

Christian Service

*Sabbath Bible Lessons*

Senior Division

*July-September, 2006*

# Foreword

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**Sabbath Bible Lessons**, a daily study program, is based solely on the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy without additional comments. The quotations are as brief as possible to provide concise, direct thoughts. In brackets [ ] are supplied some cases to ensure clarity, proper context, and smooth readability. Further study in the source materials is strongly recommended.

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The Bible begins with the simple recognition of divine ownership. All things belong to the Creator, and as we understand this truth we can see an ever expanding need to understand our responsibilities as His followers. God has placed us on this earth as stewards of the Gospel Commission. How to fulfill this commission of service is the topic of study for this quarter.

Consider these statements from Inspiration as we begin our study:

“God requires everyone to be a worker in His vineyard. You are to take up the work that has been placed in your charge, and to do it faithfully.”—*Christian Service*, p. 9.

“Let no church think it is too small to exert an influence and do service in the great work for this time.”—*The Review and Herald*, March 13, 1888.

“The work which the disciples did, we also are to do. Every Christian is to be a missionary. In sympathy and compassion we are to minister to those in need of help, seeking with unselfish earnestness to lighten the woes of suffering humanity.”—*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 104.

“Youthful talent, well organized and well trained, is needed in our churches. The youth will do something with their overflowing energies. Unless these energies are directed into right channels, they will be used by the youth in a way that will hurt their own spirituality, and prove an injury to those with whom they associate.”—*Gospel Workers*, p. 211.

“We should not let slip even one opportunity of qualifying ourselves intellectually to work for God.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 334.

“Every true disciple is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary. He who drinks of the living water becomes a fountain of life. The receiver becomes a giver. The grace of Christ in the soul is like a spring in the desert, welling up to refresh all, and making those who are ready to perish eager to drink of the water of life.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 195.

*Your brethren from the GC Sabbath School Department*

## First Sabbath Offering

### for Indonesia



The Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement in Indonesia operates in circumstances of trial and terror. Religious and ethnic tribalism makes spreading the gospel a difficult work in this nation of islands. Often traveling by small boats from village island to village island, missionaries have been active, despite great persecution, in sharing the message of salvation.

In the last few years a number of members lost their life to religious violence directed against Christians. Churches and homes were burnt to the ground. But there is still great hope. Souls continue to flock forward to hear the message of salvation and forgiveness of sins. Yet there are still so many islands that need to be reached. This is why we need your help. This Sabbath the offering collected will go towards finishing mission centers from which missionaries will be sent out to the 13,500 islands that compose this country.

These lighthouses provide a refuge in a nation where 87% of the population adheres to the Islamic faith. Materials in the official language of Bahasa Indonesia are supplemented with English tracts and books because many people speak this language also.

Please remember the over 200 million inhabitants on these islands as you give your offering. From the capital city of Jakarta to the Indonesian Field headquarters in the northern city of Manado and to the many islands, there is a cry for the gospel. Will you help Indonesian missionaries travel the 435 small airfields, 6,964 km of railways, 119,500 km of highways, 21,579 km of inland waterways, and countless paths and village tracks to spread the gospel?

*Your brethren and sisters from the Indonesian Field*

## Called to Serve

“Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen” (Isaiah 43:10).

“God has appointed His children to give light to others, and if they fail to do it, and souls are left in the darkness of error because of their failure to do that which they might have done, had they been vitalized by the Holy Spirit, they will be accountable to God. We have been called out of darkness into His marvelous light, in order that we may show forth the praises of Christ.”—*The Review and Herald*, December 12, 1893.

**Suggested Readings:** *Christian Service*, pp. 7–22, 60–62, 80.  
*Testimonies*, vol. 6, pp. 431–439.

### Sunday

June 25

#### 1. WHY ARE WE HERE?

##### a. Why does God have a church? Isaiah 43:10–12.

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“The members of the church, those whom [God] has called out of darkness into His marvelous light, are to show forth His glory.”—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 9.

##### b. Who composes the church? Revelation 12:17; 14:12.

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“From the beginning, faithful souls have constituted the church on earth. In every age the Lord has had His watchmen, who have borne a faithful testimony to the generation in which they lived. These sentinels gave the message of warning; and when they were called to lay off their armor, others took up the work. God brought these witnesses into covenant relation with Himself, uniting the church on earth with the church in heaven. He has sent forth His angels to minister to His church, and the gates of hell have not been able to prevail against His people.”—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 11.

## 2. THE CALL

- a. What commission is given to the church? Matthew 28:19, 20.
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- b. How far is this message to go? Mark 16:15.
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- c. Who are the ones who are to obey this commission? 1 Corinthians 1:2.
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“Someone must fulfill the commission of Christ; someone must carry on the work which He began to do on earth; and the church has been given this privilege. For this purpose it has been organized. Why, then, have not church members accepted the responsibility?”—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 295.

“It was the Saviour’s purpose that after He ascended to heaven to become man’s intercessor, His followers should carry on the work that He had begun. Shall the human agent show no special interest in giving the light of the gospel message to those who sit in darkness? There are some who are willing to go to the ends of the earth in order to carry the light of truth to men, but God demands that every soul who knows the truth shall seek to win others to the love of the truth. If we are not willing to make special sacrifices in order to save souls that are ready to perish, how can we be counted worthy to enter into the city of God?”—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 103.

- d. What is said of those who are not working to fulfill this commission? Matthew 20:6.
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“Wake up, brethren and sisters, wake up. Sleep no longer. ‘Why stand ye here all the day idle?’ Jesus calls you, saying, ‘Go work today in My vineyard.’ Whoever has received the Holy Spirit, will make it manifest; for all his powers will be employed in the most active service. All who actually receive Christ by faith, work. They feel the burden of souls. God now calls upon everyone who has a knowledge of the truth, who is a depository of sacred truth, to arise and impart the light of heaven to others.”—*The Review and Herald*, December 5, 1893.

## 3. WHO IS THE HEAD?

- a. What will be characteristic of those whom God has called? 1 Corinthians 14:33, 40; Ephesians 4:4, 11.
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“God is a God of order. Everything connected with heaven is in perfect order; subjection and thorough discipline mark the movements of the angelic host. Success can only attend order and harmonious action. God requires order and system in His work now no less than in the days of Israel. All who are working for Him are to labor intelligently, not in a careless, haphazard manner. He would have His work done with faith and exactness, that He may place the seal of His approval upon it.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 376.

“If discipline and order are necessary for successful action on the battlefield, the same are as much more needful in the warfare in which we are engaged as the object to be gained is of greater value and more elevated in character than those for which opposing forces contend upon the field of battle. In the conflict in which we are engaged, eternal interests are at stake.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 649.

- b. Who is to control the movements of the church? Colossians 1:18.
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“To human agencies is committed the work of extending the triumphs of the cross from point to point. As the Head of the church, Christ is authoritatively calling upon everyone who claims to believe on Him to follow His example of self-denial and self-sacrifice in working for the conversion of those whom Satan and his vast army are exerting every power to destroy. God’s people are called upon to rally without delay under the bloodstained banner of Christ Jesus. Unceasingly they are to continue their warfare against the enemy, pressing the battle even to the gates. And everyone who is added to the ranks by conversion is to be assigned his post of duty. Everyone should be willing to be or to do anything in this warfare. When church members put forth earnest efforts to advance the message, they will live in the joy of the Lord and will meet with success. Triumph always follows decided effort.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 7, p. 30.

## 4. WHAT IS NEEDED?

- a. In order to be effective in doing our God-given task, what is needed? Titus 1:5; 2 Timothy 2:15.

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“That which is needed now for the upbuilding of our churches is the nice work of wise laborers to discern and develop talent in the church—talent that can be educated for the Master’s use. There should be a well-organized plan for the employment of workers to go into all our churches, large and small, to instruct the members how to labor for the upbuilding of the church and also for unbelievers. It is training, education, that is needed. Those who labor in visiting the churches should give the brethren and sisters instruction in practical methods of doing missionary work.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 117.

