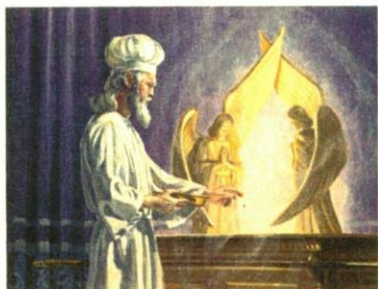


Study Guide



In His *Presence*

Knowing God in the Sanctuary

by
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PURPOSE OF THE SANCTUARY

"The sanctuary in heaven is the very center of Christ's work in behalf of men. It concerns every soul living upon the earth. It opens to view the plan of redemption, bringing us down to the very close of time, and revealing the triumphant issue of the contest between righteousness and sin. It is of the utmost importance that all should thoroughly investigate these subjects, and be able to give to everyone that asketh them a reason for the hope that is in them." R&H, Nov. 9, 1905; or GC 488,489

"The great plan of redemption, as revealed in the closing work for these last days, should receive close examination. The scenes connected with the sanctuary above should make such an impression upon the minds and hearts of all that they may be able to impress others. All need to become more intelligent in regard to the work of the atonement, which is going on in the sanctuary above. When this grand truth is seen and understood, those who hold it will work in harmony with Christ to prepare a people to stand in the great day of God, and their efforts will be successful. By study, contemplation, and prayer, God's people will be elevated above common, earthly thoughts and feelings, and will be brought into harmony with Christ and His great work of cleansing the sanctuary above from the sins of the people. Their faith will go with Him into the sanctuary, and the worshipers on earth will be carefully reviewing their lives, and comparing their characters with the great standard of righteousness. They will see their own defects; they will also see that they must have the aid of the Spirit of God if they would become qualified for the great and solemn work for this time which is laid upon God's ambassadors." 5T 575

"The significance of the Jewish economy is not yet fully comprehended. Truths vast and profound are shadowed forth in its rites and symbols. The gospel is the key that unlocks its mysteries. Through a knowledge of the plan of redemption, its truths are opened to the understanding. Far more than we do, it is our privilege to understand these wonderful themes. We are to comprehend the deep things of God. Angels desire to look into the truths that are revealed to the people who with contrite hearts are searching the word of God, and praying for greater lengths and breadths and depths and heights of the knowledge which He alone can give." COL 133

"Through Christ was to be fulfilled the purpose of which the tabernacle was a symbol, that glorious building, its walls of glistening gold reflecting in rainbow hues the curtains inwrought with cherubim, the fragrance of ever-burning incense pervading all, the priests robed in spotless white, and in the deep mystery of the inner place, above the mercy seat, between the figures of the bowed, worshiping angels, the glory of the holiest. In all, God desired His people to read His purpose for the human soul. It was the same purpose long afterward set forth by the apostle Paul, speaking by the Holy Spirit: 'Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.'" Ed 36

"We should show them [the people] that the Old Testament is as verily the gospel in types and shadows as the New Testament is in its unfolding power. The New Testament does not present a new religion; the Old Testament does not present a religion to be superseded by the New. The New Testament is only the advancement and unfolding of the old . . .

"The gospel is given in precept in Leviticus. Implicit obedience is required now as then. How essential it is that we understand the importance of this word!" 6T 392

"The temple of God is opened in heaven, and the threshold is flushed with the glory which is for every church that will love God and keep His commandments. We need to study, to meditate, and to pray. Then we shall have spiritual eyesight to discern the inner courts of the celestial temple...As we apply the golden eyesalve we shall see the glories beyond. Faith will cut through the heavy shadow of Satan, and we shall see our Advocate offering up the incense of His own merits in our behalf. When we see this as it is, as the Lord desires us to see it, we shall be filled with a sense of the immensity and diversity of the love of God." 6T 368

THE SANCTUARY LINKS US WITH HEAVEN

Rev. 11:19 There is a temple in heaven.

Heb. 8:1,2 Christ is the High Priest of the heavenly sanctuary.

Heb. 7:24,25 Because of His priestly work, He is able to save completely those who come to God by Him.

Heb. 8:10,11; Heb.10:14-17

His work results in the fulfilling of the new covenant promise to write the law in our hearts and cause us to know the Lord.

Heb. 9:24 Christ entered into heaven itself to appear in the presence of God for us.

Heb. 10:19-22; Heb. 4:15,16

Because of this, we are to enter into the presence of God by the blood of Jesus.

1 Pet. 2:5,9 Through Christ, God's people are priests, and as such are to offer up spiritual sacrifices.

How can God's earthly priests cooperate with the great work that is being carried forward by our High Priest in heaven? We must enter in daily with Him, first in our own lives, and then in ministry for others, in that order. Daily death to self, regeneration, infilling of the Holy Spirit, strength from God, and communion with Him are indispensable to our spiritual life and witness. This is what Christ is providing for us by His ministry. Are we cooperating as fully with Him as is our privilege? The Old Testament priests were very careful in the way they approached and served God. God gave to them in symbol the pathway into the presence of God. As long as we are sinners, this pathway will not change. Our lack of understanding and applying this is perhaps the cause of our lethargy and lack of spiritual power. Let us cease presuming upon His mercy, and come to Him daily in the beautiful way of the sanctuary.

1 Cor. 6:19,20 Our body was created to be a temple for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

2 Cor. 6:16,17 God will dwell in us if we are cleansed from our idols.

The human mind was created in the image of God and was completely in harmony and communion with the mind of God. When sin entered, the capacity for communion was still there, but was taken over by Satanic influences in all who, like Cain, were unwilling to come to God in the way of salvation which was provided through Christ. In the Old Testament God led the people to practice and hopefully understand this through symbols and ordinances, which were "a shadow of things to come" (Col. 2:17).

In the New Testament this is not as clearly marked out, but it is still discernable. Perhaps the missing key for most of us is that this experience is to be daily, and has an orderliness to it that has escaped us in the past. We may have had isolated experiences now and then in periods of trial or emergency when in our great need we humbled ourselves before God and sought Him with all our hearts. Could this be one reason

why God permits trials to come upon us? But can we have a daily experience like that, even during the varied experiences of normal life? Some, like Enoch and Daniel, have had. Then why not we, who are living on the very borders of eternity? Will anything less prepare us for the latter rain and the close of probation? Will anything less dispel the death stupor of Laodicea?

For over 160 years we have had the open invitation of heaven to enter into the sanctuary, including the second apartment, with Jesus. Let us accept His gracious invitation at once, and let Him introduce us to the glories of living in His presence even now. "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit:" (1 Cor. 2:9,10). And this is the relationship that Jesus offers to Laodicea if they will open their heart's door and let Him come in.

ENTERING THE SANCTUARY RELATIONSHIP

Preparation: Allow God to awaken you in the morning and respond to His timing for your worship. This is what Jesus did, and His example is for us (Isa. 50:4,5).

