

# Sabbath Remnant VOICE

Jul-Aug 2018

Striving to be among the remnant of her seed

## The Temptation of Christ-Part 5

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, September 8, 1874

**S**atan comes to man with his temptations as an angel of light, as he came to Christ. He has been working to bring man into a condition of physical and moral weakness, that he may overcome him with his temptations, and then triumph over his ruin. And he has been successful in tempting man to indulge appetite, regardless of the result. He well knows that it is impossible for man to discharge his obligations to God, and to his fellow-men, while he impairs the faculties God has given him. The brain is the capital of the body. If the perceptive faculties become benumbed through intemperance of any kind, eternal things are not discerned.

God gives no permission to man to violate the laws of his being. But man, through yielding to Satan's temptations to indulge intemperance, brings the higher faculties in subjection to the animal appetites and passions. When these gain the ascendancy, man, who was created a little lower than the angels, with faculties susceptible of the highest cultivation, surrenders to be controlled by Satan. And he gains easy access to those who are in bondage to appetite. Through intemperance, some sacrifice one-half, and others two-thirds, of their physical, mental, and moral powers, and become playthings for the enemy. Those who would have clear minds to discern Satan's devices, must have their physical appetites under the control of reason and conscience. The moral and vigorous action of the higher powers of the mind are essential to the perfection of Christian character. And the strength or weakness of the mind has very much to do with our usefulness in this world, and with our final salvation. The ignorance that has prevailed in regard to God's law in our physical nature is deplorable. Intemperance of any kind is a violation of the laws of our being. Imbecility is prevailing to a fearful extent. Sin is made attractive by the covering of light which Satan throws over it, and he is well pleased when he can hold the Christian world in their daily habits under the tyranny of custom, like the heathen, and allow appetite to govern them.

If men and women of intelligence have their moral powers benumbed through intemperance of any kind, they are, in many of their habits, elevated but little above the heathen. Satan is constantly drawing the people from saving light, to custom and fashion, irrespective of physical, mental, and moral health. The great enemy knows that if appetite and passion predominate, health of body and strength of intellect are sacrificed upon the altar of self-gratification, and man is brought to speedy ruin. If enlightened intellect holds the reins, controlling the animal propensities, keeping them in subjection to the moral

powers, Satan well knows that his power to overcome with his temptations is very small.

In our day people talk of the dark ages, and boast of progress. But with this progress wickedness and crime do not decrease. We deplore the absence of natural simplicity, and the increase of artificial display. Health, strength, beauty, and long life, which were common in the so-called "dark ages," are rare now. Nearly everything desirable is sacrificed to meet the demands of fashionable life.

A large share of the Christian world have no right to call themselves Christians. Their habits, their extravagance, and general treatment of their own bodies, are in violation of physical law, and contrary to the Bible standard. They are working out for themselves, in their course of life, physical suffering, mental and mortal feebleness.

Through his devices, Satan has, in many respects, made domestic life one of care and complicated burdens, in order to meet the demands of fashion. His purpose in doing this is to keep minds occupied so fully with the things of this life that they can give but little attention to their highest interest. Intemperance in eating and in dressing has so engrossed the minds of the Christian world that they do not take time to become intelligent in regard to the laws of their being, that they may obey them. To profess the name of Christ is of but little account, if the life does not correspond with the will of God, revealed in his word.

In the wilderness of temptation Christ overcame on man's behalf on the point of appetite. His example of self-denial, and self-control, when suffering the gnawing pangs of hunger, is a rebuke to the Christian world for their dissipation and gluttony. There is at this time nine times as much money expended for the gratification of appetite, and to indulge foolish and hurtful lusts, as there is given to advance the gospel of Christ. Were Peter upon the earth now, he would exhort the professed followers of Christ to abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul. And Paul would call upon the churches in general to cleanse themselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. And Christ would drive from the temple those who are defiled by the use of tobacco, polluting the sanctuary of God by their tobaccoed breaths. He would say to these worshipers, as he did to the Jews, "My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves."<sup>1</sup> We would say to such, your unholy offerings of ejected quids of tobacco defile the

1. Mark 11:17

temple, and are abhorred of God. Your worship is not acceptable, for your bodies which should be the temple for the Holy Ghost are defiled. You also rob the treasury of God of thousands of dollars through the indulgence of unnatural appetite.

If we would see the standard of virtue and godliness exalted, as Christians, we have a work devolving upon us individually to control appetite, the indulgence of which counteracts the force of truth, and weakens moral power to resist and overcome temptation. As Christ's followers we should, in eating and drinking, act from principle. When we obey the injunction of the apostle, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God,"<sup>2</sup> thousands of dollars which are now sacrificed upon the altar of hurtful lust will flow into the Lord's treasury, multiplying publications in different languages to be scattered like the leaves of autumn. Missions will be established in other nations, and then will the followers of Christ be indeed the light of the world.

The adversary of souls is working in these last days with greater power than ever before to accomplish the ruin of man through the indulgence of appetite and passions. And many who are held by Satan under the power of slavish appetite are the professed followers of Christ. They profess to worship God, while appetite is their god. Their unnatural desires for these indulgences are not controlled by reason or judgment. Those who are slaves to tobacco will see their families suffering for the conveniences of life, and for necessary food, yet they have not the power of will to forego their tobacco. The clamors of appetite prevail over natural affection. Appetite, which they have in

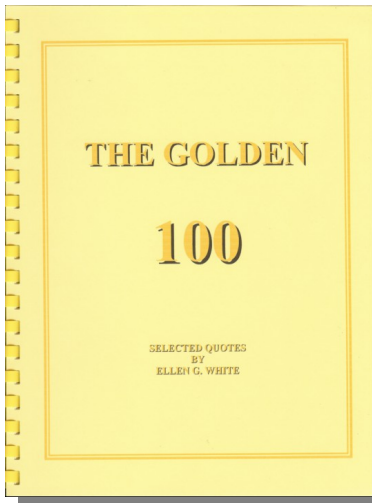
common with the brute, controls them. The cause of Christianity, and even humanity, would not in any case be met, if dependent upon those in the habitual use of tobacco and liquor. If they had means to use only in one direction, the treasury of God would not be replenished, but they would have their tobacco and liquor. The tobacco idolater will not deny his appetite for the cause of God.

It is impossible for these to realize the binding claims and holiness of the law of God. The brain and nerves are deadened by the use of this narcotic. They cannot value the atonement or appreciate the worth of immortal life. The indulgence of fleshly lusts wars against the soul. The apostle in the most impressive manner addresses Christians, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God."<sup>3</sup> If the body is saturated with liquor and the defilement of tobacco, it is not holy and acceptable to God. Satan knows that it cannot be, and for this reason he brings his temptations to bear upon men upon the point of appetite, that he may bring them into bondage to this propensity and thus work their ruin.

