The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, October 1, 1895, p. 633.2)

For a person to be baptized in his name, signifies much more than merely to have the phrase recited over him and then to be buried in the water. To be baptized in the name of the Lord, really signifies that just as the person is buried, overwhelmed, and lost sight of, in the water, so also is he buried, overwhelmed, and lost sight of, in the name, the character, the nature, of the Lord. It signifies that that person’s old, original nature and character are no more to be seen in the world; but in their stead the nature and character of the Lord. It signifies that he is no more to be manifest in the world; but that God, instead of himself, is to be manifest in him in the world. (Ibid., p. 633.3)

This is what baptism “in his name” signifies, both in the Greek words and in the doctrine of the Scripture. But how shall the people be baptized in his name, if they do not



If the exact words spoken at a baptism are not “proper,” does this invalidate the baptism?

know his name! And how shall they know his name, if they are not instructed in his name, and to make manifest his name to the people? O, let the preaching be all “in his name” indeed, that the people may be truly baptized “in his name,” that the promise may now be fulfilled, “My people shall know my name”! (Ibid., p. 633.4)

E. J. Waggoner, A. T. Jones, and Ellen White all taught that the name of Jesus was inclusive of the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also. (I John 2:23)

That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him. (John 5:23)

I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive. (John 5:43)

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. (John 14:26)

The apostles baptized in the name of Jesus after the ascension of Christ:

And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days. (Acts 10:48)

¹⁶ (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) ¹⁷ Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. (Acts 8:16–17)

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (Acts 2:38)

When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. (Acts 19:5)

Why did the apostles baptize in the name of Jesus after his ascension? Because Christ, at his ascension and inauguration, was given all power (authority). That means he was given the authority of the Father and the entire host

of heaven was given to him to carry forward his work on earth by his Spirit through them, called the office of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, when baptizing in the name of Christ, they were fulfilling the commission of Matthew 28:19 to baptize in the name, or authority, of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit because Christ's name, or authority, includes the name, or authority, of the Father and the Spirit.

(Pastor Sims works in Philippines where he is chairman of the 1889 HSDA Philippines Conference as well as the chairman of the world church council, This study comes from an appendix to Chapter Four on baptism in the book, FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES, STUDY GUIDE. This book gives detailed studies supporting the 1889 fundamental principles of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. These books are available upon request. A \$10 donation is requested from those who can help.....Editor)

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“Parenting God's Way” continued from page 6

ities around the sporting programs, sitcoms, or their favorite soap operas.

A great change began to evolve in the 1960s when the then adolescent television industry began to take on a rebellious, activist character. The movers and shakers of television programming began to use the influence of television to reshape America into the vision of the emerging neoliberal, secular elite. And they succeeded!

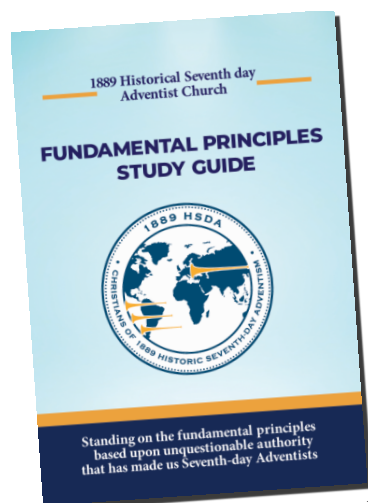
In the 1970s the overall consensus that had previously existed concerning values, right versus wrong, and morality began to change and unravel.

By the mid-70s the United States had become a full-fledged progressive culture. Progressivism holds that just as most new technologies (such as computers) are better than old technologies (typewriters), new ideas are better than old ideas. By and large the progressive mindset rejects tradition. How sad!! This new progressive mindset refuses to recognize that there is, in truth, nothing new under the sun, as the wise man wrote thousands of years ago in Ecclesiastes 1:9: “The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.”

Many of us baby boomers (born between 1946 and 1964, after World War II) decided that traditional values and forms had to go, and that our parents' ways of doing things were not going to be our way of doing things. We would raise our children better than the tried and true methods of our parents.

One of the destructive changes that took place in the 1960s concerned America's attitude toward authority. Prior

Continued on page 16, upper left column



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Marriage Morsel

Successful Communication In Marriage, Part 3

By Sheri Stump

What is Communication? — At its very basis, communication is the exchange of information, affirmation, and confrontation.