“In every church the members should be so trained that they will devote time to the winning of souls to Christ. How can it be said of the church, ‘Ye are the light of the world,’ unless the members of the church are actually imparting light?

“Let those who have charge of the flock of Christ awake to their duty and set many souls to work.”—*Ibid.*, vol. 6, p. 436.

“The greatest help that can be given our people is to teach them to work for God, and to depend on Him, not on the ministers.”—*Ibid.*, vol. 7, p. 19.

- b. What hinders the church or its members from being efficient? Joshua 22:20.

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“If those who profess to believe present truth were indeed representatives of the truth, living up to all the light which shines upon their pathway, they would constantly exert upon others an influence for good, thus leaving a bright track heavenward for all who are brought in contact with them. But a lack of faithfulness and integrity among its professed friends is a serious hindrance to the prosperity of God’s cause. Satan works through men who are under his control. The sanitarium, the church, and other institutions at Battle Creek have less to fear from the infidel and the open blasphemer than from inconsistent professors of Christ. These are the Achans in the camp, who bring shame and defeat. These are the ones who keep back the blessing of God and dishearten the zealous, self-denying workers in the cause of Christ.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 4, pp. 563, 564.

## 5. HOW CAN IT BE DONE?

- a. What methods did Christ use in training His disciples? Matthew 5:1, 2; 13:1–3.

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“Sometimes [the Saviour] taught [His disciples] as they sat together on the mountainside, sometimes beside the sea, or from the fisherman’s boat, sometimes as they walked by the way. Whenever He spoke to the multitude, the disciples formed the inner circle. They pressed close beside Him, that they might lose nothing of His instruction. They were attentive listeners, eager to understand the truths they were to teach in all lands and to all ages.”—*Education*, p. 85.

- b. How can we follow Christ’s way and be successful in our training? Matthew 11:29.

- c. Who should be the ones to do the training? 2 Timothy 2:1, 2; 1 Timothy 3:1, 2, 8, 11.

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“Great care should be exercised in selecting officers for the new churches. Let them be men and women who are thoroughly converted. Let those be chosen who are best qualified to give instruction, those who can minister both in word and in deed. There is a deep-seated necessity for work in every line.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 85.

- d. What will be needed in order to get the best training? Deuteronomy 6:7.

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“True education is missionary training. Every son and daughter of God is called to be a missionary; we are called to the service of God and our fellow men; and to fit us for this service should be the object of our education.”—*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 395.

“It is to fortify the youth against the temptations of the enemy that we have established schools where they may be qualified for usefulness in this life and for the service of God throughout eternity.”—*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 495.

## PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is God's purpose for the church, and why am I involved?
2. Am I willing to be used by the Lord to reach out to suffering souls?
3. Why is order and organization important? Is it implemented in my life?
4. Why is training needed in the church?
5. Am I partaking of helping in the training or in being trained for God's work?

**The Call.** "Every soul whom Christ has rescued is called to work in His name for the saving of the lost."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 191.

**Organized for Service.** "Time is short, and our forces must be organized to do a larger work."—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 27.

**Growing in Grace.** "It is the privilege of every soul to make advancement. Those who are connected with Christ will grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Son of God, to the full stature of men and women. If all who claim to believe the truth had made the most of their ability and opportunities to learn and to do, they would have become strong in Christ. Whatever their occupation—whether they were farmers, mechanics, teachers, or pastors—if they had wholly consecrated themselves to God they would have become efficient workers for the heavenly Master."—*Ibid.*, vol. 6, p. 423.

**Educated for Service.** "Many would be willing to work if they were taught how to begin. They need to be instructed and encouraged.

"Every church should be a training school for Christian workers. Its members should be taught how to give Bible readings, how to conduct and teach Sabbath school classes, how best to help the poor and to care for the sick, how to work for the unconverted. There should be schools of health, cooking schools, and classes in various lines of Christian help work. There should not only be teaching, but actual work under experienced instructors. Let the teachers lead the way in working among the people, and others, uniting with them, will learn from their example. One example is worth more than many precepts."—*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 149.

## The Conditions

"[Jesus came into Galilee] saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:15).

"When the converting power of God comes upon the people, . . . they will become workers."—*The Review and Herald*, January 17, 1893.

**Suggested Readings:** *Christian Service*, pp. 35–49; 50–57.  
*Selected Messages*, bk. 1, pp. 121–128.

## Sunday

July 2

## 1. WHAT IS IT LIKE OUTSIDE?

- a. As you go among the people of this world, what do you see? Psalm 119:126.

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"The days in which we live are solemn and important. The Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the earth. Plagues and judgments are already falling upon the despisers of the grace of God. The calamities by land and sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of war, are portentous. They forecast approaching events of the greatest magnitude.

"The agencies of evil are combining their forces and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones."—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 11.

- b. What did Jesus feel as He saw the multitudes? Matthew 9:36.

- c. What instruction did Jesus give them and us? Matthew 9:37, 38.

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"The time of God's destructive judgments is the time of mercy for those who have had no opportunity to learn what is truth. Tenderly will the Lord look upon them. His heart of mercy is touched; His hand is still stretched out to save, while the door is closed to those who would not enter."—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 97.

## 2. SEEKING, SEARCHING ONES

- a. Jesus gave instructions how to find the honest ones. What did He explain we should do? Matthew 13:47, 48; John 21:6.
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- b. What should we remember when dealing with those who look most unlikely? Ecclesiastes 11:6.
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“In the time of distress and perplexity of nations there will be many who have not given themselves wholly to the corrupting influences of the world and the service of Satan, who will humble themselves before God and turn to Him with their whole heart and find acceptance and pardon.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 269.

“There are many who are reading the Scriptures who cannot understand their true import. All over the world men and women are looking wistfully to heaven. Prayers and tears and inquiries go up from souls longing for light, for grace, for the Holy Spirit. Many are on the verge of the kingdom, waiting only to be gathered in.”—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 109.

- c. Is there anyone who is unimportant in the sight of God? Matthew 10:31.
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“One soul is of infinite value; for Calvary speaks its worth. One soul, won to the truth, will be instrumental in winning others, and there will be an ever-increasing result of blessing and salvation. Your work may accomplish more real good than the more extensive meetings, if they lack in personal effort. When both are combined, with the blessing of God, a more perfect and thorough work may be wrought; but if we can have but one part done, let it be the individual labor of opening the Scriptures in households, making personal appeals, and talking familiarly with the members of the family, not about things of little importance, but of the great themes of redemption. Let them see that your heart is burdened for the salvation of souls.”—*The Review and Herald*, March 13, 1888.

## 3. ARE WE READY?

- a. Knowing the needs all around us, what is needed for the church to fulfill her duty? Revelation 3:19, 20.
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- b. What is our greatest need? Ezekiel 37:1–14.
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“This class [of truth professors] is well represented by the valley of dry bones Ezekiel saw in vision. Those who have had committed to them the treasures of truth, and yet who are dead in trespasses and sin, need to be created anew in Christ Jesus. There is so little real vitality in the church at the present time, that it takes constant labor to give men the appearance of life to the professed people of God. When the converting power of God comes upon the people, it will be made manifest by activity. They will become workers, and will esteem the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of the world.”—*The Review and Herald*, January 17, 1893.

“Many who are without spiritual life have their names on the church records, but they are not written in the Lamb’s book of life. They may be joined to the church, but they are not united to the Lord. They may be diligent in the performance of a certain set of duties, and may be regarded as living men; but many are among those who have ‘a name that thou livest, and art dead.’ ”—*The SDA Bible Commentary* [E. G. White Comments], vol. 4, p. 1166.