Other morning promises: Ps. 5:3; Eze. 12:8; Lam. 3:22,23; Isa. 33:2; Zeph. 3:5; Job 7:18; Ps. 90:14

"Christ was continually receiving from the Father that He might communicate to us...In the early hours of the new day the Lord awakened Him from His slumbers, and His soul and His lips were anointed with grace that He might impart to others. His words were given Him fresh from the heavenly courts, words that He might speak in season to the weary and oppressed." COL 139

"... He was wholly dependent upon God, and in the secret place of prayer He sought divine strength, that He might go forth braced for duty and trial.

"...As a man He supplicated the throne of God 'till His humanity was charged with a heavenly current that should connect humanity with divinity. Through continual communion He received life from God, that He might impart life to the world. His experience is to be ours." DA 363

"Christ in His life on earth made no plans for Himself. He accepted God's plans for Him, and day by day the Father unfolded His plans." MH 479

"Daily He received a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit." COL 139

"Vital energy is imparted to the mind through the brain." Te 74

"He prayed not for Himself, but for those whom He came to save. As He became a suppliant, seeking at the hand of His Father fresh supplies of strength, and coming forth refreshed and invigorated as man's substitute, He identified Himself with suffering humanity and gave them an example of the necessity of prayer." 4T 528

Speak aloud to God. Words spoken in prayer have power against the enemy, and also help to influence and "re-program" our own thought processes and keep our minds from wandering. These words are written in the books of heaven and are ever before God, even though we may be busy, asleep, or dead. Our God never slumbers nor sleeps, and He delights to answer the prayers of His faithful children! (See Ps. 5:3; Ps 66:19; 18:6; 55:16,17)

"At the sound of fervent prayer, Satan's whole host trembles." 1T 346

Step #1: Praise

Begin worship with praise to God.

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name." Ps. 100:4

Thanksgiving: Personal recognition and joyful response to God's Lordship in our lives, and specific verbal appreciation for blessings received.

Praise: Reverent adoration for who God is--His holiness, His character and attributes which call forth our faith, worship and willing obedience.

- Heb. 13:15 Praise is a spiritual sacrifice.
- Ps. 50:23 Praise prepares the heart for worship and communion with God.
- Ps. 104:34 Praise is part of our meditation and worship.
- Ps. 69:30,31 Praise is pleasing to God.
- Ps. 71:14-16 Praise gets our minds off self and places them upon God and His righteousness only.
- Rom. 1:22 A neglect of praise leads us to forget God.
- Rom. 2:4 Recognizing God's kindness leads us toward repentance.

"The gratitude which flows from our lips is the result of the Spirit's striking the cords of the soul in holy memories, awakening the music of the heart." 1SM 344

"Let words of penitence and grateful praise come up before God as sweet incense in His heavenly sanctuary." 2SM 272

"If more praising of God were engaged in now, hope and courage and faith would steadily increase." PK 202

"Praise the Lord even when you fall into darkness. Praise Him even in temptation. 'Rejoice in the Lord alway,' says the apostle; 'and again I say, Rejoice.'" 2T 593

"Even in the night of affliction how can we refuse to lift heart and voice in grateful praise, when we remember the love to us expressed by the cross of Calvary?" 5T 316

"If the loving-kindness of God called forth more thanksgiving and praise, we would have far more power in prayer." 5T 317

"The melody of praise is the atmosphere of heaven; and when heaven comes in touch with the earth, there is music and song--'thanksgiving, and the voice of melody' Isaiah 51:3." Ed 161

"In the inner court of heaven [heavenly intelligences] listen to the testimony of the witnesses for Christ in the outer court on earth, and the praise and thanksgiving from the worshipers below is taken up in the heavenly anthem, and praise and rejoicing sound through the heavenly courts because Christ has not died in vain for the fallen sons of Adam." 6T 366

Step #2: Altar of Sacrifice

Confession of sin; humbling ourselves, emptying ourselves, laying all our cares and burdens upon Jesus.

Rom. 12:1,2 We are to present our bodies and minds as a living sacrifice to God.

Rom. 6:6-8 We are to be crucified with Christ that we might be dead to sin and alive with Christ.

1 Cor. 15:31 This experience is to be daily.

Heb. 13:12-16 Let us go forth for Jesus, willing to bear reproach with thankfulness and praise and to gladly serve others as He did.

Phil. 2:8 Christ humbled Himself and became obedient to the death of the cross.

Pr. 15:33 Before honor is humility.

Ps. 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart.

Js. 4:6-10 Humble yourselves in the sight of God and He will lift you up.

1 Pet. 5:5-7 Humble yourselves--God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble. Cast all your cares upon Him.

Prov. 16:3 Commit your works unto the Lord and your thoughts will be established.

Ps. 55:22 Cast your burden (margin: "Heb.--what he hath assigned thee") on the Lord and He will sustain you.

"Self is the most difficult thing we have to manage. In laying off burdens, let us not forget to lay self at the feet of Christ. Hand yourself over to Jesus to be molded and fashioned by Him, that you may be made vessels unto honor. Your temptations, your ideas, your feelings, must all be laid at the foot of the cross. Then the soul is ready to listen to words of divine instruction. Jesus will give you to drink of the water which flows from the river of God. Under the softening and subduing influence of His Spirit your coldness and listlessness will disappear. Christ will be in you a well of water, springing up into everlasting life..." UL 218

"...refer every thought and action to Him, inquiring: 'Is this the way of the Lord?' If they [we] did, they [we] would walk with God, as did Enoch." 6T 393

"This is the great Day of Atonement, and our Advocate is standing before the Father, pleading as our intercessor. In place of wrapping about us the garments of self-righteousness, we should be found daily humbling ourselves before God, confessing our own individual sins, seeking the pardon of our transgressions, and cooperating with Christ in the work of preparing our souls to reflect the divine

image. Unless we enter the sanctuary above, and unite with Christ in working out our own salvation with fear and trembling, we shall be weighed in the balances of the sanctuary, and shall be pronounced wanting." (MS 168, 1898) 7BC 933,934

"When Satan presses his suggestions upon our minds, we may, if we cherish a 'Thus saith the Lord,' be drawn into the secret pavilion of the Most High." 6T 393

"There is a need today of such a revival of true heart religion as was experienced by ancient Israel. Repentance is the first step that must be taken by all who would return to God. No one can do this work for another. We must individually humble our souls before God and put away our idols. When we have done all that we can do, the Lord will manifest to us His salvation." PP 590

"It is one thing to assent in a general way to the agency of the Holy Spirit, and another thing to accept His work as a reprover calling to repentance. Many feel a sense of estrangement from God, a realization of their bondage to self and sin; they make efforts for reform; but they do not crucify self. They do not give themselves entirely into the hands of Christ, seeking for divine power to do His will. They are not willing to be molded after the divine similitude. In a general way they acknowledge their imperfections, but they do not give up their particular sins. With each wrong act the old selfish nature is gaining strength.

"The only hope for these souls is to realize in themselves the truth of Christ's words to Nicodemus, 'Ye must be born again.'" COL 48

"The Lord says, 'Draw nigh to God.' How? By secret, earnest examination of your own heart, by childlike, heartfelt, humble dependence upon God, making known all your weakness to Jesus, and by confessing your sins. Thus you may draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you....

"Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded....

"God grants no pardon to him whose penitence produces no humility." 7BC 938

"No man can cover his soul with the garment of Christ's righteousness while practicing known sins or neglecting known duties." ISM 366

"As soon as we consent to give sin up, to acknowledge our guilt, the barrier is removed between the soul and the Saviour." ISM 325

"The first four commandments allow no separation of the affections from God. Nor is anything allowed to divide, or share, our supreme delight in Him. Whatever divides the affections, and takes away from the soul supreme love to God, assumes the form of an idol. Our carnal hearts would cling to our idols and seek to carry them along; but we cannot advance until we put them away, for they separate us from God." 1T 289

"I saw that none could share the 'refreshing' unless they obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action. We should, therefore, be drawing nearer and nearer to the Lord and be earnestly seeking that preparation necessary to enable us to stand in the battle in the day of the Lord." EW 71

"The Holy Spirit is waiting for channels through whom to work. The Spirit of God will be poured out upon the church just as soon as the vessels are prepared to receive it." KH 330

"...In order for us to fulfill God's purpose, there is a preparatory work to be done. The Lord bids us empty our hearts of the selfishness which is the root of alienation. He longs to pour upon us His Holy Spirit in rich measure, and He bids us clear the way by self-renunciation. When self is surrendered to God, our eyes will be opened to see the stumbling stones which our un-Christlikeness has placed in the way of others. All these God bids us remove. He says: 'Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed' James 5:16." 6T 43

"The great deceiver has prepared his wiles for every soul that is not braced for trial and guarded by constant prayer and living faith. As ministers, as Christians, we must work to take the stumbling blocks [Matt. 3:3; Isa. 62:10] out of the way. We must remove every obstacle. Let us confess and forsake every sin that the way of the Lord may be prepared, that He may come into our assemblies and impart His rich grace. The world, the flesh, and the devil must be overcome." ISM 123

"There is nothing that Satan fears so much as that the people of God shall clear the way by removing every hindrance, so that the Lord can pour out His Spirit upon a languishing church and an impenitent congregation . . . When the way is prepared for the Spirit of God, the blessing will come." Ibid. 124

"Our heavenly Father is more willing to give His Holy Spirit to them that ask Him, than are earthly parents to give good gifts to their children. But it is our work, by confession, humiliation, and earnest prayer, to fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised to grant us His blessing. A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer." Ibid. 121

"Today you are to have your vessel purified, that it may be ready for the heavenly dew, ready for the showers of the latter rain; for the latter rain will come, and the blessing of God will fill every soul that is purified from every defilement. It is our work today to yield our souls to Christ, that we may be fitted for the time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord--fitted for the baptism of the Holy Spirit." Ev 702

"The people of God must move understandingly. They should not be satisfied until every known sin is confessed; then it is their privilege and duty to believe that Jesus accepts them." 1T 167

THE INTERCESSORY WORK OF CHRIST

"As our Intercessor, [Christ's] work is to introduce us to God as His sons and daughters. Christ intercedes in behalf of those who have received Him. To them He gives power, by virtue of His own merits, to become members of the royal family, children of the heavenly King. And the Father demonstrates His infinite love for Christ, who paid our ransom with His blood, by receiving and welcoming Christ's friends as His friends. He is satisfied with the atonement made. He is glorified by the incarnation, the life, death, and mediation of His Son.

"No sooner does the child of God approach the mercy seat than he becomes the client of the great Advocate. At his first utterance of penitence and appeal for pardon Christ espouses his case and makes it His own, presenting the supplication before the Father as His own request.

"As Christ intercedes in our behalf, the Father lays open all the treasures of His grace for our appropriation, to be enjoyed and to be communicated to others." 6T 363, 364

"The figure of spewing out of His mouth means that He cannot offer up your prayers or your expressions of love to God. He cannot endorse your teaching of His word or your spiritual work in anywise. He cannot present your religious exercises with the request that grace be given you." 6T 408

"He has given light and life to all, and according to the measure of light given, each is to be judged. And He who has given the light, He who has followed the soul with tenderest entreaty, seeking to win it from sin to holiness, is in one its advocate and judge." DA 210

"The One who has stood as our intercessor: who hears all penitential prayers and confessions; who is represented with a rainbow, the symbol of grace and love, encircling His head, is soon to cease His work in the heavenly sanctuary. He for whom His people have looked will assume His right--the office of Supreme Judge." 7BC 989

Step #3: Laver

Feeding upon portions of the word of God that are specifically applicable to your need for that day, as brought before the Lord in step #2.

Read it, meditate upon it, pray it back to the Lord, let its precepts wash through your mind, and empowered by the cleansing agent of the Holy Spirit, purify your heart of sin. NOTE: Resist the temptation to get sidetracked onto other issues or unrelated subjects unless you are sure it is from the Holy Spirit. Come back to these at a later time.

- Titus 3:5,6 We are saved by the washing (margin: "laver." Gr.* (loo-tron)a bath; washing. Fig. - baptism.) of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.
- Eph. 6:17 The word of God is the sword of the Spirit.
- Ps. 119:9,11 The word, taken into the heart and obeyed, is a cleansing agent and keeps us from sin.
- 2 Cor. 7:1 The promises of God enable us to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit.
- Eph. 5:26; Jno. 15:3 Jesus cleanses His church by His word.
- Jno. 13:10 The foot-washing service is a symbol of this cleansing in the New Testament.
- Rev. 1:5 Jesus washes us from sin in His blood.
- Heb. 10:19-22 Because of the blood of Jesus and His high priestly ministry, we can draw near "in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water."
- Ex. 30:17-21 In the Old Testament, the priests had to prepare by washing their hands and feet in the laver, or they would die.
- Js. 4:8 In the New Testament, we are to cleanse our hands and purify our hearts in order to come before God prepared for communion and service. (Baptism, of course, is another New Testament symbol of this cleansing, but this is a daily experience as we die daily and renew

our walk with the Lord in ongoing growth and commitment.)
1 Pet. 1:23 We are born again by the word of God.
Col. 3:9,10 When we put off the old man with his deeds, we put on the new man which is renewed in knowledge (through the word) after that of our Creator.

Note: I find it especially helpful during this process to confess my sinful characteristics as I see them described in the word of God and am impressed by the Holy Spirit to see how these apply to my life. Then I find passages that describe Christ's life and attitudes, and I meditate upon these and ask that these be implanted in my heart and mind by the Holy Spirit. I memorize these and focus upon these characteristics and ask God to live out these things in my life that day. Some passages that I like best are: Heb. 12:1-15; 1 Pet. 2:15-24; 1 Pet. 3; Phil. 2:1-15; Col. 1:9-14; Rom. 6, 8, 12.

Steps 1 - 3 prepare us to enter into the 1st apartment phase of our worship, for, as Ps. 24:3-5 says: "Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart;..." Only as we come with confession and humbling of heart and cleansing through the blood of Jesus and His word are we prepared to ask for and receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit for that day.