First of all, it is beneficial to realize that over 60% of all issues in marriage are redundant. In other words, they are repeat issues you are not going to solve. Some issues are rooted in personality types.

For example, if your spouse is an extrovert, You cannot change him or her. They will likely talk to anyone, anywhere, at any time, on any subject. This will not change!

Or, if your spouse is an introvert, he or she will become exhausted when forced to be in a large social setting for an extended period. They will need time alone to recharge. This will not change!

Likewise, every married couple will have conflict over parenting, finances, and other important issues. It is inevitable. So how can we resolve these conflicts in a sound and biblical way?

God's plan for marriage communication works.

When couples experience difficulty in communicating with each other, the tendency of the world is to turn to a self-help book or see what people like Dr. Phil have to say. But God has given us a much deeper and greater power than that. We have the gospel of Jesus Christ, which gives us the tools necessary to be reconciled to each other because we are first reconciled to God.

Romans 5:10 says: "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life."

We were enemies of God. We were born separated from God. God saw the conflict and the inability for us to communicate with God or for him to communicate with us. By sending his only begotten Son, Jesus, to pay the price of our sins, our communication with God has been restored and our lives are empowered with divine strength and wisdom.

Marriage is the only relationship that is compared to God's relationship with his people. To successfully resolve a conflict with our spouse, we must first have and maintain our relationship with God. There must be a vertical relation-

ship with God before our horizontal relationships with each other can be successful.

Let's talk about some tips on how to have successful communication in the exchange of information, affirmation, and confrontation. The following list will explore the *don'ts* of healthy marriage communication.

The don'ts of communication in marriage

This is a simple list of things we should avoid in marriage if we hope to have a healthy, loving marriage. This list is not comprehensive, but it will address some common issues faced in marriages around the world.

DON'T IGNORE YOUR PULSE RATE

Don't ignore your pulse rate when you are angry. Your breathing increases, and your pulse rate goes up with negative stress. You can most likely feel the increased stress and pressure. If you took your heart rate when facing a negative problem with your spouse, your pulse could be above 90. This would indicate that you are being influenced by your emotions. This isn't the time to confront. Gentle confrontation is very important; however, the timing of the confrontation will make a huge difference in the outcome. Ephesians 4:29 says: "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."

Our goal should be to minister grace to our spouse, to build up our mate, not to emotionally damage him or her. If you are angry when you confront a negative issue, you may, and probably will, say something that will tear down the most important relationship in your life on this earth rather than to build it up. This is counterproductive. Take time to calm down. Prayer will help. You may choose to take a prayer walk or seek a quiet place to talk with God first. This is very important.

Remember, a healthy marriage will have a positive effect on you and all who are in your circle of influence, but a broken, negative marriage will harm you and all those around you. The effect of your marriage on family and friends is a powerful witness for either good or evil!

DON'T USE ABSOLUTES

It is best to avoid saying never and always. In the heat of the moment, it is easy to throw out these absolute phrases. For example, when you are facing an emotional issue in your marriage and you use phrases such as you always leave your dirty clothes on the floor, or you never put your dirty socks in the laundry basket, or you never think before you speak. These absolute phrases are exaggerated and are not fair.



These kinds of statements will accelerate the argument. Please consider this scripture: “A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger” (Proverbs 15:1).

DON'T GET HISTORICAL

It is not fair to bring up issues from the past. Stay in the moment, and deal with the issue at hand. If you go historical, you will usually become hysterical. Yes, there are repeat issues that may need to be addressed but when you list all the sins of the past, you will end up creating a bigger problem and overwhelm the one small issue that needs to be addressed that day. It is a good plan to prayerfully deal with one small issue at a time.

DON'T NAME-CALL

This goes back to the verse in Ephesians. When we attach negative labels or negative names to others, we are fertilizing the problem, creating an environment for deep roots of bitterness to become established and grow an even bigger problem than what we started with. It is also damaging to compare your spouse to someone else. To say why can't you be more like so-and-so . . . or you're acting just like your mother (or father) is not constructive. If you want a healthy marriage, please, eliminate these kinds of phrases from your vocabulary.