- c. In view of our great need, what should we do? Acts 3:19.
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“Unless there is genuine conversion of the soul to God; unless the vital breath of God quickens the soul to spiritual life; unless the professors of truth are actuated by heaven-born principle, they are not born of the incorruptible seed which liveth and abideth forever. Unless they trust in the righteousness of Christ as their only security; unless they copy His character, labor in His spirit, they are naked, they have not on the robe of His righteousness. The dead are often made to pass for the living; for those who are working out what they term salvation after their own ideas, have not God working in them to will and to do of His good pleasure.”—*The SDA Bible Commentary* [E. G. White Comments], vol. 4, p. 1166.

## 4. THE WAKE UP CALL

- a. Realizing the conditions that would characterize the last days, what did Jesus prophesy would happen just before His coming? Matthew 25:1–5.
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- b. In view of the urgency of the shortness of the time, what should we do? Romans 13:11, 12.
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“I am bidden to call upon the churches to awake out of sleep. We must contend with invisible, supernatural foes. We are to put on the whole armor of God, that we may be prepared for the battles we have daily to fight.”—*Reflecting Christ*, p. 201.

“You who claim to believe the truth, to be waiting for the appearing of our Lord in the clouds of heaven, waiting to be translated to the mansions Christ has given His life to purchase, how much, I ask, do you love His appearing? How much do you value eternal above temporal things?—Just as much as your works show, and no more. Brethren and sisters, ‘the night is far spent, the day is at hand.’ I call upon you to awake out of sleep. Let every church arouse and put away their pride and vanity and worldliness. Let them humble their hearts before God by repentance that they have lifted so few burdens for Christ.”—*The Review and Herald*, December 7, 1886.

“The Master calls you to meet the stern realities of the time in which we live. Christ says, ‘Without me, ye can do nothing.’ Begin in your own neighborhood, and strive judiciously to inculcate ideas of the truth, so that the contrast between truth and error may be seen. Sow gospel truth all around you, for each truth practiced and taught is a power which will live and accomplish a work as far-reaching as eternity. Be yourself a thorough Bible Christian. The great need of the time is an intelligent acquaintance with the Bible.

“Will my brethren now arouse to do their work? The signs reveal to us that ‘the night cometh, in which no man can work.’”—*Ibid.*, December 18, 1888.

## 5. AM I PREPARED?

- a. We are not saved in groups. What must we do individually? Psalms 51:10; 139:23, 24.
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“It is our iniquities that separate us from God. What we individually need is the living testimony in our souls that we are seeking God with the whole heart, that we are putting from our lives those things which God declares should not be found there. God desires that we shall stand before the world a holy people. Why? Because there is a world to be saved by the light of present truth. As we give to the people the truth that is to call them out of darkness into God’s marvelous light, our lives, sanctified by the Spirit of truth, are to bear witness to the verity of the message we proclaim.”—*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 5, p. 34.

- b. To do God’s will, how should I respond to the call to awake to serve? Psalm 40:8.
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“If you are willing to learn meekness and lowliness of heart in Christ’s school, He will surely give you rest and peace. It is a terribly hard struggle to give up your own will and your own way. But this lesson learned, you will find rest and peace. Pride, selfishness, and ambition must be overcome; your will must be swallowed up in the will of Christ. The whole life may become one constant love sacrifice, every action a manifestation, and every word an utterance of love. As the life of the vine circulates through stem and cluster, descends into the lower fibers, and reaches to the topmost leaf, so will the grace and love of Christ burn and abound in the soul, sending its virtues to every part of the being, and pervading every exercise of body and mind.”—*The SDA Bible Commentary* [E.G. White Comments], vol. 5, pp. 1091, 1092.

- c. What promise is given to us at this time? Matthew 28:20.
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“Those who work for God will meet with discouragement, but the promise is always theirs: ‘Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world’ (Matthew 28:20). God will give a most wonderful experience to those who will say: ‘I believe Thy promise; I will not fail nor become discouraged.’”—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, pp. 335, 336.

## PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What should our attitude be as we see the conditions in the world around us?
2. Do I view each person that I meet as valuable in the sight of God?
3. What must I do individually in order to help the spiritual condition of the church?
4. Do I understand by my own experience what it means to be dead to self and totally submitted to Christ in everything?
5. What promise of hope did I find in the prophecies covered in this lesson?

**God Will Reveal Himself.** “Never did this message apply with greater force than it applies today. More and more the world is setting at naught the claims of God. Men have become bold in transgression. The wickedness of the inhabitants of the world has almost filled up the measure of their iniquity. This earth has almost reached the place where God will permit the destroyer to work his will upon it. The substitution of the laws of men for the law of God, the exaltation, by merely human authority, of Sunday in place of the Bible Sabbath, is the last act in the drama. When this substitution becomes universal, God will reveal Himself. He will arise in His majesty to shake terribly the earth. He will come out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the world for their iniquity, and the earth shall disclose her blood and shall no more cover her slain.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 7, p. 141.

**Revival.** “A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work.”—*The Review and Herald*, March 22, 1887.

**The Divine Pattern.** “The greatest conquest for every one of us will be to overcome self, to bring self into obedience to the law of God. This is our work; are we doing it? Are we working to save others by our influence? Do we hold ourselves as God’s servants to labor for others? Do we entreat them to flee from the wrath to come? Do we convince them by our course of action, by our every word, that we have been made partakers of the divine nature, and that we are copying after the divine Pattern? If so, we shall surely win souls to Christ, we shall be living epistles known and read of all men.”—*Ibid.*, August 18, 1885.

## Qualified for Successful Service

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

“The time demands greater efficiency and deeper consecration. O, I am so full of this subject that I cry to God, ‘Raise up and send forth messengers filled with a sense of their responsibility, messengers in whose hearts self-idolatry, which lies at the foundation of all sin, has been crucified.’”—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 27.

**Suggested Readings:** *Christian Service*, pp. 223–249.  
*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 325–353.

## Sunday

July 9

## 1. WHAT DID HE SHOW?

- a. In the life of Christ, what was the most important characteristic that He showed? *Philippians 2:7*.

- b. Is it possible that we may have that same attitude? *Philippians 2:3–5*.

“In choosing men and women for His service, God does not ask whether they possess learning or eloquence or worldly wealth. He asks: ‘Do they walk in such humility that I can teach them My way? Can I put My words into their lips? Will they represent Me?’”—*Testimonies*, vol. 7, p. 144.

- c. How may we gain this experience? *Ephesians 4:22–24*; *Romans 8:1*.

- d. What will happen when I have this experience? *James 5:20*.

“The unstudied, unconscious influence of a holy life is the most convincing sermon that can be given in favor of Christianity.”—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 511.

## 2. GOD ALREADY PROVIDED

- a. Scripture shows that God has already given certain things to help us in this work. What are they? Matthew 25:14, 15.

- b. What specific talents are entrusted to almost all individuals? Colossians 4:6; Ephesians 5:19.

“The right culture and use of the power of speech has to do with every line of Christian work. . . . We should accustom ourselves to speak in pleasant tones, to use pure and correct language, and words that are kind and courteous.”—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 336.

“[Workers, both men and women] will be educated in patience, kindness, affability, and helpfulness. They will practice true Christian courtesy, bearing in mind that Christ, their companion, cannot approve of harsh, unkind words or feelings. Their words will be purified. The power of speech will be regarded as a precious talent, lent them to do a high and holy work.”—*Gospel Workers*, p. 97.

- c. How can these Christian attributes be used to do missionary work? 2 Timothy 4:2.

“The spirit that is kept gentle under provocation will speak more effectively in favor of the truth than will any argument, however forcible.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 353.

- d. What must we especially guard against? Proverbs 14:17; 26:21; 29:22.

“Some rash, impulsive, yet honest souls, after a pointed discourse has been given, will accost those who are not with us in a very abrupt manner, and make the truth, which we desire them to receive, repulsive to them. ‘The children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.’ Business men and politicians study courtesy. It is their policy to make themselves as attractive as possible. They study to render their address and manners such that they may have the greatest influence over the minds of those about them. They use their knowledge and abilities as skillfully as possible in order to gain this object.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 68.

## 3. AT LEAST ONE

- a. What should we remember about the use of any talent? Matthew 25:23.