The Jewish sacrifices were all examined with careful scrutiny to see if any blemish was upon them, or if they were tainted with disease. The least defect or impurity was sufficient reason for the priests to reject them. The offering must be sound and valuable. The apostle has in view the requirements of God upon the Jews in their offerings when he in the most earnest manner appeals to his brethren to present their bodies a

2. 1Cor. 10:31

3. Rom. 12:1

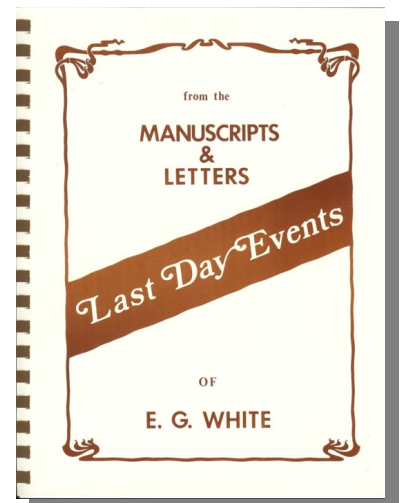


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The SRPA has a book available entitled "The Golden 100." It consists of 100 selected quotes by Ellen G. White. Its focus is on the apostasy in the SDA church and defining our position as the Remnant people of God. It is spiral bound, is about thirty pages, and is formatted with a 16 point font, so it will make a handy reference for mission workers in the field. We are asking a suggested donation of \$7.50 for each copy.

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living sacrifice. Not a diseased, decaying offering, but a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God.

How many come to the house of God in feebleness, and how many come defiled by the indulgence of their own appetite! Those who have degraded themselves by wrong habits, when they assemble for the worship of God, give forth such emanations from their diseased bodies as to be disgusting to those around them. And how offensive must this be to a pure and holy God.

A large proportion of all the infirmities that afflict the human family are the results of their own wrong habits, because of their willing ignorance, or of their disregard of the light which God has given in relation to the laws of their being. It is not possible for us to glorify God while living in violation of the law of life. The heart cannot possibly maintain consecration to God while the lustful appetite is indulged. A diseased body and disordered intellect, because of continual indulgence in hurtful lust, make sanctification of the body and spirit impossible. The apostle understood the importance of the healthful conditions of the body for the successful perfection of Christian character. He says, "I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection; lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."<sup>4</sup> He mentions the fruit of the Spirit, among which is temperance. "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts."<sup>5</sup>

4. 1Cor. 9:27

5. Gal. 5:24

Men and women indulge appetite at the expense of health and the enfeebling of the intellect, so that they cannot appreciate the plan of salvation. What appreciation can such have of the temptation of Christ in the wilderness, and the victory he gained upon the point of appetite. It is impossible for them to have exalted views of God, and to realize the claims of his law. The proposed followers of Christ are forgetful of the great sacrifice made by him on their account. The Majesty of Heaven, in order to bring salvation within their reach was smitten, bruised, and afflicted. He became a man of sorrow and acquainted with grief. In the wilderness of temptation he resisted Satan, although the tempter was clothed with the livery of Heaven. Christ, although brought to great physical suffering, refused to yield on a single point, notwithstanding the most flattering inducements were presented to bribe and influence him to yield his integrity. All this honor, all this riches and glory, said the deceiver,

will I give thee if thou wilt only acknowledge my claims.

Christ was firm. Oh! where would now be the salvation of the race if Christ had been as weak in moral power as man? No wonder that joy filled Heaven as the fallen chief left the wilderness of temptation a conquered foe. Christ has power from his Father to give his divine grace and strength to man—making it possible for him through his name, to overcome. There are but few professed followers of Christ who choose to engage with him in the work of resisting Satan's temptation as he resisted and overcame.

Professed Christians, who enjoy gatherings of gaiety, pleasure and feasting, cannot appreciate the conflict of Christ in the wilderness. This great example of their Lord in overcoming Satan is lost of them. This infinite victory which Christ achieved for them in the plan of salvation is meaningless. They see no special interest in the wonderful humiliation of our Saviour and the anguish and sufferings he endured for sinful man, while Satan was pressing him with his manifold temptations. The scene of trial with Christ in the wilderness was the foundation of the plan of salvation, and gives to fallen man the key whereby he, in Christ's name, may overcome.

Many professed Christians look upon this portion of the life of Christ as they would upon a common warfare between two kings, and as having no special bearing upon their own life and character. Therefore the manner of warfare, and the wonderful victory gained, have but little interest for them. Their perceptive powers are blunted by Satan's artifices, so that they cannot discern that he who afflicted Christ with manifold temptations in the wilderness, determining to rob him of his integrity as the Son of the Infinite, is to be their adversary to the end of time. Although he failed to overcome Christ, his power is not weakened over man. All are personally exposed to the temptations that Christ overcame, but strength is provided for them in the all-powerful name of the great Conqueror. And all must, for themselves, individually overcome. Many are assailed and fall under the very same temptations wherewith Satan assailed Christ.

—Continued in the next issue

God loves Sister Pierce. She is one of the timid, fearing ones, conscientious in the performance of her duty; and she will receive a reward when Jesus comes if she is faithful to the end.

She has not made a display of her virtues, she has been retiring, one of the more silent ones; yet her life has been useful; she has blessed many by her influence. Sister Pierce has not much self-esteem and self-confidence. She has many fears, yet does not come under the head of the fearful and unbelieving, who will find no place in the kingdom of God.

Those outside of the city are among the most confident, boastful, and apparently zealous ones who love in word, but not in deed and in truth. Their hearts are not right with God. His fear is not before them. The **fearful** and unbelieving, who are punished with the second death, are of that class who are ashamed of Christ in this world. They are afraid to do right and follow Christ, lest they should meet with pecuniary loss. They neglect their duty, to avoid reproach and trials, and to escape dangers. Those who dare not do right because they will thus expose themselves to trials, persecution, loss, and suffering are cowards, and, with idolaters, liars, and all sinners, they are ripening for the second death. 2T 630.1

# Editorial—Who Are The Fearful?

Rev. 21:8 “But the **fearful**, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

When you read this passage from Revelation, listing those who will not be saved. Do you think to yourself: “That is not me—I’m going to be like Jesus!” Well, it is a good goal to have! But to help each of us attain that goal, it would be useful to understand exactly what the behaviors of these types of people are so you will know how to overcome the same sins and avoid the lake of fire.

Most of the listed behaviors need no explanation as to why they are bad—idol worship, murder, lying, etc.—but what about the first in the list: being fearful? What does that mean? What kind of fear, and why will those who are afraid not make it into heaven?

1 John 4:18 says: “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.”

This means that if we have perfect love in Christ, we will not fear anything that may happen to us or anything the devil may threaten. Being fearful instead shows that we do not trust in God to protect us, or have faith that He knows what is best for us. 1Cor.10:13

promises: “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” So if we fear the trials and temptations that befall us and think they are too hard and impossible to overcome, we prove that we do not truly believe God’s word or dwell in Christ-like love.

The Bible is filled with God’s assurances of His love and help and strength, and His promises that He will be with us no matter what happens. He commands us not to be afraid, because one cannot stand firm while backing away in fear. Isaiah 41:10: “Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness.”

Christ tells us in John 14:27 to “Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid,” and in 2 Timothy 1:7: “God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

The Bible contains many examples of God’s people trusting in Him instead of being afraid, and of the miracles performed on their behalf. We all know the story of Daniel and of the three Hebrews. We know the trials of

Job, and read of the many persecutions that Stephen and Paul and the Apostles endured. These men all faced great trials, and stood fast for the Lord without fear, and did not give up their faith. God blessed them for so doing, and their examples brought many other people to the Lord. We have evidence in the Bible that the Lord has a great reward waiting for each of them.

Paul reassures us in Romans 8:38-39: “For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Like Paul and the others, let us not be afraid to share our faith, let us not be afraid of other people or of other powers, or of anything that might befall us in the future, because it is this fear that will put us in the category of “the fearful” and also the “unbelieving” listed in Revelation 21:8. Let us instead hold fast to God’s promises and be able to say with David: “The Lord is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?” (Psalms 118:6) and “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;” (Psalms 23:4)

## Children’s Story—Forgiveness

School was over, and the scholars had gone. I sat at my desk, thinking over the events of the day. Suddenly stopping my meditations, I saw a boy standing in the door. He started toward me, and then turned backward. Again, with a rapid step he advanced, and threw himself into a low seat by my side.