DON'T THREATEN

In the heat of conflict, have you been tempted to say if you do this, I'm leaving? When you threaten to leave or give up, you are escalating the seriousness of the subject you're trying to deal with. Words like *divorce* and *I'm leaving* create insecurity in your marriage and will erode the foundation your marriage should be built upon. Essentially what you are saying is I don't care anymore and I'm not going to work to resolve this problem. A healthy marriage takes effort, self-sacrifice, and commitment from both parties. Don't throw in the towel; instead, respectfully request time to pray alone with God and then time to pray together with your spouse. God has the answer to every trial you face. Trust God and be willing to surrender to God's plan. For a marriage to be successful, both parties will need to surrender themselves to God and to their spouse.

As it says in Romans 12:10, “Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.”

DON'T KEEP SCORE

If your record is 3,253 arguments won and your spouse has only won 4, it's time to stop. It doesn't matter who won the last argument. Successful communication is not about winning and losing. Having a healthy, loving marriage is not achieved by winning arguments. It is much better achieved by surrendering your “right” to be “right”.

DON'T CORRECT

Many husbands and wives quickly correct their spouses when they're telling a story or relating information. *No, it wasn't 2010, it was 2011. Or, It wasn't New Mexico; that was in Arizona.* When your spouse is telling a story, it may help to pretend that they are on stage and that it is not appropriate to publicly interrupt them. Correcting your spouse publicly is demeaning to them. Especially for a man. The Bible says in Ephesians 5:33 “Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she *reverence* her husband.” The word *reverence* here means to fear, to show great reverence for, to show great respect for (Louw Nida 87.14, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains*).

This brings us to the next section of our study - the do's of communication.

A few of the “Do's” of communication in marriage

DO GIVE RESPECT

Respect is the basis for good marital communication. The book of Genesis says we become one flesh. If you're disrespectful to your spouse, you're really disrespecting yourself. If you intend to hurt and harm your spouse with your words, you're causing harm to yourself and to your marriage.

DO LET THEM TALK

This is very important. Listen to them and learn what kind of communicator they are by their words and their body language. When they are speaking, make eye contact with them and affirm to them with nods and even vocal sounds (um-hum) to demonstrate to them that you are listening and that you hear what they are saying. If you are looking at your computer screen or telephone while they are talking, they will think that you are not listening, and that will make them feel unimportant. If you listen to them with the intention to set them straight as soon as they finish speaking, and if you are formulating your reply while they speak, or worse, if you cut them off and reply before they have finished a sentence, you are not really listening. This is disrespectful and sends the wrong message. Carefully consider what they are saying. This is important to them and should be important to you, their spouse. Consider how many communication segments happen each day. Being a good listener will be tested regularly. Your goal should be to show them how much you love them multiple times each day, simply by listening to them.

To affirm how important they are to you, it helps to *mirror* their words back to them which will help you to avoid misunderstandings. This means that you listen carefully and when they finish what they need to say to you, you repeat what you heard. For example, your husband needs you (his

wife) to help him find a missing item that he needs. When he finishes explaining what his need is, you repeat what he said back to him something like this: “You need to find your dress belt. You wore it last Wednesday night, and it is not where you thought it was. Is this right?” He then has the opportunity to correct you or give additional information. This way of listening affirms to him that you care about his problem and that what he says is very important to you. He will feel respected and loved when you carefully listen to what he says. Of course, it is then important to stop what you are doing and help him find his missing item. This will demonstrate in a tangible way that he is important to you and that you are willing to stop what you are doing to help him.

DO COMPLIMENT PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY

No one can compliment me better than my spouse can. His acknowledgement of my character, talents, or service means more to me than a compliment from anyone else. Many people can compliment but when the one who means the most to us affirms our actions or praises our efforts, it will and should mean more to us than the compliments of others. We are to build each other up, especially in the marriage relationship. One of the love languages in relationships is words of affirmation. Even if words of affirmation aren’t your love language, learn to speak them. Don’t contradict your spouse in public, and do compliment them publicly as much as possible.

DO KEEP YOUR CONFLICTS AND PERSONAL STRUGGLES CONFIDENTIAL

It is vitally important that a man/woman protect their spouse. We can tear down our marriages with our own tongues. If you have a disagreement with your spouse and share it with others, you are destroying the confidential foundation of your marriage. No one wants their weaknesses made public. No one knows more about you and your strengths and weaknesses than your spouse does. Please keep your spouses shortcomings confidential. We are all human. We all make mistakes, and we are all growing in character development.