“We must not enter into the Lord’s work haphazard and expect success. The Lord needs men of mind, men of thought. Jesus calls for coworkers, not blunderers. God wants right-thinking and intelligent men to do the great work necessary to the salvation of souls.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 67.

- b. Is there effort required in the cultivation of talents or are all talents inherited? 1 Timothy 4:7; 2 Corinthians 7:1.

“The special gifts of the Spirit are not the only talents represented in the parable. It includes all gifts and endowments, whether original or acquired, natural or spiritual. All are to be employed in Christ’s service. In becoming His disciples, we surrender ourselves to Him with all that we are and have. These gifts He returns to us purified and ennobled, to be used for His glory in blessing our fellow men.”—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 328.

- c. What attitude should accompany the using of every ability? 1 Corinthians 13:1–3; James 3:13–17.

“The talents, however few, are to be put to use. The question that most concerns us is not, How much have I received? but, What am I doing with that which I have? The development of all our powers is the first duty we owe to God and to our fellow men. No one who is not growing daily in capability and usefulness is fulfilling the purpose of life. In making a profession of faith in Christ we pledge ourselves to become all that it is possible for us to be as workers for the Master, and we should cultivate every faculty to the highest degree of perfection, that we may do the greatest amount of good of which we are capable.”—*Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 329, 330.

- d. What happens if I don’t use my skills for helping the cause of God? Matthew 25:25, 28, 30.

## 4. BE EFFICIENT

- a. What other attributes are needed in laboring for Christ? 2 Timothy 2:15.

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“Mechanics, lawyers, merchants, men of all trades and professions, educate themselves that they may become masters of their business. Should the followers of Christ be less intelligent, and while professedly engaged in His service, be ignorant of the ways and means to be employed? The enterprise of gaining everlasting life is above every earthly consideration. In order to lead souls to Jesus there must be a knowledge of human nature and a study of the human mind. Much careful thought and fervent prayer are required to know how to approach men and women upon the great subject of truth.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 67.

“Be sure to maintain the dignity of the work by a well-ordered life and godly conversation. Never be afraid of raising the standard too high. . . . All coarseness and roughness must be put away from us. Courtesy, refinement, Christian politeness, must be cherished. Guard against being abrupt and blunt. Do not regard such peculiarities as virtues; for God does not so regard them. Endeavor not to offend any unnecessarily.”—*The Review and Herald*, November 25, 1890.

- b. Will it be easy? What should we remember? Joshua 1:7.

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“Often the Christian life is beset by dangers, and duty seems hard to perform. The imagination pictures impending ruin before and bondage or death behind. Yet the voice of God speaks clearly, ‘Go forward.’ We should obey this command, even though our eyes cannot penetrate the darkness, and we feel the cold waves about our feet. The obstacles that hinder our progress will never disappear before a halting, doubting spirit. Those who defer obedience till every shadow of uncertainty disappears and there remains no risk of failure or defeat, will never obey at all. Unbelief whispers, ‘Let us wait till the obstructions are removed, and we can see our way clearly;’ but faith courageously urges an advance, hoping all things, believing all things.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 290.

## 5. THE EVIDENCE

- a. What will show if my heart is transformed? 1 John 3:17; 4:21.

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“But not to any class is Christ’s love restricted. . . . His followers are not to feel themselves detached from the perishing world around them. They are a part of the great web of humanity; and Heaven looks upon them as brothers to sinners as well as to saints. The fallen, the erring, and the sinful, Christ’s love embraces; and every deed of kindness done to uplift a fallen soul, every act of mercy, is accepted as done to Him.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 638.

“It is earnest Christian zeal that is wanted—a zeal that will be manifested by doing something. . . . No more could a soul who possesses Christ be hindered from confessing Him than could the waters of Niagara be stopped from flowing over the falls.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 2, p. 233.

- b. What can the world see that I may deny? Titus 1:16.

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“There must be no pretense in the lives of those who have so sacred and solemn a message as we have been called to bear. The world is watching Seventh-day Adventists because it knows something of their profession of faith and of their high standard, and when it sees those who do not live up to their profession, it points at them with scorn.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 23.

“In the work of soul-winning, great tact and wisdom are needed. The Saviour never suppressed the truth, but He uttered it always in love. In His intercourse with others, He exercised the greatest tact, and He was always kind and thoughtful. He was never rude, never needlessly spoke a severe word, never gave unnecessary pain to a sensitive soul. He did not censure human weakness. He fearlessly denounced hypocrisy, unbelief, and iniquity, but tears were in His voice as He uttered His scathing rebukes. He never made truth cruel, but ever manifested a deep tenderness for humanity. Every soul was precious in His sight. He bore Himself with divine dignity; yet He bowed with the tenderest compassion and regard to every member of the family of God. He saw in all, souls whom it was His mission to save.”—*Gospel Workers*, p. 117.

## PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is the attitude of Christ towards sinners, and why is it important that I have the same?
2. What talents should I seek to improve for the Lord's honor and work?
3. Am I warm, loving, and joyful as I meet people? Am I showing Christ?
4. Do I exhibit the energy and perseverance necessary to be a worker for God?
5. Is there anything in my life that is keeping the Holy Spirit from shining through me?

**Conveying Light to the World.** "True character is not shaped from without, and put on; it radiates from within. If we wish to direct others in the path of righteousness, the principles of righteousness must be enshrined in our own hearts. Our profession of faith may proclaim the theory of religion, but it is our practical piety that holds for the word of truth. The consistent life, the holy conversation, the unswerving integrity, the active, benevolent spirit, the godly example—these are the mediums through which light is conveyed to the world."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 307.

**Entire Surrender to God.** "It is not a conclusive evidence that a man is a Christian because he manifests spiritual ecstasy under extraordinary circumstances. Holiness is not rapture: it is an entire surrender of the will to God; it is living by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God; it is doing the will of our heavenly Father; it is trusting God in trial, in darkness as well as in the light; it is walking by faith and not by sight; it is relying on God with unquestioning confidence, and resting in His love."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 51.

**A Daily Manifestation of Christ.** "A tender spirit, a gentle, winning deportment, may save the erring and hide a multitude of sins. The revelation of Christ in your own character will have a transforming power upon all with whom you come in contact. Let Christ be daily made manifest in you, and He will reveal through you the creative energy of His words—a gentle, persuasive, yet mighty influence to re-create other souls in the beauty of the Lord our God."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 128.

**The Power of His Grace.** "As you seek to draw others within the circle of His love, let the purity of your language, the unselfishness of your service, the joyfulness of your demeanor, bear witness to the power of His grace."—*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 156.

## The First Mission Field

"Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord; that walketh in his ways. . . . Happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee. Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table" (Psalm 128:1–3).

"The restoration and uplifting of humanity begins in the home. The work of parents underlies every other. . . . The well-being of society, the success of the church, the prosperity of the nation, depend upon home influences."—*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 349.

**Suggested Readings:** *Testimonies*, vol. 6, pp. 427–430.  
*The Ministry of Healing*, pp. 388–394.

## Sunday

July 16

## 1. THE FIRST PLACE

- a. What is the first place where we should focus our missionary efforts? Deuteronomy 6:5–9; Psalm 128:1–3.

"Our work for Christ is to begin with the family in the home. . . . There is no missionary field more important than this. By precept and example parents are to teach their children to labor for the unconverted. The children should be so educated that they will sympathize with the aged and afflicted and will seek to alleviate the sufferings of the poor and distressed. They should be taught to be diligent in missionary work; and from their earliest years self-denial and sacrifice for the good of others and the advancement of Christ's cause should be inculcated, that they may be laborers together with God.

"But if they ever learn to do genuine missionary work for others, they must first learn to labor for those at home, who have a natural right to their offices of love."—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 429.

- b. What do the following verses teach us about our home life, especially of those holding a position in the church? Why is this important? 1 Timothy 3:3–7; Titus 2:3–5.