“What is it, Willie?” I asked, as I looked upon his tear-stained face. Fast-falling tears were his only answer. Trying to comfort him in his secret sorrow, I placed my hand tenderly on his bowed head, and asked again:

“Willie, will you not tell me what troubles you?”

He sobbed aloud, and laying his head upon my lap, said in broken accents: “Oh teacher, I don’t feel fit to look at you, or to speak to you, because I disobeyed you today. Will you forgive me?”

“I forgive you freely, my child,” I said; “I will remember it no more.”

“But you cannot love me as you used to,” was the sad reply.

“Willie,” I said (with difficulty keeping back my own tears), “I never loved you as I now do. Your repentance has endeared you to me more than I can express.”

Willie went home happy; and as I heard him singing far down the road, I thought, “This is a lesson for me.” How often have I disobeyed my Saviour, and felt ashamed to kneel to Him with my confession. How often, when bowed in His presence, I have said, “I am not fit to speak to Him, or even to approach Him. Surely He cannot love me again, I have erred so often and so sadly.”

Now, I thought, do I forgive Willie so freely, and love him even better than before his sin, and shall I doubt that my Saviour will

forgive me, if I humbly ask Him? Can I, an erring child, be more humble, more forgiving, than my Heavenly Father?

Thus, through my own affection, God taught me a lesson of His love. I, too, went home with a happy heart, singing, as I went: “Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him.”

Youth’s Instructor Aug 1, 1871

If we confess our sins,  
He is faithful and just  
to forgive us our sins,  
and to cleanse us from  
all unrighteousness.

1John 1:9



# Health Nugget—What Are Garbanzo Beans Good For?

## Garbanzo Bean Goodness

Botanical name: *Cicer arietinum*

It's been around 7,000 years since garbanzo beans (a.k.a. chickpeas) appeared in Middle Eastern regions, but they weren't cultivated until about 3,000 BC. By the 16th century, Spanish explorers had spread the love of this natural food's nutty, buttery taste and slightly grainy texture beyond Rome and Greece.

Today, India, Pakistan, Turkey, Ethiopia, and Mexico are the highest producers, as well as some of the largest consumers, of garbanzo beans.

There are two garbanzo bean varieties: the large, round, cream-colored "kabuli-type" usually found in canned chickpeas and salad bars, and the smaller, darker and less uniform "desi-type." Both get high marks for versatility, but nutritionally, the darker the better.

To cook your own garbanzo beans, rinse them first, examine, and pre-soak them in a large saucepan with three times the water per cup of beans. Boil for two minutes, remove from heat, cover, and allow to stand for four hours. This reduces the oligosaccharides and the chances for flatulence problems when they're eaten.

Whether it's affection that elicits so many monikers, like Bengal grams and Egyptian peas, or an indication of the many cultures with an appreciation for this humble bean, whatever you call them, they're a legume and as such, three cups per week are recommended by the USDA for even more advantageous nutrition. Read on to learn why.

## Health Benefits of Garbanzo Beans

Low in saturated fat and very low in cholesterol and sodium, garbanzo beans contain high amounts of folate (71 percent of the daily value) and manganese (84 percent), which may make the amounts of the other nutrients look a little ineffective. But they're not! You get 29 percent *each* of the protein and copper you need, 28 percent of the phosphorus, 26 percent of the iron, and 20 percent of the magnesium. The fiber, thiamin, zinc and vitamin B6 are in healthy supply as well. It's a perfect combination and one way to work toward optimum health. Whether canned or cooked from scratch, you get similar nutrients.

One of the most intriguing reports regarding garbanzo bean consumption was

that people seemed to have less need to snack on other things on days when they'd included these in their diet. Part of it is the fiber. Two cups of garbanzos supply the daily requirement, and lower your LDL cholesterol and triglycerides—fats/lipids in your blood that can increase your heart disease risk—and help regulate blood sugar levels.

Other ingredients in chickpeas include antioxidant phytonutrients such as the flavonoids quercetin, kaempferol, and myricetin; phenolic acids, including ferulic, chlorogenic, caffeic, and vanillic; and the anthocyanins delphinidin, cyanidin, and petunidin. All these combine to provide powerful protection against free radical damage and protect against diseases, including cancer.

One more element—molybdenum—is a cofactor and catalyst in such essential enzymes as sulfite oxydase, which transforms sulfite (found in lunch meats and packaged salad greens) to sulfate, needed for sulfur-containing amino acids.

## Garbanzo Beans Nutrition Facts

Serving Size: 3.5 ounces (100 grams), mature seeds, cooked, without salt

	Amt. Per Serving	% Daily Value*
Calories	164	
Calories from Fat	22	
Total Fat	3 g	4%
Saturated Fat	0 g	1%
Trans Fat		
Cholesterol	0 mg	0%
Sodium	7 mg	0%
Total Carbohydrates	27 g	9%
Dietary Fiber	8 g	30%
Sugar	5 g	
Protein	9 g	
Vitamin A		1%
Vitamin C		2%
Calcium		5%
Iron		16%

\*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs

## Studies on Garbanzo Beans

Controversy regarding the best way to replace fats in the diet to reduce cardiovascular disease prompted a study on chickpeas, since they're known to be rich in dietary fiber and polyunsaturated fatty acids.

A 12-week study involved 45 healthy adults who ate 728 grams of chickpeas every week while being tested for their dietary fiber, polyunsaturated and saturated fatty acids, and LDL and insulin levels.

Analysis revealed that dietary fiber had the greatest effect on reducing serum total

cholesterol by 15.8 mg. Polyunsaturated and saturated fatty acids had equivalent but opposing effects on serum total cholesterol and insulin. Researchers reported that further studies on chickpeas for this purpose would be beneficial.<sup>1</sup>

The outer coatings of chickpeas (which usually contain more than 95 percent of the polyphenol, flavonoid, and antioxidant compounds) were compared to examine nutrient content in relation to color. Of the 17 chickpea lines tested, in black, red, brown, green, gray, yellow, cream, and beige, the darker seeds were found to contain up to 13, 11, and 31 times more polyphenol, flavonoid, and antioxidant activity than the lighter seeds.

The conclusion: colored chickpeas could be a potentially functional food in addition to its traditional role of providing dietary proteins and fibers.<sup>2</sup>

## Garbanzo Beans Fun Facts

For a crunchy, delicious snack, try roasting chickpeas. Rinse well and drain a can or two, spread them on a paper towel-lined baking sheet, and blot until completely dry. Remove the paper towel, drizzle on a few tablespoons of coconut oil and roll them around to coat. Pop them in a 400 degree oven for 30 to 40 minutes or until golden brown and crunchy. Season with salt and Cajun or Creole seasoning (or garlic and onion—be creative!).

## Summary

Salads, soups, spreads, dips, stir fries... It's not hard to find a use for buttery little garbanzo beans (a.k.a. chickpeas). Loaded with healthy amounts of nutritionally charged vitamins and minerals, legumes are always a helpful addition to the diet. One reason is because of their high fiber content, but these contain a plethora of other compounds: flavonoids like quercetin and kaempferol, phenolic acids, anthocyanins, and molybdenum. Many of these may be hard to pronounce, but the benefits throughout the body are many—maybe even more than the number of recipes you can use them in.