There may be a time to seek counseling; however, this should be done with agreement from your spouse, and that person you choose to share with should be a trusted counselor who will keep your personal marriage struggles confidential.

DO UNDERSTAND YOUR COMMUNICATION STYLE AND YOUR CONFLICT RESOLUTION STYLE

Proverbs 15:1 was quoted earlier in this article, and I think it is good to repeat that scripture here as well. In the Living Bible that verse says: “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but harsh words cause quarrels.” If you’ve come from a home where conflict wasn’t handled biblically, you may be tempted to fall back on old habits and patterns of communication you have learned from your parents and grandparents.

Habits like shutting down and refusing to talk, (the silent treatment), walking away, name-calling, yelling, or becoming furious. These methods of dealing with conflict will not resolve your conflict in a positive way.

One of the great things you and your spouse can do to create a solid foundation for your marriage is to read the Bible together. You will literally be on the same page. When there is an issue, argument, or conflict, you will have built a solid foundation on God’s word. You will have a priceless resource for the wisdom that is from above and a source of strength and hope that will result in a healthy, loving marriage.

Here are some simple steps:

Talk to your spouse and tell him or her that you love them daily. Tell them you want to get on the right track for a healthy marriage. Pray together. You will be amazed what God will do if you invite Him into your marriage. Make a commitment to each other to work toward a healthier marriage.

Surround yourself with strong spiritual mentors and other couples who have healthy relationships.

Attend church. Going to church every Sabbath (even if it is a virtual church group) will be very beneficial for your spiritual growth and your marriage. By committing to setting aside time for worship together on a regular basis, you will grow closer to the Lord and closer to each other as a result. However, a spiritual meal once a week is not enough so be sure to feed yourselves on spiritual food daily, as well. Personal devotion time with God and worship time together as a couple will enhance your marriage as nothing else can.

A healthy, loving marriage takes effort. Don’t just talk about wanting to heal your marriage. Commit together with God to do the hard work.



“Parenting” continued from p. 16

but as parents we have a responsibility to train our children in the way they should go. If the public schools are not teaching according to biblical standards, we dare not place our precious children into their hands. Likewise, if a local Christian school is not teaching the truth of the Bible, we dare not place the minds and education of our vulnerable children into their hands. Today, I hold that the only safe education for our children is in our homes, and the instructors must be exclusively Bible-believing parents.

Children should virtually be trained in a home school from the cradle to maturity. And, as in the case of any well-regulated school, the teachers themselves gain important knowledge; the mother especially, who is the principal teacher in the home, should there learn the most valuable lessons of her life. (Ellen White, *Child Guidance*, p. 26.4)



Youth's Corner

Letters from a Young Girl in the Hollow-1

By Grace Cox

(Sister Grace Cox grew up in what is now called Smyrna and is writing letters to my granddaughter, Gillian, telling her about her growing up while weaving spiritual lessons into them. This is the first of a series of letters we know will bless you. Pastor Allen Stump)

Dear Gillian,

I am an old lady now, but I was once a girl your own age. And I lived in that big house you can see up the hill from your house now. I was born in that house when it was new (my father had built it with his own hands and tools), and I grew up there. It and the big yard and the land around it were all different then. It was all beautiful, not old and run down and taken over by bushes and trees like it is now.

The hollow where you live was not known as Smyrna Valley then. It was Turkey Wallow Hollow (or Turkey Waller Holler, as most people pronounced it, and I still kinda like that! The name was changed to Smyrna Valley after many



When I was about two

years, and the little Sabbath Chapel was built.)

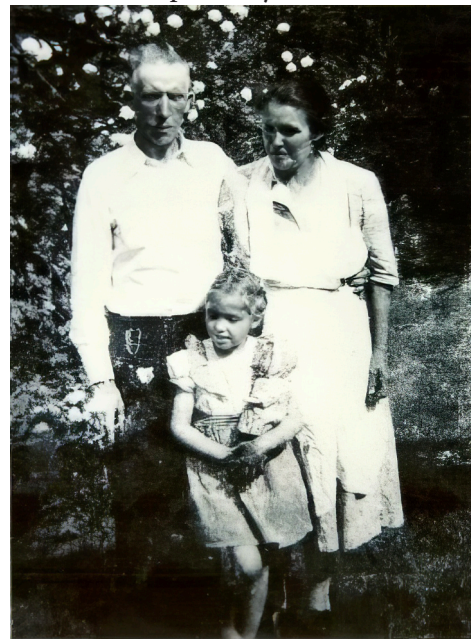
Through my mind's eyes and ears, I can trace every feature of The Hollow as it was when I was a child, the place that I still call home. I can feel every bump in the road, trace every curve of the land. I can measure the creeks, how wide (or narrow) they were; hear the laughter of their waters; cross each one, stepping on the familiar rocks,