## 2. A TRAINING CENTER

- a. Besides being a place to live, what is the purpose of the home? Proverbs 22:6.

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“Our households must be set in order, and earnest efforts must be made to interest every member of the family in missionary enterprises. We must seek to engage the sympathies of our children in earnest work for the unsaved, that they may do their best at all times and in all places to represent Christ.”—*The Review and Herald*, July 4, 1893.

- b. When the training is done properly in the home, what will happen outside of the home? Matthew 5:16.

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“The mission of the home extends beyond its own members. The Christian home is to be an object lesson, illustrating the excellence of the true principles of life. Such an illustration will be a power for good in the world. Far more powerful than any sermon that can be preached is the influence of a true home upon human hearts and lives. As the youth go out from such a home, the lessons they have learned are imparted. Nobler principles of life are introduced into other households, and an uplifting influence works in the community.”—*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 352.

- c. What does true home missionary work prove? 2 Corinthians 13:5.

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“Some who have long professed to be Christians, and yet have felt no responsibility for souls perishing within the shadow of their own homes, may think they have a work to do in foreign lands; but where is the evidence of their fitness for such a work? Wherein have they manifested a burden for souls? These persons need first to be taught and disciplined at home. True faith and love for Christ would create in them a most earnest desire to save souls right at home. They would exert every spiritual energy to draw with Christ, learning His meekness and lowliness. Then if God should desire them to go to foreign countries, they would be prepared.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, pp. 427, 428.

## 3. SPECIFICS

- a. Which specific things need to be practiced consistently in the home? Philippians 1:27.

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“The Christian’s first duty is in the home. Fathers and mothers, yours is a great responsibility. You are preparing your children for life or for death; you are training them for an abiding place here in the earth, for self-gratification in this life, or for the immortal life, to praise God forever. And which shall it be? It should be the burden of your life to have every child that God has committed to your trust receive the divine mold. Your children should be taught to control their tempers and to cultivate a loving, Christlike spirit. So direct them that they will love the service of God, that they will take more pleasure in going to the house of worship than to places of amusement. Teach them that religion is a living principle. Had I been brought up with the idea that religion is a mere feeling, my life would have been a useless one. But I never let feeling come between Heaven and my soul. Whatever my feelings may be, I will seek God at the commencement of the day, at noon, and at night, that I may draw strength from the living Source of power.”—*The Signs of the Times*, January 14, 1886.

- b. Why is there so much emphasis on what we are like in the home? 1 Timothy 5:8.

“If these children had been properly trained and disciplined, if they had been brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, heavenly angels would be in your homes. If you were true home missionaries, in your daily life exemplifying the teachings of the word of God, you would be preparing yourselves for a wider field of usefulness, and at the same time fitting your children to stand by your side, as efficient workers in the cause of God. What an impression it makes upon society to see a family united in the work and service of the Lord. Such a family is a powerful discourse in favor of the reality of Christianity. Others see that there is an influence at work in the family that affects the children, and that the God of Abraham is with them. And that which has such a powerful influence on the children is felt beyond the home, and affects other lives. If the homes of professed Christians had a right religious mold, they would exert a mighty influence for good. They would indeed be the ‘light of the world.’”—*The Signs of the Times*, January 14, 1886.

## 4. PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

- a. What should we be practicing daily with one another? Philippians 2:3; Ephesians 4:31, 32.

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“By practicing self-denial in the home, we are fitted to work for others. The effort to make the home what it should be—a symbol of the home in heaven—prepares us for work in a larger sphere. The education received by showing a tender regard for each other, enables us to know how to reach hearts that need to be taught the principles of true religion. The church needs all the cultivated spiritual force which can be obtained, that all, and especially the younger members of the Lord’s family may be carefully guarded. The truth lived at home makes itself felt in disinterested labor abroad. He who lives Christianity in the home will be a bright and shining light everywhere.”—*The Signs of the Times*, September 1, 1898.

- b. In what relationship must this be developed first? Ephesians 5:25, 29, 33; 1 Peter 3:1, 7.

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“If you have words of kindness and acts of courtesy to give, it is always safe to give them to your wife. It will be a great blessing to her, and will bring happiness to her heart which will be reflected back upon you again.”—*A Solemn Appeal*, p. 156.

- c. How will love manifest itself in the home? 1 Corinthians 13:4–7.

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“It is the little attentions, the numerous small incidents and simple courtesies of life, that make up the sum of life’s happiness; and it is the neglect of kindly, encouraging, affectionate words, and the little courtesies of life, which helps compose the sum of life’s wretchedness. It will be found at last that the denial of self for the good and happiness of those around us constitutes a large share of the life record in heaven. And the fact will also be revealed that the care of self, irrespective of the good and happiness of others, is not beneath the notice of our heavenly Father.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 2, pp. 133, 134.

## 5. MORE TO LEARN

- a. What other things should be practiced in our home? 1 Thessalonians 4:11, 12.

- b. What should never be in our home and why? Proverbs 17:14.

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“This is an age of profession and pretension. On all sides we see beautiful houses erected, splendidly furnished, adorned with pictures and equipped with everything to delight the eye and gratify the taste. Looking upon outside appearances we might say, Surely here are happy homes. Yet within these mansions lust and evil passions hold sway. Husbands are killing their wives that they may gratify their unholy lust, killing them with neglect, with harshness, with overbearing and self-importance. Those who were once made in the image of God, by indulgence in evil are blotting out every semblance of the divine nature.”—*The Review and Herald*, June 5, 1894.

- c. What can our homes be used for? 1 Peter 4:9. How will this kind of home affect the church?

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“Even among those who profess to be Christians, true hospitality is little exercised. Among our own people the opportunity of showing hospitality is not regarded as it should be, as a privilege and blessing. There is altogether too little sociability, too little of a disposition to make room for two or three more at the family board, without embarrassment or parade. Some plead that ‘it is too much trouble.’ It would not be if you would say, ‘We have made no special preparation, but you are welcome to what we have.’ By the unexpected guest a welcome is appreciated far more than is the most elaborate preparation.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 343.

“The books of heaven will reveal a terrible record of unfulfilled home duties against parents who were considered intelligent missionary workers. How much more influence these parents might have had, how much more good they might have done, had they commenced the work at the right point, by setting their own house in order, and presenting to their neighbors a well-ordered family as evidence of the power of the truth! When it is seen that the children are not like worldlings, when the beauty of faith and the spirit of genuine Christianity are seen in them, it will be as a light pointing heavenward.”—*The Review and Herald*, May 22, 1888.

## PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Where is our first mission field and why?
2. What should be happening in the home that will affect the world?
3. Does my home reflect the right attitude and tone? In what ways do I need to change in order to have the right spirit?
4. How are my relationships with my spouse, children, and friends?
5. Are there ways that my home can be used to reach the heart of others?

**A Living Witness.** “The greatest evidence of the power of Christianity that can be presented to the world is a well-ordered, well-disciplined family. This will recommend the truth as nothing else can; for it is a living witness of its practical power upon the heart.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 304.

**A Mighty Influence for Good.** “A well-ordered Christian household is a powerful argument in favor of the reality of the Christian religion—an argument that the infidel cannot gainsay. All can see that there is an influence at work in the family that affects the children, and that the God of Abraham is with them. If the homes of professed Christians had a right religious mold, they would exert a mighty influence for good. They would indeed be the ‘light of the world.’”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 144.

**Prayerful Parents.** “Oh, that parents would look prayerfully and carefully after their children's eternal welfare! Let them ask themselves, Have we been careless? Have we neglected this solemn work? Have we allowed our children to become the sport of Satan's temptations? Have we not a solemn account to settle with God because we have permitted our children to use their talents, their time and influence, in working against the truth, against Christ? Have we not neglected our duty as parents and increased the number of the subjects of Satan's kingdom?”

“By many this home field has been shamefully neglected, and it is time that divine resources and remedies were presented, that this state of evil may be corrected. What excuse can the professed followers of Christ offer for neglecting to train their children to work for Him?”—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, pp. 429, 430.