"Everyone must now search the Bible for himself upon his knees before God, with the humble, teachable heart of a child if he would know what the Lord requires of him." 5T 214

"God will cleanse the heart from its pollution if we do not refuse to be instructed, refuse correction, reject reproof, and follow our own will and way." 4T 229

"Not one of us will ever receive the seal of God while our characters have one spot or stain upon them. It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul temple of every defilement. Then the latter rain will fall upon us as the early rain fell upon the disciples on the day of Pentecost." 5T 214

Step #4: Candlesticks

Become familiar with the various gifts and usages of the Holy Spirit.

These gifts are comfort, guidance, leading into all truth, showing us about Jesus and living His life in us, giving us power for witnessing, etc. Ask God to give you the measure that you will need for that day. Go over the day's plans with Him and give Him opportunity to impress you to add or delete these if He chooses, either then or later during the day.

Ex. 25:6 Oil was used for the lights in the candlestick of the sanctuary.
Ex. 30:7,8 The lamps were dressed morning and evening at the time of prayer.
Zech. 4:1-6 "Not by might nor by power but by my Spirit."
Rev. 4:5 The seven Spirits, (or sevenfold Spirit), are blazing before the throne of God.
Rev. 5:6 Christ has these Spirits, and sends them out to all the earth.
Eph. 3:16-21 Christ sends us all the fullness of God through His Spirit.
Isa. 11:1-3; Isa. 4:4

The seven aspects of the Holy Spirit are: Wisdom, understanding, counsel, power, knowledge, fear of the Lord (hatred of evil), and judgment, or discernment.

Col. 1:9-14; Col. 2:3; Eph. 1:17 ;Gal. 5:22,23

Fruits of the Spirit: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

1 Cor. 2:6-16 The Holy Spirit is the very mind and thoughts of God.

2 Cor. 3:3 It is the Spirit who writes the law upon the heart, which is the basis of the new covenant in Christ.

Heb. 8:6,10; Heb. 10:15,16,29 Eph. 4:29-32

We must not resist Him, for it is He who seals us in our foreheads, or minds, with the character of God.

Prov. 1:22; 2:11; Rev. 7:1-4; 14:1-5; 1 Cor. 12:4-7

From the Spirit we receive spiritual gifts.

Matt. 5:14,16 "Ye are the light of the world." "Let your light shine before men."

John 1:9 Christ is the light that lights every man that comes into this world.

Rev. 1:20 The seven churches are tended by Christ in His ministry.

John 8:12 Jesus is the light of the world. If we follow Him we will have light.

Remember! The five foolish virgins did not have enough oil in their lamps. They did not avail themselves of the ministry of Christ in preparing for and receiving the outpouring of the Holy Spirit while there was still time. This cannot be done at the last minute. It must be a daily work, a daily walk.

"Before giving us the baptism of the Holy Spirit, our heavenly Father will try us, to see if we can live without dishonoring Him . . . do not think that you can have great spiritual blessings without complying with the conditions God Himself has laid down." Letter 22, 1902

"The measure of the Holy Spirit we receive will be proportioned to the measure of our desire and faith exercised for it, and the use we shall make of the light and knowledge that shall be given to us. We shall be entrusted with the Holy Spirit according to our capacity to receive and our ability to impart it to others." RH May 5, 1896

"Each person has his own light to keep burning; and if the heavenly oil is emptied into these lamps through the golden pipes; if the vessels are emptied of self, and prepared to receive the holy oil, light will be shed on the sinner's path to some purpose.

"Our question each day should be: 'Lord, what wilt thou have me to do this day?' Each consecrated vessel will daily have the holy oil emptied into it to be emptied out into other vessels.

"There must be an interchange of taking in and giving out, receiving and imparting." 6T 116

"We need and must have fresh supplies every day . . . All heaven is waiting for channels through which can be poured the holy oil, to be a joy and a blessing to others." 6T 117

The impartation of the Spirit is the impartation of the life of Christ. (DA 805)

"As He [Jesus] takes their sins from them [His chosen ones] He fills their hearts with the glorious light of truth and love." 7BC 930

Step #5: Shewbread

The Table of Shewbread represents the body and blood of Christ.

The body and blood of Christ is taken into the life for the strength of mind, body, spirit, and character that comes only from a living relationship with Christ. The shewbread was renewed every Sabbath, just as we are renewed on Sabbath by rest and communion with Christ and our brothers and sisters during worship, etc.

"The 'bread of the Presence' was offered to God under 'an everlasting covenant' (Lev. 24:8). It was an ever-present testimony that Israel was dependent upon God for sustenance, and a constant promise from God that He would sustain them. Their need was ever before Him and His promise constantly before them." The Sanctuary Service, M.L. Andreasen, 107

- Luke 22:30 We will eat and drink at His table.
1 Cor. 10:7 We are partakers of Christ.
1 Cor. 11:24,25 Christ's body was broken for us.
Heb. 7:25 He ever liveth to make intercession for us.
John 6:51 He is the living bread.
Matt. 6:11 "Give us this day our daily bread."
John 6:47-58,63 Eat and drink Christ through His word.
Ps 68:35 Out of the "holy places" the God of Israel gives strength and power.
 Also see: Ps. 18:32; 27:1,5; 28:7,8; 29:11; Isa. 40:25-31.
Ps. 103:3 The Lord heals our diseases.
Deut. 8:18 The Lord gives power to get wealth.
Ps. 54:4 "Surely God is my help; the Lord is the One who sustains me."

"The question is asked: What is the cause of the dearth in the church? The answer is: We allow our minds to be drawn away from the word. If the word of God were eaten as the food for the soul, if it were treated with respect and deference, there would be no necessity for the many and repeated testimonies that are borne. The simple declarations of Scripture would be received and acted upon.

"Its living principles are as the leaves of the tree of life for the healing of the nations.

"The word of the living God is not merely written, but spoken. The Bible is God's voice speaking to us, just as surely as though we could hear it with our ears. If we realized this, with what awe would we open God's word, and with what earnestness would we search its precepts! The reading and contemplation of the Scriptures would be regarded as an audience with the Infinite One." 6T 392,393

"In order to be purified and to remain pure, Seventh-day Adventists must have the Holy Spirit in their hearts and in their homes. The Lord has given me light that when the Israel of today humble themselves before Him, and cleanse the soul-temple from all defilement, He will hear their prayers in behalf of the sick and will bless in the use of His remedies for disease." 9T 164

"All who consecrate soul, body, and spirit to God will be constantly receiving a new endowment of physical and mental power. The inexhaustible supplies of heaven are at their command. Christ gives them the breath of His own spirit, the life of His own life. The Holy Spirit puts forth its highest energies to work

in heart and mind. The grace of God enlarges and multiplies their faculties, and every perfection of the divine nature comes to their assistance in the work of saving souls. Through cooperation with Christ they are complete in Him, and in their human weakness they are enabled to do the deeds of Omnipotence.
DA 827

Step #6: Altar of Incense

The Altar of Incense was the place of communication between God and His people in the person of the priest who represented them.