carefully avoiding the ones that were slick with creek slime. I can watch the little crayfish and minnows playing hide and seek among the rocks and pebbles at the creek's edge. I can see the ground purple with violets in late spring, watch the daisies sway to the rhythm of the summer wind across the fields. I can taste the mountain breeze ruffling across our front porch, and I can hear the gentle merriment of creek water coursing down the hollow, lulling me to sleep with its nighttime cradlesong.

I walked and ran and skipped along the paths around our home, just as I picture you doing. I climbed the hill-sides, laid on the grass and watched the clouds float by. I had a stick "horse" that I rode everywhere, making it go as fast as my legs would carry us! My grownup brother brought gave me a chrome whistle once, and I loved to blow it as I rode the stick horse. I knew not to blow it indoors; no one had to tell me! (Speaking of skipping, I remember having a loose tooth, ready to come out, but I didn't want anyone to pull it. I was skipping along the path that crossed the creek at the edge of our pasture field (I remember the exact spot), when suddenly, that loose tooth popped out onto the ground at my feet!

I have another loose tooth story to tell you, but I will save it for another time.

The road up Turkey Waller Holler was not always paved



With my parents, Robert and Rhoda

like it is now. Can you picture in your mind a dirt road, just wide enough for a horse pulling a sled, but not nearly wide enough for a car? Cars could be driven across Indian Creek and as far as Floyd Chadwell's place, but when the water was too high, vehicles had to be left in the flat parking area right off Route 16, and everyone had to walk all the way up the road. There was no bridge for cars to drive over Indian Creek. Cars had to drive right through the water, and sometimes the water was too high and swift. When I was about 13, my father and brother



My brother, Vincent, and me

hired a man with a bulldozer who came one morning, and by evening there was a road wide enough for my brother's car. But there was still no car bridge.

Well, Gillian, for eighteen years, I was “the girl of the hollow,” but now you are that girl! So I am dedicating the stories of my memories to you. I hope you enjoy them. I will try to send one or two every week for as long as I have any memories to share that I think you would like to read about. When you can, maybe you can write me a note about some memories you are making of your own as you grow up there in my shadow, so to speak. It was a wonderful place to live, where I learned to entertain myself in simple ways and where my imagination could grow along with me. I have always been thankful that I was born and raised there in that wonderful place and that my mother knew Jesus and taught me about him, too. The first memory verse she taught me was: “The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them” Psalm 34:7. And also, “Thy word is lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” Psalm 119:105.

To Gillian with love, from Miss Grace, who sees herself as just an “antique little girl” at heart.

The first adventure told

Dear Gillian,

Once upon a time, when I was a little girl of about four, I was with my dad and mom way up on the mountain in our corn field. They were hoeing corn, the first hoeing of the season, so it would have been in early June. I was too little to help hoe the corn, so I was playing around nearby.

A good-sized rock jutting out from the hillside made a seat that was just the right size and height for me, so I was sitting on it, watching the corn being hoed. After a while, that became a little boring, so I decided to get up, and for some reason, I bent over and looked under the rock. Something was under there! I thought it might be alive.

It's a wonder I didn't reach for it. I think my guardian angel spoke to me in my mind telling me NOT to do that. So I ran over to where my father was hoeing.

“Papa! Come and look!” I was excited and so eager to share what I had found. “There's a pretty thing under that rock where I was sitting!”

He stopped hoeing but kept his hoe and walked over and looked under the rock.

“Stand back, way over there by your mommy,” he told me. Then he reached under the rock with his hoe – and dragged out a copperhead snake!! Eeekkk! He killed the snake with the hoe while I looked the other way.

To think that I had been sitting over that snake was a scary thing. It made such an impression on me that I've re-

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Copperhead snake from “the hollow”
struck and bitten my leg. I'm quite sure my guardian angel kept it from doing that. Don't you agree?