## References:

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18502235>, Chickpeas may influence fatty acid and fiber intake in an ad libitum diet, leading to small improvements in serum lipid profile and glycemic control, Oct. 2012

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20492256>, Determination of polyphenols, flavonoids, and antioxidant capacity in colored chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* L.), Oct. 2012

<https://foodfacts.mercola.com/garbanzo-beans.html>

# The Government of God— Democracy, Dictatorship, or Republic?

## Part 5—The sovereignty of God

There is a story about two little girls. The father of one little girl always told her to obey and do exactly what he said at all times. The father of the other little girl always told her to use her head and try to figure things out for herself. He required her to obey but he also encouraged her to think about and try to figure out the reasons for what he was asking her to do or not to do. When these two girls were about eight years old they became friends with each other.

One day they were walking home from school together when a strange man approached them. He said that he was a friend of their fathers and that he had asked him to pick them up. The first little girl immediately got into his car, but the second little girl turned around and ran for her life. She told her father what had happened and he called the police. The little girl was able to describe the car and the man and he was quickly apprehended and the first little girl was rescued.

When asked why she had gotten into the car, the little girl responded that she must always obey her father and the man said that her father wanted her to go with him. When the second little girl was asked why she turned and ran she said, “At first I was going to go with him, but then I thought, no, my father wants me to think and use my head. I don’t know this man, I have never seen him before. How do I know that my father sent him? My father never said anything about sending someone to pick me up. If he really wanted me to go with this man, he would have told me himself. This man is a liar. So, I turned and ran.”

Today, there is a popular concept in the evangelical world called the sovereignty of God. This concept makes God a dictator. In fact, this is openly stated in the film “Chariots of Fire.” In one scene Eric Liddel’s father tells Eric, “God is a dictator, son, He doesn’t ask you what you think.” This concept says that man has no choice in his salvation. God orders everything, makes all the decisions, rules arbitrarily and dictates everything to His creatures. The doctrine of predestination is a part of this concept. This idea makes God into an absolute dictator, giving His creatures no freedom of choice.

According to John MacArthur, “No doctrine is more despised by the natural mind than the truth that God is absolutely

sovereign. Human pride loathes the suggestion that God orders everything, controls everything, rules over everything. The carnal mind, burning with enmity against God, abhors the biblical teaching that nothing comes to pass except according to His eternal decrees. Most of all, the flesh hates the notion that salvation is entirely God’s work. If God chose who would be saved, and if His choice was settled before the foundation of the world, then believers deserve no credit for their salvation.”

<http://www.gty.org/resources/Articles/A167/Gods-Absolute-Sovereignty>

The issue here is not really who deserves credit for our salvation, for there is nothing we can do to save ourselves. The issue is God’s arbitrary and dictatorial control.

This doctrine says that we must submit our wills entirely and completely to God’s direct control, we are not to use our reasoning power but to submit all to God. But this concept is inconsistent with what we find in scriptures. While it is true that God overrules the decisions of men to result in good for His cause, He never forces anyone to do His will. This is very clearly illustrated in Daniel 10 where Gabriel tells Daniel, “Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.” *Daniel 10:12-13.*

The danger of this concept is that if you think you have submitted your mind to God and that He has taken entire control of it, then it follows that every impression you receive is from the Holy Spirit and you should follow it without question. This concept circumvents man’s reason and turns him into a slave. This work of dictatorial control and circumventing reason is Satan’s work, not God’s, and the being that takes control of a mind thus enslaved is Satan, not God.

But are we not to have our wills under the control of God’s will? We certainly are, and what is God’s will? **“He that abideth in Christ is perfected in the love of God, and his purposes, thoughts, words, and actions are in harmony with the will of God expressed in the commandments of His**

law. There is nothing in the heart of the man who abides in Christ that is at war with any precept of God’s law. Where the Spirit of Christ is in the heart, the character of Christ will be revealed, and there will be manifested gentleness under provocation, and patience under trial. ‘Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.’ Righteousness can be defined only by God’s great moral standard, the Ten Commandments. There is no other rule by which to measure character.” *Signs of the Times, June 20, 1895.*

What is it that demands 100% obedience? It is the law. The law, of course, being the transcript of His character and the embodiment of His revealed will, God and the law are virtually inseparable, but it is still the law that is supreme. It is the the law that demands the death of the sinner, not God. It

## Garbanzo Beans Healthy Recipes: Classic Hummus bi Tahina (Chickpea and Sesame Dip)

### Ingredients:

4 oz. chickpeas, soaked for a few hours  
Juice of 2 lemons  
3 Tbsp. tahini (sesame seed paste)  
2 garlic cloves, crushed Salt

### Garnish:

1 Tbsp. olive oil  
3 tsp. paprika  
A few sprigs of parsley, finely chopped

### Procedure:

Drain the chickpeas and simmer in fresh water for about an hour or until tender. Drain, reserving the water.

Process the chickpeas in a food processor with the next four ingredients and a few tablespoons of the cooking liquid to make a creamy consistency.

Spoon onto a flat plate garnished with a drizzle of olive oil, a dusting of paprika and a little parsley. Serve with warm pita bread for dipping.

This recipe makes 4 to 6 servings.  
<https://foodfacts.mercola.com/garbanzo-beans.html>

is the law that allows no salvation, that demands the penalty. It is God that provides a way of escape for us and salvation from the penalty. On the cross God's mercy and the law's justice met together. "Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other." *Psalms 85:10*.

"After Satan brought sin into the world, he tempted man to set himself in rebellion against the authority of God. He inspired him with hatred against God because of the results that followed sin. He suggested that God was arbitrary, destitute of mercy and benevolence, because the penalty of the law fell upon the transgressor. When fallen man views God in this light, he casts aside his authority as a moral governor. God has a right to enforce the penalty of the law upon transgressors, for law without a penalty would be without force. God's law is the foundation of all law and government. The fact that Christ suffered the penalty of the law for all transgressors, is an unanswerable argument as to its immutable character, and it will justly condemn those who have sought to make it void. When the curse fell upon the beloved Son of God, who became sin for us, the Father made it manifest that the unrepenting transgressor of his law would have to suffer its full penalty. The word of God declares, 'The soul that sinneth, it shall die.' The law of God was upheld and vindicated by the Son of God. The death of Christ, as an expiatory sacrifice, opens a way whereby the sinner may be pardoned, and turn from the path of transgression into the path of truth and righteousness, while at the same time it vindicates the honor and unchangeableness of the law. In the plan of salvation, justice and mercy clasp hands together." *Signs of the Times, July 14, 1890*.

The Jesuits also believe and teach this concept of God's sovereignty. They carry it to an even greater level by causing each individual to wholly submit their mind to the control of another man and that man to the control of another, all the way to the top of the order. This is what they call "spiritual formation." Who controls the mind of the man at the top? Certainly not God. Thus reason is circumvented, man must submit his will to the control of another, he must submit without question, to a man made creed. All this is wrong and contrary to the order of heaven. "God never designed that one human mind should be under the complete control of another human mind." *Christian Education page 7*.

Thinking that God is a dictator and exercises absolute and arbitrary rule over His created beings, the organizations formed by the evangelicals are structured in the pattern they think they see in heaven. Thus hierarchies are formed with top down

control. Dictators are put at the top to lead and control. A single person is given kingly authority and granted the right to dictate what others will do and believe. This is all contrary to the order of heaven and in line with the government of Satan.