**Finding Joy in Service.** “The more fully the spirit of true ministry pervades the home the more fully it will be developed in the lives of the children. They will learn to find joy in service and sacrifice for the good of others.”—*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 401.

# Additional Methods of Service

“What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?” (Luke 15:4).

“We are not to wait for souls to come to us; we must seek them out where they are. When the word has been preached in the pulpit, the work has but just begun. There are multitudes who will never be reached by the gospel unless it is carried to them.”—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 229.

**Suggested Readings:** *Christian Service*, pp. 113–131.  
*Testimonies*, vol. 9, pp. 30–48.  
*The Ministry of Healing*, pp. 194–196.

## Sunday

July 23

## 1. REACHING OUT

- a. How far did Christ reach to save us from sin? Colossians 1:14–17, 21, 22; Romans 5:10.
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- b. What will motivate us to reach out of our nucleus to help others? Luke 15:8–10.
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“In this work all the angels of heaven are ready to cooperate. All the resources of heaven are at the command of those who are seeking to save the lost. Angels will help you to reach the most careless and the most hardened. And when one is brought back to God, all heaven is made glad; seraphs and cherubs touch their golden harps, and sing praises to God and the Lamb for their mercy and lovingkindness to the children of men.”—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 197.

- c. What can we tell to those we reach out? 1 Peter 4:7.
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## 2. CULTIVATING INTEREST

- a. What are many individuals around us asking? Acts 16:30.
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- b. What is so important in any type of missionary work? Colossians 3:12.
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“Those who are fighting the battle of life at great odds may be refreshed and strengthened by little attentions which cost nothing. Kindly words simply spoken, little attentions simply bestowed, will sweep away the clouds of temptation and doubt that gather over the soul. The true heart expression of Christlike sympathy, given in simplicity, has power to open the door of hearts that need the simple, delicate touch of the spirit of Christ.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 30.

“All who work for God should have the Martha and the Mary attributes blended— a willingness to minister and a sincere love of the truth. Self and selfishness must be put out of sight. God calls for earnest women workers, workers who are prudent, warmhearted, tender, and true to principle. He calls for persevering women, who will take their minds from self and their personal convenience, and will center them on Christ, speaking words of truth, praying with the persons to whom they can obtain access, laboring for the conversion of souls.”—*Ibid.*, vol. 6, p. 118.

- c. What is a simple method of missionary work that all can participate in? Luke 14:23.
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“To all who are working with Christ I would say, Wherever you can gain access to the people by the fireside, improve your opportunity. Take your Bible, and open before them its great truths. Your success will not depend so much upon your knowledge and accomplishments, as upon your ability to find your way to the heart. By being social and coming close to the people, you may turn the current of their thoughts more readily than by the most able discourse. The presentation of Christ in the family, by the fireside, and in small gatherings in private houses, is often more successful in winning souls to Jesus than are sermons delivered in the open air, to the moving throng, or even in halls or churches.”—*Gospel Workers*, p. 193.

## 3. KNOWING PEOPLE

- a. If I don't know my neighbors, how can I tell them of Jesus? Who gave us an example of how to get close to them? Acts 9:36; Proverbs 31:20.
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“Let not the youth be ignored; let them share in the labor and responsibility. Let them feel that they have a part to act in helping and blessing others. Even the children should be taught to do little errands of love and mercy for those less fortunate than themselves.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 435.

- b. All of us have some contact with some people. What way did Paul use to reach acquaintances and develop deeper relationships? Philippians 3:1.
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“Women can do good work in the missionary field, by writing to friends, and learning their true feelings in relation to the cause of God.”—*Welfare Ministry*, pp. 147, 148.

- c. Who is especially adapted to these types of missionary labor? Philippians 4:3.
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“If there were twenty women where now there is one, who would make this holy mission their cherished work, we should see many more converted to the truth.”—*The Review and Herald*, January 2, 1879.

“[Our sisters] have tact, perception, and good ability, and will make successful workers for their Master. Christian women are called for. . . . Our sisters can serve as vigilant workers in writing, and drawing out the true feelings of friends who have received our papers and tracts. . . . Women of firm principle and decided character are needed, women who believe that we are indeed living in the last days, and that we have the last solemn message of warning to be given to the world. . . . These are the ones whom God can use in the tract and missionary work. . . . These can in many ways do a precious work for God in scattering tracts.”—*Ibid.*, December 19, 1878.

## 4. HELPING HANDS

- a. **Doing missionary work requires something which few are ready to give. What is it? Matthew 16:24–27.**

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“Study Christ’s definition of a true missionary, [Mark 8:34 quoted]. Following Christ, as spoken of in these words, is not a pretense, a farce. Jesus expects His disciples to follow closely in His footsteps, enduring what He endured, suffering what He suffered, overcoming as He overcame. He is anxiously waiting to see His professed followers revealing the spirit of self-sacrifice.”—*Counsels on Health*, p. 511.

- b. **If we care for others, we will be willing to give of our time and energy. What are some other specific ways to get close to their heart and find out more of their needs? Titus 2:3–5.**

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“In ministry to the poor there is a wide field of service for women as well as for men. The efficient cook, the housekeeper, the seamstress, the nurse—the help of all is needed. Let the members of poor households be taught how to cook, how to make and mend their own clothing, how to nurse the sick, how to care properly for the home. Let boys and girls be thoroughly taught some useful trade or occupation.”—*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 194.

- c. **What Christian service fits the abilities of men? Titus 2:2, 6–10; 3:1, 2.**

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“Christian farmers can do real missionary work in helping the poor to find homes on the land and in teaching them how to till the soil and make it productive. Teach them how to use the implements of agriculture, how to cultivate various crops, how to plant and care for orchards. . . .

“Attention should be given to the establishment of various industries so that poor families can find employment. Carpenters, blacksmiths, and indeed every one who understands some line of useful labor, should feel a responsibility to teach and help the ignorant and the unemployed.”—*The Ministry of Healing*, pp. 193, 194.

## 5. BUT I’M WORKING

- a. **How can we reach souls while working? Acts 16:14; 18:1–4.**

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“To everyone who becomes a partaker of His grace the Lord appoints a work for others. Individually we are to stand in our lot and place, saying, ‘Here I am; send me’ (Isaiah 6:8). Upon the minister of the word, the missionary nurse, the Christian physician, the individual Christian, whether he be merchant or farmer, professional man or mechanic—the responsibility rests upon all. It is our work to reveal to men the gospel of their salvation. Every enterprise in which we engage should be a means to this end.”—*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 148.

- b. **How can our Christian conduct in business be considered missionary work? 1 Thessalonians 4:11, 12.**

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“Let the business man do his business in a way that will glorify his Master because of his fidelity. Let him carry his religion into everything that is done, and reveal to men the Spirit of Christ. Let the mechanic be a diligent and faithful representative of Him who toiled in the lowly walks of life in the cities of Judea. Let everyone who names the name of Christ so work that man by seeing his good works may be led to glorify his Creator and Redeemer.”—*Christian Service*, p. 27.

“Do not pass by the little things, and look for a large work. You might do successfully the small work, but fail utterly in attempting a large work and fall into discouragement. Take hold wherever you see that there is work to be done. Whether you are rich or poor, great or humble, God calls you into active service for Him. It will be by doing with your might what your hands find to do that you will develop talent and aptitude for the work. And it is by neglecting your daily opportunities that you become fruitless and withered. This is why there are so many fruitless trees in the garden of the Lord.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 129.

## PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Am I reaching out to people and sharing God's truth with them consistently?
2. What can I do, and when shall I do the work of visiting my neighbors in order to really help them?
3. How can we encourage women in the missionary work at home and abroad?
4. What can be done by our families and churches to share practical knowledge with interested persons and win them to Christ?
5. How can the workplace be the best demonstration of Christian virtues?