Through Christ, each child of God can now come boldly to the throne of grace and find grace to help in time of need (Heb. 4:16). At this point in our prayer, we are emptied of self, covered by the righteousness of Christ, imbued and assisted by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:26,27), and strengthened by the word. Our requests and intercessory prayers for ourselves and others can be laid before the Lord with power and with full assurance of faith that they will be answered according to the will of the Lord. Just as the priests of old were not to bring "strange fire" to the altar, so we should not come before God without confession of sin and preparation of heart. The fire was always to be taken from coals off the altar of sacrifice, which was lit by God Himself. And when we present our requests before God with hearts glowing with the love and fervor that only He can give us, we can be sure that our requests will be honored by heaven.

- Ex. 25:22;30:6 God promises to commune with us at the altar of incense.
Rev. 8:3,4 Incense represents the prayers of the saints.
Ps. 141:2 "Let my prayer be as incense."
Numb. 16:46,47 Aaron put on incense and fire off the altar and made atonement for Israel which stopped the plague.
Isa. 1:11-20 God does not want us to come and offer sacrifices and incense prayers if we are living in willful, cherished sin, for he will not hear us.
Matt. 7:3-5 Before we can effectively intercede for others, we should confess the sins in our own lives.
2 Chron. 16:9 The eyes of the Lord run to and fro in the earth to show Himself strong in behalf of those whose hearts are perfect toward Him.
Isa. 59:15,16; Isa. 63:5
God looks for intercessors when sin is unchecked.
1 Sam. 12:23 At least in some cases, failing to pray for others may be considered a sin against the Lord.
James 5:13-20 The prayers of God's people have healing power in the lives of others.
1 Jno. 5:14-16 When a brother sins, we can pray that God will give him life.

"It is a part of God's plan to grant us, in answer to the prayer of faith, that which He would not bestow if we did not thus ask." GC 525

"Ministering angels are waiting about the throne to instantly obey the mandate of Jesus Christ to answer every prayer offered in earnest, living faith." 2SM 377

"We must not only pray in Christ's name, but by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This explains what is meant when it is said that the Spirit 'maketh intercession for us, with groanings which cannot be uttered.' Rom. 8:26. Such prayer God delights to answer." COL 147

"When the churches become living, working churches, the Holy Spirit will be given in answer to their sincere request. Then the truths of God's word will be regarded as a charter from heaven. Its study will absorb the mind, and its truths will feast the soul. The promises of God...will glow upon the altar of the heart, and fall in burning words from the lips of the messengers of God. They will then plead with souls with an earnestness that cannot be repulsed. Then the windows of heaven will be open for the showers of the latter rain." RH Feb. 25, 1890

"This Saviour, who prayed for those that felt no need of prayer, and wept for those that felt no need of tears, is now before the throne, to receive and present to His Father the petitions of those for whom He prayed on earth. The example of Christ is for us to follow. Prayer is a necessity in our labor for the salvation of souls. God alone can give the increase of the seed we sow." 4T 528,529

"We must become coworkers with Christ if we would see our efforts crowned with success. We must weep as He wept for those who will not weep for themselves, and plead as He pleaded for those who will not plead for themselves." 1SM 118

"As we see souls out of Christ, we are to put ourselves in their place, and in their behalf feel repentance before God, resting not until we bring them to repentance. If we do everything we can for them, and yet they do not repent, the sin lies at their door; but we are still to feel sorrow of heart because of their condition, showing them how to repent, and trying to lead them step by step to Jesus Christ." 7BC 960

"All who found peace in Christ longed to see others share the blessing. The hearts of parents were turned to their children, and the hearts of children to their parents. The barriers of pride and reserve were swept away. Heartfelt confessions were made, and the members of the household labored for the salvation of those who were nearest and dearest. Often was heard the sound of earnest intercession. Everywhere were souls in deep anguish, pleading with God. Many wrestled all night in prayer for the assurance that their own sins were pardoned, or for the conversion of their relatives or neighbors." GC 369

Step #7: Second Apartment

The Ark of God is where God weighs our characters to see if they are in harmony with His holy law.

If we have taken steps 1-6, we have nothing to fear, for we are in Christ and there is no condemnation, for we are forgiven by His blood and covered by His righteousness. But we need to participate with God as He shines light on our motives, and all the secrets of our hearts, for only thus can He cleanse and purify us completely.

Judgment is participating with God in searching for deep inner motives and roots of sin, and sins of ignorance which also must be revealed and cleansed by the blood of Jesus.

Lev. 16:16,30 The Day of Atonement was to cleanse both the sanctuary and the people of their sins.

- Jer. 17:1 Sin is graven upon the table of the heart as well as the horns of the altar.
- Jer. 17:11,12 The heart is deceitful and wicked, who can know it? The Lord searches the heart and tries the reins, to give every man according to the fruit of his doings.
- Rev. 11:18,19 When the judgment began in heaven, the temple was opened and the ark was seen.
- Ps. 11:4, 5 From His throne, His holy temple, the Lord tries the righteous.
- Ps. 26:1-3 "Judge me, examine me, prove me, try my reins and my heart."
- Ezc. 36:25-27 When the Lord cleanses us, He gives us a new heart and a new spirit and causes us to walk in His statutes and judgments.
- Isa. 4:3,4 God's people are cleansed by judgment.
- Isa. 1:27 God's people are redeemed with judgment.
- Ps. 51:1-7 Cleansing and blotting out of sin requires knowledge and confession (vv. 3,4) and truth and wisdom in our inner, hidden parts (v. 6).
- Ps. 19:12 Cleanse thou me from secret faults. Who can understand his errors?
- Eze. 18:30-32 The purpose of God's judgments is to make our sins known to us so we can repent, cast our sins away from us (through Jesus' blood), and have a new heart and a new spirit.
- Eze. 20:11 God shows us His judgments so we can do them and live.
- Hos. 6:5 God's judgments are as a light.
- 1 Cor. 11:31,32 We have a part to play in the judgment by examining ourselves. When the Lord judges (chastens) us, it is to prevent us from coming into condemnation.
- 1 Cor. 4:4,5 God's judgments will bring to light the hidden things and make manifest the counsels of the heart and this will cause us to praise Him.
- Ecc. 12:14 Every secret thing is brought out in the judgment.
- Ps. 119:7 "I will praise Thee with uprightness of heart when I have learned Thy righteous judgments."
- Ps. 119:11,18,34,35 The law in the heart keeps us from sin and gives us understanding.
- Heb. 8:10-12; 10:15-17; 2 Cor. 3:3
The new covenant is written on the heart by the Holy Spirit.
- Heb 9:14; 10:2, 14-22 When we permit Christ to do His complete work, His blood and ministry purges our consciences from sin.
- Col. 3:3 If we are dead to sin and risen with Christ, we seek those things which are above where Christ sits on the right hand of God--then our lives are hid with Christ in God.
- Ps. 17:8 We are to hide under the shadow of His wings.
- Ps 27:5 In the time of trouble He shall hide me in the secret of His tabernacle.
- Isa. 26:20,21 We will hide until the indignation is overpast.
- Rev. 18:4 The loud cry is a call to come out of the errors of Babylon into the protection of the true sanctuary of God before the plagues fall.
- Ps. 91:1-9 God is our refuge and fortress during the plagues.