But this is not the picture of heaven we see in the scriptures. God does not arbitrarily decide anything. "Christ came to our world to become our sacrifice. He came to discover to our eyes the gems of truth, to place them in a new setting,—the frame-work of truth. He brought out of the treasure-house of God things new and old, that we might be able to trace down the links in the great plan of salvation. Through the sacrificial offerings of the Jewish dispensation, we are pointed forward to Christ, the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world. When Christ came, it was to engage in the conflict with the enemy of God and man, on this earth, in the sight of the universe of heaven. But why was it necessary to wage the warfare in the sight of other worlds?—It was because Satan had been an exalted angel, and when he fell, he induced many angels to join him in his revolt against God's government. He worked in the minds of the angels as he works in the minds of men today. He made a pretension of loyalty to God, and yet he argued that angels should not be under law. He inculcated his ideas, his rebellion and enmity, and hatred of God's law originated in the minds of the angels in heaven through his influence. He caused the fall of man through the same temptations with which he had caused the fall of angels; and in the world where he proposed to work out his principles of rebellion, the battle had to be fought, that all might behold the real nature and results of disobedience to God's great moral standard. He represented God in a false light, clothing him with his own attributes. Christ came to represent the Father in his true character. He showed that he was not an arbitrary judge, ready to bring judgments upon men, and delighting in condemning and punishing them for their evil deeds. The Lord proclaimed his character to Moses in the mount. 'And the Lord descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty.'" *Signs of the Times, November 18, 1889*.

God does not want robots, with no will or reasoning power of their own. If this is what He wanted, this is what He would have created. He wants intelligent, reasonable

beings, who consent intelligently to His government and choose, of their own free will, to take part in it. Jesus came to reason with men. He told James and John, "For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them." *Luke 9:56*.

God designs for us to use our brains, not submit them to another to use and control, not even God takes total and absolute control of our minds. "An upright character is of greater worth than the gold of Ophir. Without it none can rise to an honorable eminence. But character is not inherited. It cannot be bought. Moral excellence and fine mental qualities are not the result of accident. The most precious gifts are of no value unless they are improved. The formation of a noble character is the work of a lifetime and must be **the result of diligent and persevering effort**. God gives opportunities; success depends upon the use made of them." *Patriarch and Prophets, page 223*.

"True success in any line of work is **not the result of chance or accident or destiny**. It is the outworking of God's Providences, the reward of faith and discretion, of virtue and perseverance. Fine mental qualities and a high moral tone are not the result of accident. **God gives opportunities; success depends upon the use made of them.**" *Prophets and Kings page 486*.

God desires to commune with us, not to direct us as robots. He says "come now and let us **reason** together" *Isaiah 1:18*. He demonstrates, not only infinite love, but infinite respect for the beings He created and their intelligence. Just as a father gives his child a set of blocks and then watches to see what he builds, God does the same, He gives us things and then watches to see what we will do with them. This is illustrated in the experience of Adam. "And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; **and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them**: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof." *Genesis 2:19*.

"While we should not think of ourselves more highly than we ought, the word of God does not condemn a proper self-respect. As sons and daughters of God, **we should have a conscious dignity of character**, in which pride and self-importance have no part." *Review and Herald, March 27, 1888*.

"Says the apostle, 'If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.' James 1:5. But God will not impart to men divine light while they are content to remain in darkness. In order to receive God's help, man must realize his weakness and deficiency; he must apply his own mind to the great change to be wrought

in himself; he must be aroused to earnest and persevering prayer and effort. Wrong habits and customs must be shaken off; and it is only by determined endeavor to correct these errors and to conform to right principles that the victory can be gained. **Many never attain to the position that they might occupy, because they wait for God to do for them that which He has given them power to do for themselves.** All who are fitted for usefulness must be trained by the severest mental and moral discipline, and God will assist them by uniting divine power with human effort.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 248.

But isn't God sovereign of all? Yes, He certainly is, and He certainly could have created a universe of robots, bound to a dictatorial government, but He did not do this. This fact, that He has not chosen to be a dictator, but to rule by the consent of His creatures and to involve them in His government, makes Him an awesome God. That He should condescend to involve the beings He has created, not only in the government of heaven, but also in the very plan of salvation, is amazing.

But why has the Christian world so completely misunderstood the government of God? It is because Satan is at war with this government. He deceives men by attributing to God's government the principles of his own government. This is the way he has always worked. From the beginning of his rebellion he has made war against the law and desired to set himself up as supreme dictator.

Satan has no love or respect for the intelligence of man. He circumvents our reasoning at every opportunity. He doesn't want man to use his brain. He demands 100% obedience to himself and makes men his slaves. He delights to make Christians believe that these attributes are the attributes of God. If we believe that God is a dictator, controlling our every thought and action and impression, then Satan steps in and begins giving us thoughts and impressions that we will follow as the dictates of God.

Remember the father of those two little girls? One exercised arbitrary authority, while the other taught reason and careful thought. It was the second girl, the one who used her brain, that was safe and became the means of saving her friend.

Satan has always tried to circumvent reasoning. He desires arbitrary control and dictatorial power, but he charges these very traits on God's government. We read of his rebellion:

“Leaving his place in the immediate presence of the Father, Lucifer went forth to diffuse the spirit of discontent among the angels... Lucifer had presented the purposes

of God in a false light—misconstruing and distorting them to excite dissent and dissatisfaction... Thus while working to excite opposition to the law of God and to instill his own discontent into the minds of the angels under him, he was ostensibly seeking to remove dissatisfaction and to reconcile disaffected angels to the order of heaven... But angels who were loyal and true maintained the wisdom and justice of the divine decree and endeavored to reconcile this disaffected being to the will of God... But such efforts as infinite love and wisdom only could devise, were made to convince him of his error. His disaffection was proved to be without cause, and he was made to see what would be the result of persisting in revolt. Lucifer was convinced that he was in the wrong... A compassionate Creator, in yearning pity for Lucifer and his followers, was seeking to draw them back from the abyss of ruin into which they were about to plunge. But His mercy was misinterpreted. Lucifer pointed to the long-suffering of God as an evidence of his own superiority... No angel could successfully oppose the law of God, which was as sacred as Himself... God's government included not only the inhabitants of heaven, but of all the worlds that He had created; and Lucifer had concluded that if he could carry the angels of heaven with him in rebellion, he could carry also all the worlds. He had artfully presented his side of the question, employing sophistry and fraud to secure his objects. His power to deceive was very great. By disguising himself in a cloak of falsehood, he had gained an advantage... The very work which he himself was doing, he charged upon the loyal angels. It was his policy to perplex with subtle arguments concerning the purposes of God. Everything that was simple he shrouded in mystery, and by artful perversion cast doubt upon the plainest statements of Jehovah... God could employ only such means as were consistent with truth and righteousness. Satan could use what God could not—flattery and deceit. He had sought to falsify the word of God and had misrepresented His plan of government, claiming that God was not just in imposing laws upon the angels... It was therefore necessary to demonstrate before the inhabitants of heaven, and of all the worlds, that God's government is just, His law perfect. Satan had made it appear that he himself was seeking to promote the good of the universe. The true character of the usurper and his real object must be understood by all... The discord which his own course had caused in heaven, Satan charged upon the government of God. All evil he declared to be the result of the divine administration. He claimed that it was his own object to improve upon the statutes of