Always remember, Gillian, our angels are nearby. If you need help, just say, “Jesus, help!” and he will send your guardian angel to your rescue. And sometimes, as with my experience with the snake, we don't even have to ask. He knows the danger even if we don't. “The angel of the Lord encamps around about them that fear him, and delivers them” (Psalm 34:7). What a precious promise, just one of numerous promises we find in God's word. Each and every one is ours for the claiming.

With love in Jesus,

Miss Grace, A Girl of the Hollow



“Parenting God’s Way” continued from page 10

to the 1960s Americans generally respected traditional authority. One simple example of this change is that prior to the 1960s if a person did not agree with the political view of one of our leaders (even up to the position of the president) the politician was still respected for the office he was elected to. By 1970, a cynical and general disrespect developed toward all forms of authority including politicians, military leaders, institutional leaders, church leaders and even and perhaps especially, family leadership. The father role in television programming became the brunt of every poor joke and demeaning story plot. Television was a powerful tool in the hands of the ungodly. Satan’s agenda to break apart the family was quickly achieved.

One mental health professional, Psychologist Thomas Gordon, author of *Parent Effectiveness Training* (Wyden, 1970), the best selling parenting book of the era, claimed that traditional childrearing suffocated the “natural child” and produced instead a child who was destined to become nothing more than a mindless cog in the evil capitalist machine. In one of his books, Gordon actually claimed that the traditional exercise of parental authority was a moving force behind war!

Now, what shall we do with this information? It is obvious that our moral decline has rapidly fallen to what we now see in 2026.

Let us seek counsel from the traditional, tried and true methods found in inspiration and the Holy Scriptures.

In His wisdom the Lord has decreed that the family shall be the greatest of all educational agencies. It is in the home that the education of the child is to begin. Here is his first school. Here, *with his parents as instructors*, he is to learn the lessons that are to guide him throughout life—lessons of *respect, obedience, reverence, self-control*. The educational influences of the home are *a decided power for good or for evil*. They are in many respects silent and gradual, but if exerted on the right side, they become a far-reaching power for truth and righteousness. If the child is **not** instructed aright here, *Satan will educate him through agencies of his choosing*. How important, then, is the school in the home! (Ellen White, *Adventist Home*, p. 182.2)

Look upon the family circle as a training school, where you are preparing your children for the performance of their duties at home, in society, and in the church. (Ibid., p. 182.3)

Train up a child in the way he should go: And when he is old, he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6)

These quotes and this scripture text indicate our responsibility to teach our children. Government-run schools will be happy to indoctrinate your children in their philosophies and strip all spiritual beliefs and morality from their lives,

Continued on page 13, lower right column.

Health Matters

Medical Missionary Training Report

By Sheri Stump

Because HEALTH DOES MATTER, a Medical Missionary Training was hosted by Smyrna Gospel Ministries in West Virginia and financially supported by the USA Conference of the Historic Seventh-day Adventists 1889 Church. This event was coordinated by Sheri Stump with special assistance from Kay Barlow who made the menu and supplied many recipes. Tammy Trent made hundreds of waffles and two large crockpots of chili for our Sabbath meals, while Winnie Anderson, Lori Workman, and others helped with cleaning, organizing, and some food preparation. In addition, many other tasks were completed by Allen Stump, Allen Uhl, and Michael Woodward.



Sister Carol (left center in yellow) and Sister Sheri (to Carol’s left) with the students

Our instructor, Carol Lamb, was trained as a medical missionary in Tennessee through M.E.T Ministries with Dr. Thomas Jackson. She has presented weekly seminars for the Dunlap, Tennessee, community for years, has taught multiple seminars at a supplement and herb store in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and has taught medical missionary work in Guyana at a missionary high school. In addition, she has also operated a home sanitarium for years, has taught a medical missionary training in Kenya for children and



Paramedic Heidi Stump-Shelton teaching first aid

NUTRITION

PLANT FOOD ADVANTAGES

No cholesterol
High in fiber
Moderate in calories
Rich in phytonutrients

FIBER REDUCES RISK OF

Heart disease
Cancer
Diabetes
Obesity

NUTRITION TIPS

Eat fresh Fruits and Vegetables daily
Eat more whole grains and nuts
Eat more fiber and less refined foods
Make breakfast your biggest meal



adults, and has engaged in many more impressive outreach accomplishments.