"The life we live is to be one of continual repentance and humility. We need to repent constantly, that we may be constantly victorious. When we have true humility, we have victory. The enemy never can take out of the hand of Christ the one who is simply trusting in His promises. If the soul is trusting and working obediently, the mind is susceptible to divine impressions, and the light of God shines in, enlightening the understanding. What privileges we have in Christ Jesus!" 7BC 959

"The eye is the sensitive conscience, the inner light, of the mind. Upon its correct view of things the spiritual healthfulness of the whole soul and being depends. The 'eyesalve,' the word of God, makes the conscience smart under its applications; for it convicts of sin. But the smarting is necessary that the healing

may follow, and the eye be single to the glory of God. The sinner, beholding himself in God's great moral looking glass, sees himself as God views him, and exercises repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ..." 7BC 965

"Our acts, our words, even our most secret motives, all have their weight in deciding our destiny for weal or woe." GC 486

"God's law looks into the secrets of the heart. Every act is judged by the motives that prompt it." COL 316

"The tops have been cut down, but the roots have never been eradicated, and they still bear their unholy fruit to poison the judgment, pervert the perceptions, and blind the understanding...When, by thorough confession you destroy the root of bitterness, you will see light in God's light. Without this thorough work you will never clear your souls." LS 326

"The work of restoration can never be thorough unless the roots of evil are reached. Again and again the shoots have been clipped, while the root of bitterness has been left to spring up and defile many; but the very depth of the hidden evil must be reached, the moral senses must be judged, and judged again, in the light of the divine presence. The daily life will testify whether or not the work is genuine..."

"If the tempted soul endures the trying process, and self does not awake to life to feel hurt and abused under the test, that probing knife reveals that the soul is indeed dead to self, but alive unto God." 5BC 1152

"God's law reaches the feelings and motives, as well as the outward acts. It reveals the secrets of the heart, flashing light upon things before buried in darkness. God knows every thought, every purpose, every plan, every motive. The books of heaven record the sins that would have been committed had there been opportunity. God will bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing. By His law He measures the character of every man. As the artist transfers to the canvas the features of the face, so the features of each individual character are transferred to the books of heaven. God has a perfect photograph of every man's character, and this photograph He compares with His law. He reveals to man the defects that mar his life, and calls upon him to repent and turn from sin." 5BC 1085

"Each one in the day of Investigative Judgment will stand in character as he really is; he will render an individual account to God. Every word uttered, every departure from integrity, every action that sullies the soul, will be weighed in the balances of the sanctuary. Memory will be true and vivid in condemnation of the guilty one, who in that day is found wanting. The mind will recall all the thoughts and actions of the past; the whole life will come in review like the scenes in a panorama." RH Nov. 4, 1884

"[Rev. 20:12 quoted]. Then men will have a clear, sharp remembrance of all their transactions in this life. Not a word or deed will escape their memory. Those will be trying times...let us, as Christ's followers, search our hearts as with a lighted candle to see what manner of spirit we are of. For our present and eternal good, let us criticize our actions, to see how they stand in the light of the law of God. For this law is our standard. Let every soul search his own heart. 7BC 986

"From the Holy of Holies, there goes on the grand work of instruction. The angels of God are communicating to men. Christ officiates in the sanctuary. We do not follow Him into the sanctuary as we

should. Christ and angels work in the hearts of the children of men. The church above united with the church below is waring the good warfare upon the earth. There must be a purifying of the soul here upon the earth, in harmony with Christ's cleansing of the sanctuary in heaven.

"God's people are now to have their eyes fixed upon the heavenly sanctuary where...our great High Priest...is interceding for His people." Mar 249

"...If the eye is fixed on Christ, the work of the Spirit ceases not until the soul is conformed to His image." DA 302

"It may take time to attain to perfect submission to God's will, but we can never stop short of it and be fitted for heaven." 3T 538

"But before that time [the second coming] everything that is imperfect will have been seen and put away. All envy and jealousy and evil surmising and every selfish plan will have been banished from the life." 3SM 427

"Every sin acknowledged before God with a contrite heart He will remove." 7BC 970

"Whatever your disposition may be, God is able so to mold it that it will be sweet and Christlike. By the exercise of living faith you can separate from everything that is not in accordance with the mind of God, and thus bring heaven into your life here below." CT 233

THE JUDGMENT GENERATION

- Ex. 20:5,6 In the second commandment is set forth the principles of heredity, showing that God punishes wickedness that is inherited if it is permitted to remain in and control of the life.
- Mal. 3:7 God includes the apostasy of the fathers in His denunciation of the children.
- Eze. 20:4 God says that judgment of sin includes seeing the sins of the fathers.
- Mal. 4:6 The Elijah message contains a command to set things right in families to avert God's curse.
- Isa. 65:6,7 God's heavenly records contain not only our sins, but the sins of our fathers which we have inherited but have not overcome.
- Luke 11:47-51 Christ, speaking to a generation who would live to see the close of Jewish national probation and the destruction of Jerusalem, stated that all the sins of people from Adam to that day would be visited upon, or "required of" that generation because they had all the light shining upon them, and yet "ye do allow the deeds of your fathers."
- Matt. 23:31-33 Christ said He sent messengers to the people "That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth . . . Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers."
- Acts 7:51-58 Stephen's sermon exposed this problem, and when the leaders rejected this and killed him, their probation closed.
- Eze. 18:19-32 The results of the sins of the fathers are averted when we repent and turn to righteousness.

Examples of prayers confessing the sins of the fathers along with one's own:

Ps. 106:6; 78:1-8, 56-58; 79:8,9; Neh. 9:2; Dan. 9:3-20

"Visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of them that hate me.' It is inevitable that children should suffer from the consequences of parental wrong-doing, but they are not punished for the parent's guilt, except as they participate in their sins. It is usually the case, however, that children walk in the steps of their parents. By inheritance and example the sons become partakers of the father's sin. Wrong tendencies, perverted appetites, and debased morals, as well as physical disease and degeneracy, are transmitted as a legacy from father to son, to the third and fourth generation. This fearful truth should have a solemn power to restrain men from following a course of sin." PR 306

"Many are ignorant of how to work for God, not because they need to be ignorant, but because they are unwilling to submit to His training. Moab is spoken of as a failure because, the prophet declared, 'Moab hath been at ease from his youth,...and hath not been emptied from vessel to vessel, neither hath he gone into captivity: therefore his taste remained in him, and his scent is not changed.'