Jehovah. Therefore God permitted him to demonstrate the nature of his claims, to show the working out of his proposed changes in the divine law. His own work must condemn him. Satan had claimed from the first that he was not in rebellion. The whole universe must see the deceiver unmasked... For the good of the entire universe through ceaseless ages, he must more fully develop his principles, that his charges against the divine government might be seen in their true light by all created beings, and that the justice and mercy of God and the immutability of His law might be forever placed beyond all question. Satan's rebellion was to be a lesson to the universe through all coming ages—a perpetual testimony to the nature of sin and its terrible results. The working out of Satan's rule, its effects upon both men and angels, would show what must be the fruit of setting aside the divine authority. It would testify that with the existence of God's government is bound up the well-being of all the creatures He has made. Thus the history of this terrible experiment of rebellion was to be a perpetual safeguard to all holy beings, to prevent them from being deceived as to the nature of transgression, to save them from committing sin, and suffering its penalty... Though ‘clouds and darkness are round about Him: righteousness and judgment are the foundation of His throne.’ Psalm 97:2, R.V. And this the inhabitants of the universe, both loyal and disloyal, will one day understand. ‘His work is perfect: for all His ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He.’ Deuteronomy 32:4.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pages 38-42

Thus has Satan always worked and still works today. He attributes his own dictatorial methods to God and then takes the position of the dictator. He claims that God arbitrarily decides the destiny of each individual before they are born, that they are either saved or lost and cannot themselves make a choice. Then, this arbitrary judge burns the lost, who had no choice, forever in hell. What a horrible God this is! How could anyone love a God that would do this to His creatures? But this is the God that millions of evangelical Christians believe in and it certainly is not the God of heaven.

But what of God's church on earth? What form is it to take?

We will consider this in part 6.

—Rick and Virginia Markwell



# Letters—Uganda

## Uganda

07-01-18

Dear brethren, Heb. 6:10-11

With all eyes upon the Remnant church, the arrest of our brother M\_\_\_ has led to the scattering of our other brethren who are actively doing canvassing work in central Uganda. The facts of the matter arose as follows:

A 2 week crusade was conducted in B\_\_\_ L\_\_\_ district near B\_\_\_ A\_\_\_ U\_\_\_ in U\_\_\_ where 10 people were baptized. As the crusade went on, some of the brethren would go house to house in the surrounding community giving out tracts and booklets with messages of "Present Truth". These lessons hit hard the enlightened community around the university and the church leadership thought to stop them but it was hard because our brethren had fulfilled the right legal procedure to conduct that meeting.

Therefore they resorted to wanting to know who are the leaders and funders of our movement. They were answered as Christ is the head and leader of our church! That disturbed them and they conspired with police to open up a file against our brethren as furnishing name of the SDA church organization with our messages! M\_\_\_ M\_\_\_ was one of the brethren summoned to go to police in L\_\_\_ to make some statement over the alleged claims. We handled the issue at that stage until the Crusade was finished and baptism took place and a Sabbath school was opened.

The SDA church leaders in L\_\_\_ transferred the matter to K\_\_\_ where Police in K\_\_\_ summoned M\_\_\_ M\_\_\_ to report to J\_\_\_ R\_\_\_ Police station with some of the remains of the tracts and booklets to clear up the claim by the SDA church in U\_\_\_ . Our brother M\_\_\_ M\_\_\_ was detained, immediately taken to N\_\_\_ court and finally remanded to L\_\_\_ Prisons in K\_\_\_ .

Therefore dear ones, we are kindly requesting and appealing to our fellow Remnant families worldwide to pray for us and extend a helping hand to secure our brother out of L\_\_\_ Prison.

They have called upon us to go and helping in sorting out the matter. I also call upon the SRA to strengthen our unity as needed to secure of freedoms to accomplish what is possible by His grace.

God bless you

N J

7-04-18

Dear brethren,

Heb. 6:10-11

We have been following the issue of arresting our bro M\_\_\_ from a distance due several reasons but now that he was remanded with a charge of inciting violence and spreading hate gospel, we now are ready and know where to start from in trying secure his release and at the same time find a way to close the case.

It has been purely under the influence of the SDA church since a few weeks away we had a public meeting in B\_\_\_ and we proclaimed the SDA church to be Babylon fallen. While M\_\_\_ and others were busy giving out tracts and booklets.

When they were summoned under the said influence to go with bro K\_\_\_ P\_\_\_, M\_\_\_ to make a statement at police, went along with tracts and booklets which they used to charge him. Taken to N\_\_\_ court and then remanded to L\_\_\_ prisons.

I have advised bro. J\_\_\_ M\_\_\_ to make a follow up of the matter and when I get some funds I join them to go and discuss the matter with the Director of Public Prosecution. M\_\_\_ and I personally know that Judge so that we can request him to put the issue at rest. God Bless you,

N J

07-12-18

Dear brethren,

Heb. 6:10-11

Christian greetings from Uganda.

I have managed to travel to K\_\_\_ and meet the different authorities over the arrest of our bro. M\_\_\_ M\_\_\_ who is still in prison L\_\_\_ .

I also managed to find out that there was no cause for his imprisonment due the fact that the case file lacks evidence for inciting violence! But it was only due to the influence of members of SDAs who were police officers trying to intimidate our brethren from passing out the silent messenger.

By his grace, I managed to tell them that we are many in Uganda and worldwide doing the same work and just warning many of our brethren what is happening behind the curtain in their church organization. I even told them that all churches have become corrupt therefore becoming Babylon and this is what we put in print to spread to the whole world as we wait for the coming of Christ. So the investigating officer at police promised to look for the complaint and write additional statement so that by 07/17/2018, M\_\_\_ can be set free.

Dear ones, it is a process which we are to follow to close that file. I left K\_\_\_

encouraging bro. R\_\_\_ whom I was with to continue pursuing the issue with that police officer until all is done.

Continued prayers are still needed. God bless you.

N J

07-21-18

Dear brethren,

Heb. 6:10-11

Praise God M\_\_\_ was released.

Thank you for your prayers and support. Praise God for supporting me always to enable me do what I would not have done with my personal efforts.

Praise God once again we did see his hand work with us. Those SDACHurch leaders came and confessed for a sorry of what has happened to M\_\_\_ .

God bless you

N J

## Uganda

08-08-18

Dear brother,

Hope all is OK that way. This way all is not well. I have been hospitalized for a duration coming to two weeks. I was diagnosed with multiple problems such as: Malaria, Typhoid, pneumonia and cataracts on both eyes causing severe headaches—one of the eyes now does not see. As I now write I have gotten a little relief though still under treatment. I therefore solicit your every prayers for my recovery and support in this line as I now go these rounds of treatments at such a high cost .As per now the treatment bill has already passed \$400.00 US dollars and yet am still undergoing treatment so every one's support in raising the treatment bill is not only called for but highly appreciated. Please stand with me as you did before when I faced such a situation. Thanks in advance dear Sisters and Brothers for doing the needful. I also request one and all to pray and fast for me as I face this.

With all these challenges before us we only solicit your manifold prayers dear ones. As I now write we are in dire straits as we can hardly get food on the table given the issues around us.

May the Lord bless and keep u all.

With Christian Love,

J\_\_\_

## Following God's Leading & A Dream About Details

### Listening to "God's Voice"

Brother D was hijacked and put in prison, being accused of many crimes he had not done. He was told he would be in prison for 14 years. He was not able to contact anybody at his home. He cried out to God for help, saying, if You will get me out of here, I will serve You forever. God told him, I don't make deals. You may choose to serve Me or not. D decided to serve God, even though he was not happy with the "deal". God told him to offer his services to the prison warden as a registered nurse. He told God he didn't want to. God told him again, to offer his services as a registered nurse to the warden. Finally, he did, and the warden was happy to offer him a room for consultations. He said, OK you are the doctor! D said, have you any medical books? Any supplies? Warden said, No! But here is a stethoscope. D checked their lungs, checked their heart rate, and listened to their complaints and told them to drink more water and get more exercise.