Our program lasted two weeks with eleven students. The interest to attend our training was amazing. Our space was limited, which means, we have a waiting list for future trainings.

During training, Carol presented lectures on the basics of the eight principles of health.

Pure air, sunlight, abstemiousness, rest, exercise, proper diet, the use of water, trust in divine power—these are the true remedies. Every person should

event where the main street in Pineville, West Virginia, is closed to traffic and vendors set up to sell food and various crafts. More than fifty people came through our free health check-up station. We checked blood pressure, lung strength, height, weight, general health and handed out special tracts that were made for our health expos. The final station was a counseling station. Carol was our health counselor, and Sheri helped with counseling when the counseling station backed up.

The USA Conference of 1889 HSDA purchased Health Expo banners and equipment to empower all our churches and groups to have what they need to reach out to their communities through Health Expos. There is a banner for each of the laws of natural remedies. A couple of examples are shown. If you are interested in this kind of outreach, please contact us using the information on the last page of this issue.

Water

BENEFITS OF DRINKING

Keeps the body hydrated
Helps alkalize the body
Reduces pain

CLEANSING BENEFITS OF WATER

Assists the release of bodily waste
Hydrotherapy assists in the relief of many illness symptoms
Relieves anxiety and stress

HYDRATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Drink enough so urine is clear
Do not drink 30 minutes prior to or after meals
Ingest mineral rich salt daily



have a knowledge of nature's remedial agencies and how to apply them. It is essential both to understand the principles involved in the treatment of the sick and to have a practical training that will enable one rightly to use this knowledge. (Ellen White, *Child Guidance*, p. 366.1)

Carol taught hydrotherapy as well. The trainees received a certificate of completion the final day of class.

On the last day of training, the class participated in a mini Health Expo at "First Friday." "First Friday" is an outdoor



Health Expo on the street at Pineville, WV



Tanya Warner awarded her certificate



1889 HSDA-USA CONFERENCE
CHRISTIANS OF 1889 HISTORIC SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISM

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS CAMP MEETING 2026



July 28 - August 2, 2026



Fall Creek Falls State Park, TN,
At The Piney Creek Campground

12 SPIRIT-LED SPEAKERS



DAMARIS RIVERA



ROB CHISUM



DANIEL MESA



ALLEN STUMP



FAY ULETT



CALEB BROWN



COREY MCCAIN



JOEL RIVERA



TODD BROWN



ROY ARAYA



BRIAN THOMAS



JEAN-CHRISTOPHE
BOLOTTE

EXPERIENCE MORE



YOUTH
PROGRAM



BIBLE
STUDIES



HEALTH
PROGRAM



BAPTISMS



AND
MORE!

JOIN US FOR A WEEK OF

WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, AND SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

Strengthen your faith, connect with others and be inspired by powerful messages from God's Word.

FOOD & LODGING INCLUDED

NOTE: FREE
LODGING MAY
INVOLVE
MULTIPLE
PERSONS PER
CABIN



Free Meals



Private/Paid Accommodations
available at Fall Creek Falls
State Park and Nearby Areas

MORE INFO



1889hsda-usa.org



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+1 304-732-9204

Hid in My Heart

By Sheri Stump

The purpose of the Hid-in-My-Heart series is to meditate on and memorize scriptures that define the fundamentals of our faith so that we will be ready to give an answer for the faith that is in us. These Bible teachings are taken from the 1889 Fundamental Principles.

So far we have memorized or at least familiarized ourselves with scriptures that support the Father, the Son, the Holy Scripture, baptism, the new birth, prophecy, the fulfillment of prophecy, the truth about a temporal millennium, the prophetic correction of 1844, the prophetic ministry of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary, the immutable Law of God, the Sabbath, the change of the Law of God, Christ's peculiar people, how God would have his people dress, giving to God, the nature of man, man's dependance on God, gifts of the Spirit, the three angels' messages; and this article features Fundamental Principle XXI—the investigative judgment.

1889 Fundamental Principle XXI

XXI – That the time of the cleansing of the sanctuary (See proposition X.), synchronizing with the time of the proclamation of the third message (Rev. 14:9, 10), is a time of investigative judgment, first, with reference to the dead, and secondly, at the close of probation, with reference to the living, to determine who of the myriads now sleeping in the dust of the earth are worthy of a part in the first resurrection, and who of its living multitudes are worthy of translation, – points which must be determined before the Lord appears.