"Thus it is with those whose hereditary and cultivated tendencies to wrong are not purged from them. Their hearts are not cleansed from defilement." 4BC 1160

"Then the redeemed will be welcomed to the home that Jesus is preparing for them....They will associate with those who have overcome Satan and through divine grace have formed perfect characters. Every sinful tendency, every imperfection that afflicts them here, has been removed by the blood of Christ, and the excellence and brightness of the sun is imparted to them. And the moral beauty, the perfection of His character, shines through them in worth far exceeding this outward splendor. They are without fault before the great white throne, sharing the dignity and the privileges of the angels." SC 126

PREPARATION FOR THE FINAL CRISIS

"In this age, just prior to the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven, God calls for men who will prepare a people to stand in the great day of the Lord. Just such a work, as that which John did, is to be carried on in these last days. The Lord is giving messages to His people, through the instruments He has chosen, and He would have all heed the admonitions and warnings He sends. The message preceding the public ministry of Christ was, Repent, publicans and sinners; repent, Pharisees and Sadducees; 'for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Our message is not to be one of peace and safety. As a people who believe in Christ's soon appearing, we have a definite message to bear, 'Prepare to meet thy God.'" 4BC 1184

"Said the angel: 'God is weighing His people.' If the message had been of as short duration as many of us supposed, there would have been no time for them to develop character . . . God reads the heart. Lest His people should be deceived in regard to themselves, He gives them time . . . to see if they will obey the counsel of the True Witness.

"God leads His people on, step by step. He brings them up to different points calculated to manifest what is in the heart. Some endure at one point, but fall off at the next. At every advanced point the heart is tested and tried a little closer. If the professed people of God find their hearts opposed to this straight work, it should convince them that they have a work to do to overcome, if they would not be spewed out of the mouth of the Lord. Said the angel: 'God will bring His work closer and closer to test and prove every one

of His people.' Some are willing to receive one point; but when God brings them to another testing point, they shrink from it and stand back, because they find that it strikes directly at some cherished idol. Here they have opportunity to see what is in their hearts that shuts out Jesus. They prize something higher than the truth, and their hearts are not prepared to receive Jesus. Individuals are tested and proved a length of time to see if they will sacrifice their idols and heed the counsel of the True Witness. If any will not be purified through obeying the truth, and overcome their selfishness, their pride, and evil passions, the angels of God have the charge: 'They are joined to their idols, let them alone,' and they pass on to their work, leaving these with their sinful traits unsubdued, to the control of evil angels. Those who come up to every point, and stand every test, and overcome, be the price what it may, have heeded the counsel of the True Witness, and they will receive the latter rain, and thus be fitted for translation." 1T 186,187

"The first four commandments allow no separation of the affections from God. Nor is anything allowed to divide, or share, our supreme delight in Him. Whatever divides the affections, and takes away from the soul's supreme love to God, assumes the form of an idol. Our carnal hearts would cling to our idols and seek to carry them along; but we cannot advance until we put them away, for they separate us from God." 1T 289

"Night after night, scenes have been presented to me of little companies pleading with God. He would show them some idol they had been cherishing. Some would give this up, and some would not. But the light of heaven shone from the faces of those who would put these away. Then other idols would be shown to them, and again some would put these away. But the light of heaven shone upon all who would give up all for Christ." UL 267

"The great crisis is just before us. To meet its trials and temptations and to perform its duties, will require persevering faith. But we may triumph gloriously; not one watching, praying, believing soul will be ensnared by the enemy.

"In the time of trial before us God's pledge of security will be placed upon those who have kept the word of His patience. Christ will say to His faithful ones: 'Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast' Isa. 26:20.... Let all who have received the light, who have had the opportunity of reading and hearing the prophecy, take heed to those things that are written therein; 'for the time is at hand'.... No longer remain in lethargy and stupid indifference. Let not the destiny of your soul hang upon an uncertainty. Know that you are fully on the Lord's side. Let the inquiry go forth from sincere hearts and trembling lips, 'Who shall be able to stand?' Have you in these last precious hours of probation, been putting the very best material in your character building? Have you been purifying your souls from every stain?... If you neglect or treat with indifference the warnings that God has given, if you cherish or excuse sin, you are sealing your soul's destiny. You will be weighed in the balance and found wanting. Grace, peace and pardon will be forever withdrawn; Jesus will have passed by, never again to come within reach of your prayers and entreaties. While mercy lingers, while the Savior is making intercession, let us make thorough work for eternity." 6T 404,405

SANCTUARY PRAYER OUTLINE

PRAISE:

Heavenly Father, I come before you this morning, thanking you for your watchcare over me through the night, and your mercies which are new every morning. Praise God in whatever song, Scripture, or words of personal gratitude and thanksgiving is appropriate for you that day.

ALTAR OF SACRIFICE:

I humbly come before you, knowing the great sacrifice you have given to us in the death of your Son, Jesus. I also want to die with Him as I give myself to you completely (as in Rom. 12:1,2; 6:6-14; 1 Cor. 15:31; Lu. 9:23, 24). I give my will to you, and every part of my being - physically, mentally, spiritually, and emotionally (Mark 12:30) Lord, I ask now if there are any barriers (sin) between you and me that would prevent you from pouring out your Holy Spirit upon me in the measure that you see that I need for the day? **Stop, reflect and listen to God, especially about the past 24 hours, or since you prayed last.

LAVER: (Washing of water by the word of God - Eph. 5:26)

Look up texts in your Bible that deal with what God is bringing to your mind. Use your concordance and look up words, such as: honesty, strife, faith, love, anger, etc. Confess anything that is brought to your mind (attitudes, words, acts, etc.,) that is contrary to the word of God: Ask to be forgiven and cleansed by the blood of Jesus. Make proper restitution with others, if necessary (at appropriate time).

CANDLESTICKS: (The Holy Spirit)

Ask for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit--the seven aspects, fruit, gifts, etc., as seems appropriate for your needs for the day.

SHEWBREAD: (Strength and sustenance)

Ask for strength for the day (physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually), and sustenance for all your needs--financially, socially, etc., in accordance with God's omniscient will. Claim promises that God gives to you in His word. Live, as Jesus did, on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.

ALTAR OF INCENSE: (Intercessory prayer for others)

Special prayer for those whom the Lord lays upon your heart. You can follow the sanctuary steps in their behalf if you desire. This seems to be a very effective and powerful way to bring a person before the Lord. Or, you can simply place your requests before the Lord, and claim the promises of the word of God for that person.

SECOND APARTMENT: (Total commitment to God for the day)

Example: Father, I ask you to take me into your intimate presence through the blood of Jesus. Seal me in with you for the day. Cover me with the shadow of your wings. Never leave me or forsake me, just as you have promised. Uphold and strengthen me with your righteous right arm. Place upon me your armor, and protect me from the evil one. I abandon myself into your loving arms. Counsel, correct, teach, discipline, and lead me into all truth. Remind me of all that you have told me, so that I will remember to obey you. Whatever you see that is necessary to take me through today for your glory and in service for others, or for my purification, please do it, but cover me with your mercy and protection, and give me your wisdom and strength to go through it. May I hear your voice every moment of the day. Use me according to your will and for your glory. In the name of Jesus Christ my Lord, Amen.

HEARING THE VOICE OF GOD

One of the most recurring and compelling themes in Scripture is the gracious quest of God to reestablish communication and relationship with fallen mankind. From the garden of Eden to the end of the book of Revelation, God's voice is heard calling to His children to listen, to return to Him, and to come into an intimate and saving relationship with Him. But over and over again His loving entreaties are misunderstood, ignored, spurned and rejected. Over and over again, mankind chooses to follow the voice of the tempter, the voice of self-love, the voices of idols and other gods. In the message to the Laodiceans, God's final church at the end of time, Jesus says: "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him and he with Me." (Rev. 3:20) Will we also disappoint Him and ignore this final invitation of love?