After several days he told the warden that some of the inmates needed surgeries; some minor and a couple, major. The warden said, no doctor will come here and the inmates can't pay. Brother D suddenly remembered a doctor who he knew who would be willing to come and told the warden. The warden said, you call him. Brother D called the only phone that was 5 miles from his home and his wife answered.

The doctor came to the prison and did the needed surgeries. Later clothing and food were brought to the inmates.

The warden realized that brother D was not a criminal and went to the court and told them that brother D was not a criminal! The prosecutor just laughed and said, we invented the charges so we can keep his plane. The warden said, if you don't drop the charges, I am going to do a write-up in the newspaper

and expose your crime. They said, NO, don't do that! and they dropped the charges. The warden returned and gave brother D his release.

Years later brother D was telling his story in another country and a man came to him and said, I want to tell you my story. I was kidnapped by some gorillas and held for ransom. But no money was paid. Later the gorillas divided us into two groups and told my group, you are going to be released and the other group is going to stay. Then the Holy Spirit told him to trade places with an old man in the other group. He said, NO! Four time the Holy Spirit told him to trade places with the old man, because he could not survive much time in captivity. Four times, he said, NO! The next day his captors told them, we were just playing with you. The other group was to be released and your group is going to stay. Then he knew why the Holy Spirit told him to trade places with the old man. The other group was set free.

He had spent 6 months there in captivity for not obeying the Holy Spirit's leading.

Regularly the gorillas would kill one of their captives. This man cried to God for deliverance and before the gorillas decided to kill him, the military invaded and released him.

The Bible says, "My sheep hear My voice..." [John 10:27](#). It pays to listen.

### A Dream about Details

A fellow in South America had an impressive dream. He dreamt that he, along with others were walking in a long line toward somebody. It turned out to be Jesus and as the people approached Him, He was saying, left, left, left, you, right. Then the man realized it was the judgment and he

thought, surely He will tell me to go to the right, but to his surprise and horror, he was told to go to the left. He thought, how could this be? I have served God all my life. Then an angel touched his shoulder and said, you were almost saved. He thought, what have I done that caused me to be lost? The angel touched his shoulder once again and said, you forgot the small details... The man thought about the movies he had been watching on TV, the worldly music he had listed to on the radio, the food items he had thought, ah, this won't matter. Then he said within himself if only I had a second chance. Then angel touched his shoulder again and said, your prayer has been heard. You have another opportunity. Instantly he awoke.

He immediately began correcting the details.

A week later his wife had a dream, and in her dream the angel came to her and said, you have forgotten one detail. What is it? she asked. The angel responded, God has told you many times not to live in the city, but you still live in the city. Things are going to be really hard in the near future for city dwellers. Then, she awoke and within two weeks their house was sold, at whatever price they could get, and they moved out into the country.

God is not going to give every Adventist city dweller this same dream. He gave it to a few. The rest of us have to awake and obey God's command or suffer with the city dwellers.

*Note: These are both true stories that have been shared by an independent Adventist missionary in his talks as he shares how the Lord is leading in his and others lives.*

**The great power that attends Spiritualism has its origin in the great leading rebel, Satan, the prince of devils. It is through his artifice that evil angels have been able to substitute themselves for the dead, and through lying hypocrisy they have led men to have intercourse with devils. Those who commune with the supposed spirits of the dead are communing with those who will have a corrupting, demoralizing power upon the mind. Christ commanded that we should have no intercourse with sorcerers and with those who have familiar spirits. This class are represented in the Gospel as among those who shall perish in their iniquity,—“the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone.”**

**ST, May 28, 1894 par. 6**

# Christian Service—Chapter 9 Continued

Those who are watching for the Lord, are purifying their souls by obedience to the truth. With vigilant watching they combine earnest working. Because they know that the Lord is at the door, their zeal is quickened to co-operate with the divine intelligences in working for the salvation of souls. These are the faithful and wise servants who give to the Lord's household "their portion of meat in due season." They are declaring the truth that is now specially applicable. As Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and Moses each declared the truth for his time, so will Christ's servants now give the special warning for their generation. {ChS 96.1}

Our standing before God depends, not upon the amount of light we have received, but upon the use we make of what we have. Thus even the heathen who choose the right as far as they can distinguish it, are in a more favorable condition than are those who have had great light, and profess to serve God, but who disregard the light, and by their daily life contradict their profession. {ChS 96.2}

It is the privilege of every Christian, not only to look for, but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory, how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel. Quickly the last great harvest would be ripened, and Christ would come to gather the precious grain. {ChS 96.3}

Christians should arouse themselves, and take up their neglected duties; for the salvation of their own souls depends upon their individual efforts. {ChS 96.4}

True worship consists in working together with Christ. Prayers, exhortation, and talk are cheap fruits, which are frequently tied on; but fruits that are manifested in good works, in caring for the needy, the fatherless, and widows, are genuine fruits, and grow naturally upon a good tree. {ChS 96.5}

Let the individual members of the church take up their appointed work of diffusing as well as receiving light. Not one is excusable in being an idler in the Lord's vineyard.—Review and Herald, {ChS 96.6}

The doing principle is the fruit that Christ requires us to bear; doing deeds of benevolence, speaking kind words, and manifesting tender regard for the poor, the needy, the afflicted. {ChS 97.1}

The Samaritan woman who talked with Jesus at Jacob's well had no sooner found the Saviour than she brought others to Him.

She proved herself a more effective missionary than His own disciples. The disciples saw nothing in Samaria to indicate that it was an encouraging field. Their thoughts were fixed upon a great work to be done in the future. They did not see that right around them was a harvest to be gathered. But through the woman whom they despised a whole city full were brought to hear Jesus. She carried the light at once to her countrymen. This woman represents the working of a practical faith in Christ. {ChS 97.2}

Seventh-day Adventists are making progress, doubling their numbers, establishing missions, and unfurling the banner of truth in the dark places of the earth; and yet the work moves far more slowly than God would have it. [Why?] The members of the church are not individually aroused to put forth the earnest effort they are capable of making, and every branch of the work is crippled by the lack of fervent piety, and devoted, humble, God-fearing laborers. Where are the soldiers of the cross of Christ? Let the God-fearing, the honest, the single-hearted, who look steadfastly to the glory of God, prepare themselves for the battle against error. There are too many faint, cowardly hearts in this hour of spiritual conflict. O that out of weakness they may be made strong, and wax valiant in fight, and put to flight the armies of the aliens! {ChS 97.3}

It is a universal principle that whenever one refuses to use his God-given powers, these powers decay and perish. Truth that is not lived, that is not imparted, loses its life-giving power, its healing virtue. {ChS 97.4}

Nothing will give bone and sinew to your piety like working to advance the cause you profess to love, instead of binding it. {ChS 98.1}

Those who endeavor to maintain Christian life by passively accepting the blessings that come through the means of grace, and doing nothing for Christ, are simply trying to live by eating without working. And in the spiritual as in the natural world, this always results in degeneration and decay. {ChS 98.2}

## **Danger Accompanying Missionary Activity**

Let us not forget that as activity increases, and we become successful in doing the work that must be accomplished, there is danger of our trusting in human plans and methods.