**Feeling for Others.** "If you are in communion with Christ, you will place His estimate upon every human being. You will feel for others the same deep love that Christ has felt for you. Then you will be able to win, not drive, to attract, not repulse, those for whom He died. None would ever have been brought back to God if Christ had not made a personal effort for them; and it is by this personal work that we can rescue souls. When you see those who are going down to death, you will not rest in quiet indifference and ease. The greater their sin and the deeper their misery, the more earnest and tender will be your efforts for their recovery. You will discern the need of those who are suffering, who have been sinning against God, and who are oppressed with a burden of guilt. Your heart will go out in sympathy for them, and you will reach out to them a helping hand. In the arms of your faith and love you will bring them to Christ. You will watch over and encourage them, and your sympathy and confidence will make it hard for them to fall from their steadfastness."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 197.

**House-to-House Labor.** "Those who engage in house-to-house labor will find opportunities for ministry in many lines. They should pray for the sick and should do all in their power to relieve them from suffering. They should work among the lowly, the poor, and the oppressed. We should pray for and with the helpless ones who have not strength of will to control the appetites that passion has degraded. Earnest, persevering effort must be made for the salvation of those in whose hearts an interest is awakened. Many can be reached only through acts of disinterested kindness. Their physical wants must first be relieved. As they see evidence of our unselfish love, it will be easier for them to believe in the love of Christ."—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, pp. 83, 84.

## First Sabbath Offering

for the missionary schools around the world

"The greatest want of the world is the want of men—men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall."—*Education*, p. 57.



Even before the organization of the Reform Movement in 1925, missionary schools were a fundamental aspect in the completion of the gospel commission for this church. As early as 1920, a small missionary school was opened in Rama (near Würzburg), Germany.

In 1931 the General Conference decided to open an international missionary school with the aim of sending missionaries to foreign lands. On April 1, 1932, this school began operations in Schwaebisch Hall, Germany.

Today, missionary schools continue to be an important part of spreading the present truth. Workers for the Lord's cause need to be trained to complete the commission given to them by the Saviour of souls.

On August 5, please remember this important work. Your offerings will be used to support our missionary schools around the globe.

M. Natarajan,  
GC Education Secretary



Missionary students in Dominican Republic



Missionary students in Haiti

# The Right Arm of the Work

“God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; Selah. That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations” (Psalm 67:1, 2).

“First meet the temporal necessities of the needy and relieve their physical wants and sufferings, and you will then find an open avenue to the heart, where you may plant the good seeds of virtue and religion.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 227.

**Suggested Readings:** *Christian Service*, pp. 132–140.  
*Testimonies*, vol. 7, pp. 62–67.  
*Testimonies*, vol. 9, pp. 112–118.

## Sunday

July 30

### 1. WHAT DO YOU NOTICE?

- a. As you go into the world of people, what do you notice? What principle is taught by the following verse? Matthew 9:12.

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- b. What did Jesus do as He saw similar conditions around Him? Matthew 4:24.

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“The Saviour of the world devoted more time and labor to healing the afflicted of their maladies than to preaching. His last injunction to His apostles, His representatives upon the earth, was to lay hands on the sick that they might recover. When the Master shall come, He will commend those who have visited the sick and relieved the necessities of the afflicted.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 225.

- c. How can we do the same? Luke 10:33–37.

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“Christ’s example must be followed by those who claim to be His children. Relieve the physical necessities of your fellow men, and their gratitude will break down the barriers and enable you to reach their hearts. Consider this matter earnestly.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 127.

## Monday

July 31

### 2. AM I WELL?

- a. How does Luke 4:23, stating, “Physician, heal thyself,” apply to the healing work which we are to perform?

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“Let us present the gospel to the sick, connecting Jesus, the Great Healer, with the simple remedies used; and our living faith will be answered. But those who come to the Great Healer must be willing to do His will, to humble their souls, and confess their sins. As we lay hold of divine power with a faith that will not be denied, we shall see the salvation of God.”—*Medical Ministry*, p. 29.

- b. How can we individually be well? 3 John 2. How will our physical, mental, and spiritual well-being affect others?

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“The work of health reform is the Lord’s means for lessening suffering in our world and for purifying His church. Teach the people that they can act as God’s helping hand, by cooperating with the Master Worker in restoring physical and spiritual health. This work bears the signature of heaven and will open doors for the entrance of other precious truths. There is room for all to labor who will take hold of this work intelligently.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, pp. 112, 113.

“When we have tried to present the health reform to our brethren and sisters, and have spoken to them of the importance of eating and drinking and doing all that they do to the glory of God, many by their actions have said: ‘It is nobody’s business whether I eat this or that. Whatever we do we are to bear the consequences ourselves.’ Dear friends, you are greatly mistaken. You are not the only sufferers from a wrong course. The society you are in bears the consequences of your wrongs, in a great degree, as well as yourselves. If you suffer from your intemperance in eating or drinking, we that are around you or associated with you are also affected by your infirmities. We have to suffer on account of your wrong course. If it has an influence to lessen your powers of mind or body, we feel it when in your society, and are affected by it.”—*Ibid.*, vol. 2, p. 356.

- c. What is the most effective way that we can educate others in God’s plan of well-being? 1 Timothy 4:12, 16; 1 Corinthians 9:27.

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## 3. SHARING THE SECRET

- a. In order to be effective in sharing God's ways of healing, what do we need? Psalm 143:10.

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“Let our people show that they have a living interest in medical missionary work. Let them prepare themselves for usefulness by studying the books that have been written for our instruction in these lines. These books deserve much more attention and appreciation than they have received. Much that is for the benefit of all to understand has been written for the special purpose of instruction in the principles of health. Those who study and practice these principles will be greatly blessed, both physically and spiritually. An understanding of the philosophy of health will be a safeguard against many of the evils that are continually increasing.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 7, p. 63.

“A responsibility to spread the knowledge of hygienic principles rests upon all who have enjoyed the benefits of health reform. . . . There must be a revival in regard to this matter; for God purposes to accomplish much through this agency.”—*Healthful Living*, p. 260.

- b. In what specific areas do we need to be educated? Luke 9:2. Where should this schooling take place?

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“Let the Lord's work go forward. Let the medical missionary and the educational work go forward. I am sure that this is our great lack—earnest, devoted, intelligent, capable workers.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, pp. 168, 169.

“I would advise young men and women to give heed to [the subject of medical missionary work]. Perilous times are before us. The whole world will be involved in perplexity and distress. Diseases of every kind will be upon the human family, and such ignorance as now prevails concerning the laws of health will result in great suffering and the loss of many lives that might be saved.”—*Healthful Living*, p. 254.

“Cautions have been given me in reference to the work of training nurses and medical missionary evangelists. We are not to centralize this work in any one place. In every sanitarium established, young men and young women should be trained to be medical missionaries. The Lord will open the way before them as they go forth to work for Him.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 7, p. 100.

## 4. USING THE TRAINING

- a. How can we use medical missionary work to reach out to our neighbors and communities? Luke 10:9.

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“[Medical missionary] work, properly conducted, will save many a poor sinner who has been neglected by the churches. Many not of our faith are longing for the very help that Christians are in duty bound to give. If God's people would show a genuine interest in their neighbors, many would be reached by the special truths for this time. Nothing will or ever can give character to the work like helping the people just where they are. Thousands might today be rejoicing in the message if those who claim to love God and keep His commandments would work as Christ worked.

“When the medical missionary work thus wins men and women to a saving knowledge of Christ and His truth, money and earnest labor may safely be invested in it; for it is a work that will endure.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 280.

“I have been instructed that one of the principal reasons why hygienic restaurants and treatment rooms should be established in the centers of large cities is that by this means the attention of leading men will be called to the third angel's message. Noticing that these restaurants are conducted in a way altogether different from the way in which ordinary restaurants are conducted, men of intelligence will begin to inquire into the reasons for the difference in business methods, and will investigate the principles that lead us to serve superior food. Thus they will be led to a knowledge of the message for this time.”—*Ibid.*, vol. 7, pp. 122, 123.