Satan once held the exalted position of covering cherub upon the mount of God—the place of His throne. But he rejected that coveted honor, and he now tries to keep anyone else from availing themselves of the gracious invitation of God to dwell in His presence by faith in Christ, in preparation for an eternity of companionship with Him. But the one absolutely essential factor in any relationship is communication. We must get to know each other in order to become friends. And so it is with God! Those who try to reach heaven by any other pathway will find themselves bitterly disappointed in the end. Christ will say of them, "I never knew you!"

Now is the time to be sure of our connection with God. Now is the time to get to know Him as a constant and personal friend. Now is the time to be sure we "have ears that hear" the voice of the Holy Spirit. The following texts and quotations are listed with the hope that they give encouragement and direction to your quest.

- Ex. 19:5,6 God's original purpose for the Israelites was that they would be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation for Him.
- Ex.20:15-21; Deut. 5:23-27
When the people heard God's voice they were afraid, and requested that God not speak to them anymore, but that Moses would talk to God and then relay the information to them.
- Isa. 65:1-3 All throughout the Old Testament, God sought for a people who will be willing to hear His voice and obey Him.
- Ps. 25:14 "The Lord confides in those who fear Him; He makes His covenant known to them."
- Prov. 1:23 "If you had responded to my rebuke, I would have poured out my heart to you and made my thoughts known to you."
- Heb. 3:7-19 At last God turned from them because of their hardness of heart and rebellion, and He now extends the same invitation to us.
- Deut. 18:15-19; Heb 1:1 Through Christ, God is still speaking to us.
- John 15:15 "I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you."
- John 16:12-14 "The Spirit of Truth . . . will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you."

1 Cor. 2:10-14 The Holy Spirit searches the deep things of God and reveals them to us. In this way we understand the very thoughts and mind of God.

Heb. 12:18-25 "You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire . . . But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God . . . to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant . . . See to it that you do not refuse Him who speaks."

"From the Holy of Holies, there goes on the grand work of instruction. The angels of God are communicating to men. Christ officiates in the sanctuary. We do not follow Him into the sanctuary as we should. Christ and Angels work in the hearts of the children of men. The church above united with the church below is warring the good warfare upon the earth. There must be a purifying of the soul here upon the earth, in harmony with Christ's cleansing of the sanctuary in heaven

"God's people are now to have their eyes fixed upon the heavenly sanctuary where . . . our great High Priest . . . is interceding for His people." Mar 249

"The Holy Spirit will take the things of God and show them to you, conveying them as a living power into the obedient heart. Christ will lead you to the threshold of the infinite. You may behold the glory beyond the veil, and reveal to men the sufficiency of Him who ever liveth to make intercession for us." COL 149

"Christ is ever sending messages to those who listen for His voice." MLT 15

"The union with Christ, once formed, must be maintained . . . This is no casual touch, no on and off connection . . . The life . . . received . . . can be preserved only by continual communication. Without [Jesus] you cannot overcome one sin, or resist one temptation . . . The channel of communication must be open continually between man and His God." DA 676

"Sanctification means habitual communion with God." 7BC 908

"The Lord will teach us our duty just as willingly as He will teach someone else. If we come to Him in faith, He will speak His mysteries to us personally. Our hearts will often burn within us as one draws nigh to commune with us as He did with Enoch." DA 668

"Refer every thought and action to Him, inquiring: "Is this the way of the Lord?" If they [we] did they [we] would walk with God as did Enoch." 6T 393

"We can have what Enoch had. We can have Christ as our constant companion. Enoch walked with God, and when assailed by the tempter, he could talk with God about it. He had no 'It is written' as we have, but he had a knowledge of his heavenly Companion. He made God his Counsellor, and was closely bound up with Jesus. And Enoch was honored in this course. He was translated to heaven without seeing death. And those who will be translated at the close of time will be those who commune with God on earth. Those who made manifest that their life is hid with Christ in God will ever be representing Him in all their life practices. Selfishness will be cut out by the roots." 1BC 1087

"As man He [Christ] supplicated the throne of God 'till His humanity was charged with a heavenly current that should connect humanity with divinity. Through continual communion He received life from God, that He might impart life to the world. His experience is to be ours." DA 363

“... Let us not forget to lay self at the feet of Christ . . . Then the soul is ready to listen to words of divine instruction. Jesus will give you to drink of the water which flows from the river of God.” UL 218

“The words of God are the wellsprings of life. As you seek unto those living springs you will, through the Holy Spirit, be brought into communion with Christ. Familiar truths will present themselves to your mind in a new aspect, texts of Scripture will burst upon you with a new meaning as a flash of light, you will see the relation of other truths to the work of redemption and you will know that Christ is leading you, a divine Teacher is at your side.

“... As the Holy Spirit opens to you the truth you will treasure up the most precious experiences and will long to speak to others of the comforting things that have been revealed to you. When brought into association with them you will communicate some fresh thought in love to impart to those who love Him and to those who love Him not.” MB 20

“There are three ways in which the Lord reveals His will to us, to guide us, and to fit us to guide others. How may we know His voice from that of a stranger? How shall we distinguish it from that of a false shepherd? God reveals His will to us in His word, the Holy Scriptures. His voice is also revealed in His providential workings; and it will be recognized if we do not separate our souls from Him by walking in our own ways, doing according to our own wills, and following the promptings of an unsanctified heart, until the senses have become so confused that eternal things are not discerned, and the voice of Satan is so disguised that it is accepted as the voice of God.

“Another way in which God’s voice is heard is through the appeals of His Holy Spirit, making impressions upon the heart, which will be wrought out in the character . . . You, my brother will find difficulty here because you have not learned by experience to know the voice of the good Shepherd and this places you in doubt and peril. You ought to be able to distinguish His voice.” 5T 512

“What constitutes the sin against the Holy Ghost? It is willfully attributing to Satan the work of the Holy Spirit . . . It is through the medium of His Spirit that God works upon the human heart; and when men willfully reject the Spirit and declare it to be from Satan, they cut off the channel by which God can communicate with them.” 5T 634

“Those who commune with God walk in the light of the Sun of Righteousness. They do not dishonor their Redeemer by corrupting their way before God. Heavenly light shines upon them. As they near the close of this earth’s history, their knowledge of Christ, and of the prophecies relating to Him greatly increases. They are of infinite worth in God’s sight, for they are in unity with His Son. To them the word of God is of surpassing beauty and loveliness. They see its importance. Truth is unfolded to them. The doctrine of the incarnation is invested with a soft radiance. They see that the Scriptures is the key that unlocks all mysteries and solves all difficulties.” The Southern Watchman, April 11, 1905.

“It is impossible to give any idea of the experience of the people of God who will be alive upon the earth when past woes and celestial glory will be blended. They will walk in the light proceeding from the throne of God. By means of the angels there will be constant communication between heaven and earth.” 9T 16