There will be a tendency to pray less, and to have less faith. We shall be in danger of losing our sense of dependence upon God, who alone can make our work succeed; but although this is the tendency, let no one think that the human instrument is to do less. No, he is not to do less, but to do more by accepting the heavenly gift, the Holy Spirit. {ChS 98.3}

There will come times when the church will be stirred by divine power, and earnest activity will be the result; for the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit will inspire its members to go forth and bring souls to Christ. But when this activity is manifested, the most earnest workers will be safe only as they depend upon God through constant, earnest prayer. They will need to make earnest supplication that through the grace of Christ they may be saved from taking pride in their work, or of making a savior of their activity. They must constantly look to Jesus, that they may realize that it is His power which does the work, and thus be able to ascribe all the glory to God. We shall be called upon to make most decided efforts to extend the work of God, and prayer to our heavenly Father will be most essential. It will be necessary to engage in prayer in the closet, in the family, and in the church. {ChS 98.4}

In the estimation of the rabbis, it was the sum of religion to be always in a bustle of activity. They depended upon some outward performance to show their superior piety. Thus they separated their souls from God, and built themselves up in self-sufficiency. The same dangers still exist. As activity increases, and men become successful in doing any work for God, there is danger of trusting to human plans and methods. There is a tendency to pray less, and to have less faith. Like the disciples, we are in danger of losing sight of our dependence on God, and seeking to make a savior of our activity. We need to look constantly to Jesus, realizing that it is His power which does the work. While we are to labor earnestly for the salvation of the lost, we must also take time for meditation, for prayer, and for the study of the Word of God. Only the work accomplished with much prayer, and sanctified by the merit of Christ, will in the end prove to have been efficient for good. {ChS 98.5}

## Encouragement to Beginners in Christian Service

The most successful toilers are those who cheerfully take up the work of serving God in little things. Every human being is to work with his life-thread, weaving it into the fabric to help complete the pattern. {ChS 99.1}

We are to make our everyday duties acts of devotion, constantly increasing in usefulness, because we see our work in the light of eternity. {ChS 99.2}

The Lord has a place for every one in His great plan. Talents that are not needed are not bestowed. {ChS 99.3}

Each has his place in the eternal plan of heaven. Each is to work in co-operation with Christ for the salvation of souls. Not more surely is the place prepared for us in the heavenly mansions than is the special place designated on earth where we are to work for God. {ChS 99.4}

The Lord has His eye upon every one of His people; He has His plans concerning each. {ChS 99.5}

All can do something in the work. None will be pronounced guiltless before God unless they have worked earnestly and unselfishly for the salvation of souls. {ChS 100.1}

Your duty cannot be shifted upon another. No one but yourself can do your work. If you withhold your light, someone must be left in darkness through your neglect. {ChS 100.2}

The humble worker who obediently responds to the call of God may be sure of receiving divine assistance. To accept so great and holy a responsibility is itself elevating to the character. It calls into action the highest mental and spiritual powers, and strengthens and purifies the mind and heart. Through faith in the power of God, it is wonderful how strong a weak man may become, how decided his efforts, how prolific of great results. He who begins with a little knowledge, in a humble way, and tells what he knows, while seeking diligently for further knowledge, will find the whole heavenly treasure awaiting his demand. The more he seeks to impart light, the more light he will receive. The more one tries to explain the Word of God to others, with a love for souls, the plainer it becomes to himself. The more we use our knowledge and exercise our powers, the more knowledge and power we shall have. ChS 100.3}

Let every one labor for God and for souls; let each show wisdom, and never be found in idleness, waiting for some one to set him to work. The "some one" who could set you to work is overcrowded with responsibilities, and time is lost in waiting for his directions. God will give you wisdom in reforming at

once; for the call is still made, "Son, go work today in My vineyard." "Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts." Hebrews 3:7, 8. The Lord prefaces the requirement with the endearing word "son." How tender, how compassionate, yet withal, how urgent! His invitation is also a command. {ChS 100.4}

Strength to resist evil is best gained by aggressive service. {ChS 100.5}

Every act, every deed of justice and mercy and benevolence, makes music in heaven.. {ChS 100.6}

The spirit of Christ is a missionary spirit. The very first impulse of the renewed heart is to bring others also to the Saviour. {ChS 101.1}

The only way to grow in grace is to be interestedly doing the very work Christ has enjoined upon us to do. {ChS 101.2}

You are not to wait for great occasions or to expect extraordinary abilities before you go to work for God. {ChS 101.3}

The man who blesses society, and makes a success of life, is the one who, whether educated or uneducated, uses all his powers in the service of God and his fellow men. {ChS 101.4}

Many whom God has qualified to do excellent work accomplish very little, because they attempt little. {ChS 101.5}

If you fail ninety-nine times in a hundred, but succeed in saving the one soul from ruin, you have done a noble deed for the Master's cause. {ChS 101.6}

The relations between God and each soul are as distinct and full as though there were not another soul upon the earth to share His watchcare, not another soul for whom He gave His beloved Son. {ChS 101.7}

The Lord sees and understands, and He will use you, despite your weakness, if you offer your talent as a consecrated gift to His service; for in active, disinterested service the weak become strong and enjoy His precious commendation. The joy of the Lord is an element of strength. If you are faithful, the peace that passeth all understanding will be your reward in this life, and in the future life you will enter into the joy of your Lord. {ChS 101.8}

Persons of little talent, if faithful in keeping their hearts in the love of God, may win many souls to Christ. Harlan Page was a poor mechanic of ordinary ability and limited education; but he made it his chief business to seek to advance the cause of God, and his efforts were crowned with marked success. He labored for the salvation of his fellow men in private conversation and in earnest prayer. He established prayer meetings, organized Sunday schools, and distributed tracts and other religious reading. And on his

deathbed, with the shadow of eternity resting upon his countenance, he was able to say, "I know that it is all of God's grace, and not through any merit of anything that I have done; but I think I have evidence that more than one hundred souls have been converted to God through my personal instrumentality." {ChS 101.9}

This world is not the Christian's heaven, but merely the workshop of God, where we are to be fitted up to unite with sinless angels in a holy heaven. {ChS 102.1}

The humblest and poorest of the disciples of Jesus can be a blessing to others. They may not realize that they are doing any special good, but by their unconscious influence they may start waves of blessing that will widen and deepen, and the blessed results they may never know until the day of final reward. They do not feel or know that they are doing anything great. They are not required to weary themselves with anxiety about success. They have only to go forward quietly, doing faithfully the work that God's providence assigns, and their life will not be in vain. Their own souls will be growing more and more into the likeness of Christ; they are workers together with God in this life, and are thus fitting for the higher work and the unshadowed joy of the life to come. {ChS 102.2}

There are many who have given themselves to Christ, yet who see no opportunity of doing a large work or making great sacrifices in His service. These may find comfort in the thought that it is not necessarily the martyr's self-surrender which is most acceptable to God; it may not be the missionary who has daily faced danger and death, that stands highest in heaven's records. The Christian who is such in his private life, in the daily surrender of self, in sincerity of purpose and purity of thought, in meekness under provocation, in faith and piety, in fidelity in that which is least, the one who in the home life represents the character of Christ,—such a one may in the sight of God be more precious than even the world-renowned missionary or martyr. {ChS 102.3}

Not the amount of labor performed, or its visible results, but the spirit in which the work is done, makes it of value with God. {ChS 103.1}

The approval of the Master is not given because of the greatness of the work performed, because many things have been gained, but because of the fidelity in even a few things. It is not the great results we attain, but the motives from which we act, that weigh with God. He prizes goodness and faithfulness more than the greatness of the work accomplished. {ChS 103.2}