This fundamental addresses the investigative judgment. There are three phases of any judgment: the investigative phase, the judicial phase and the executive phase. This is a very important study.

If you would like a complete biblical explanation on this Fundamental Principle, here is the link of a sermon Pastor Allen Stump gave on Fundamental Principle XXI:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XR0myTvxxzq0&list=PLsE-5c918fZEdGxPn-qrO6mmkyPe708owA&index=24>



The following are some verses for you to memorize/meditate upon.

I have included the first letter of each word following each verse. Memorizing the verse with this help will assure that

you do not miss a word while reciting it and since each letter represents one word, it will be a help to prompt you on what the next word in the verse is.

“For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God” (1 Peter 4:17)?

FttictjmbathoG: aiifbau, wstebottontgoG? 1 P 4:17

“¹² As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time. ¹³ I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him” (Daniel 7:12–13).

Actrotb,thtdta: ytlwfpasat. Isitnv, a, b, oltSomcwtcoh, actAod, atbhnbh. D 7:12–13

“A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened” (Daniel 7:10).

Afsiacffbh: ttmuh, atttttsbh tjws, atbwo. D 7:10

“Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven” (Luke 10:20)

Nitrn, ttsasuy; brr, bynawih. L 10:20

May God bless you as you meditate on these verses is my prayer for each of you!

Build a wall of scriptures around you, and you will see that the world cannot break it down. Commit the scriptures to memory, and then throw them right back upon Satan when he comes with his temptations, ‘it is written.’ This is the way that our Lord met the temptations of Satan, and resisted them. (Ellen White, *The Review and Herald*, April 10, 1888, par. 9)





PROPHETIC TRUTH FOR TROUBLED TIMES

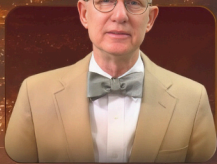
DATE: MAY 7 - JUNE 6, 2026

Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays at 7pm EST

Registration: prophetictruthfortroubledtimes.com
Email: info@prophetictruthfortroubledtimes.com

Event Features

Decoding Bible Prophecies
Health Talks
Live Q&A
Spirit-filled Music
Prayer Warriors
And more!



**Evangelist Allen
Stump & a Robust
Spirit-led Team**

Zoom Information

Meeting ID:
613 212 7443

Passcode:
916919

Evangelistic Meetings

The USA conference of 1889 HSDA has been hosting an evangelistic effort via Zoom. By the time you receive this they will be getting near the end, but it is not too late to catch the last meetings. The meetings started May 7 and will end June 6, 2026.

We have had some really good health talks on the eight natural remedies in each session. The songs have been outstanding, and we are thankful to all who have helped.

Our average attendance has been around 75 people. Far too few, but we are praying that those who are attending are being blessed.

We have used Zoom breakout rooms where the participants can read scriptures and consider questions that will help prepare them for the evening message.

The messages, with the songs, the health moments, and the question and answer sessions are being recorded and posted at our dedicated YouTube website: www.youtube.com/@prophetictruthfortroubledtimes. Please pray for the rest of the meetings and followup possibilities.



Online Virtual Service Schedule

We provide on-site, as well as virtual services. All times are EST or EDT, depending on the time of the year.

Sabbath: Sabbath School—9:10 am; Worship Service—11:00 am

Monday: Story Hour—7:00 pm

Wednesday: Prayer Meeting—7:00 pm

Thursday: History/Theology Study—7:00 pm

Zoom Room Information: ID—613 212 7443. Passcode—916919. Phone—1-646-931-3860, enter conference ID 613 212 7443, followed by the # symbol when prompted, and press the # symbol again. 卐

Old Paths is a free monthly newsletter/study-paper published by Smyrna Gospel Ministries, 750 Smyrna Road, Welch, WV 24801-9606 U. S. A. The paper is dedicated to the propagation and restoration of the principles of truth that God gave the early Seventh-day Adventist pioneers. Duplication is not only permitted, but strongly encouraged. This issue, with other gospel literature we publish, can be found at our website. The url is: <http://www.smyrna.org>. Phone: (304) 732-9204.

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