- b. What should we remember in working the cities and the country places? Psalm 2:8.

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“Cooking schools are to be held. The people are to be taught how to prepare wholesome food. They are to be shown the need of discarding unhealthful foods. But we should never advocate a starvation diet. It is possible to have a wholesome, nutritious diet without the use of tea, coffee, and flesh food. The work of teaching the people how to prepare a dietary that is at once wholesome and appetizing, is of the utmost importance.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 112.

## 5. SOMETHING ELSE

- a. We need something else to reach the masses. What does God ask us to do? Matthew 5:14–16.

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“Health restaurants and treatment rooms should be established. Our efforts in these lines should include the great seaside resorts.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 7, pp. 55, 56.

- b. Where should these health retreats be located and why? Psalm 65:12, 13; Genesis 2:9.

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“Light has been given me that in medical missionary work we have lost great advantages by failing to realize the need of a change in our plans in regard to the location of sanitariums. It is the Lord’s will that these institutions shall be established outside the city. They should be situated in the country, in the midst of surroundings as attractive as possible. In nature—the Lord’s garden—the sick will always find something to divert their attention from themselves and lift their thoughts to God.

“I have been instructed that the sick should be cared for away from the bustle of the cities, away from the noise of streetcars and the continual rattling of carts and carriages. People who come to our sanitariums from country homes will appreciate a quiet place; and in retirement patients will be more readily influenced by the Spirit of God.”—*Counsels on Health*, pp. 265, 266.

- c. What is needed to be able to have functioning entities to help share the third angel’s message? Psalm 25:4; Proverbs 4:20–22.

- d. What are we waiting for? What should we do? Psalm 42:11.

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“We should educate ourselves, not only to live in harmony with the laws of health, but to teach others the better way. Many, even of those who profess to believe the special truths for this time, are lamentably ignorant with regard to health and temperance. They need to be educated, line upon line, precept upon precept. The subject must be kept fresh before them.”—*Counsels on Health*, p. 449.

## PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why does God give us the medical missionary work?
2. Am I a fit example of His healing power? What do I need to change?
3. What methods of medical missionary work can I implement now?
4. In what ways do I need to be trained individually for this work?
5. How may our local church better use the right arm and train others to do the same?

**The God-Fearing Physician.** “There is no missionary field more important than that occupied by the faithful, God-fearing physician. There is no field where a man may accomplish greater good, or win more jewels to shine in the crown of his rejoicing.”—*Healthful Living*, p. 254.

**Sabbath Observance at Our Restaurants.** “When thinking men find that our restaurants are closed on the Sabbath, they will make inquiries in regard to the principles that lead us to close our doors on Saturday. In answering their questions, we shall have opportunity to acquaint them with the reasons for our faith. We can give them copies of our periodicals and tracts, so that they may be able to understand the difference between ‘him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not.’

“Not all our people are as particular as they should be in regard to Sabbath observance. May God help them to reform. It becomes the head of every family to plant his feet firmly on the platform of obedience.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 7, p. 123.

**Part of the Work of God.** “Those who cannot see the importance and bearing of the medical missionary work should not feel authorized to endeavor to control any phase of it. They need an increased knowledge in every line of health reform. They need to be purified, sanctified, and ennobled. They need to be molded and fashioned after the divine similitude. Then they will see that the medical missionary work is a part of the work of God.”—*Ibid.*, vol. 6, p. 300.

**Living Principles.** “Let [workers who possess true missionary zeal] take the living principle of health reform into the communities that to a large degree are ignorant of these principles.”—*Ibid.*, vol. 9, p. 118.

# The Canvassing Work

“Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days” (Ecclesiastes 11:1).

“If there is one work more important than another, it is that of getting our publications before the public, thus leading them to search the Scriptures. Missionary work—introducing our publications into families, conversing, and praying with and for them—is a good work.”—*Colporteur Ministry*, p. 7.

**Suggested Readings:** *Christian Service*, pp. 145–154.  
*Testimonies*, vol. 5, pp. 396–407.

## Sunday

August 6

### 1. IT DOESN'T ARGUE

- a. **What works very well even while you are sleeping, doesn't argue, and will accomplish God's purpose? Isaiah 55:11.**

“One of the principal agencies [the Lord] has ordained for our use is the printed page. . . . With patient diligence chosen workers must instruct our people how to approach unbelievers in a kindly, winning way and how to place in their hands literature in which the truth for this time is presented with clearness and power.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 87.

- b. **Why is there such power in the Scriptures? 2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 119:130.**

“The word of God, spoken to the heart, has an animating power.”—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 17.

- c. **What is special about using the printed page to share the truth? Ecclesiastes 11:1.**

“The silent messengers that are placed in the homes of the people through the work of the canvasser will strengthen the gospel ministry in every way; for the Holy Spirit will impress minds as they read the books, just as He impresses the minds of those who listen to the preaching of the word. The same ministry of angels attends the books that contain the truth as attends the work of the minister.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 316.

## Monday

August 7

### 2. AS THE LEAVES OF AUTUMN

- a. **What methods should be used in sharing the printed page? Ecclesiastes 11:6, 4.**

“Let the leaflets and tracts, the papers and books, go in every direction. Carry with you, wherever you go, a package of select tracts, which you can hand out as you have opportunity. Sell what you can, and lend or give them away as the case may seem to require. Important results will follow.”—*The Review and Herald*, June 10, 1880.

- b. **Who can do the scattering? Ephesians 4:7.**

“Let every Seventh-day Adventist ask himself, ‘What can I do to proclaim the third angel's message?’ Christ came to this world to give this message to His servant to give to the churches. It is to be proclaimed to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. How are we to give it? The distribution of our literature is one means by which the message is to be proclaimed. Let every believer scatter broadcast tracts and leaflets and books containing the message for this time. Colporteurs are needed who will go forth to circulate our publications everywhere.”—*The Southern Watchman*, January 5, 1904.

“Our publications are now sowing the gospel seed, and are instrumental in bringing as many souls to Christ as the preached word. Whole churches have been raised up as the result of their circulation. In this work every disciple of Christ can act a part.”—*The Review and Herald*, June 10, 1880.

- c. **What type of “leaves” should be used? Jeremiah 15:16.**

- d. **What work does God call some individuals to enter full time? 1 Corinthians 9:13, 14; 2 Corinthians 5:18–20.**

“May the Lord move upon many of our young men to enter the canvassing field as canvassing evangelists. By the canvassing work the truth is presented to thousands that otherwise would not hear it. Our time for work is short.”—*Colporteur Ministry*, pp. 19, 20.

## 3. INTO THE HOMES

- a. Why is canvassing such a special work? Luke 8:5 (first part), 11.

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“There are many places in which the voice of the minister cannot be heard, places which can be reached only by publications—the books, papers, and tracts that are filled with the Bible truths that the people need. Our literature is to be distributed everywhere. The truth is to be sown beside all waters; for we know not which will prosper, this, or that. In our erring judgment we may think it unwise to give literature to the very ones who would accept the truth the most readily. We know not what may be the good results of giving away a leaflet containing present truth.”—*The Southern Watchman*, January 5, 1904.

“Canvassers must go out into various parts of the country. The importance of this work is fully equal to that of the ministry. The living preacher and the silent messenger are both required for the accomplishment of the great work before us.”—*The Review and Herald*, April 1, 1880.

- b. What examples did Christ give for individual ministry—witnessing to a single soul? John 3:2, 3; 4:7; Luke 19:5.

- c. What will canvassing lead to? 2 Timothy 4:2.

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“Our work has been marked out for us by our heavenly Father. We are to take our Bibles and go forth to warn the world. We are to be God’s helping hands in saving souls—channels through which His love is day by day to flow to the perishing.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 150.

“The Bible is brought into families, and its sacred truths come home to the conscience. Men are entreated to read, examine, and judge for themselves, and they must abide the responsibility of receiving or rejecting the divine enlightenment. God will not permit this precious work for Him to go unrewarded. He will crown with success every humble effort made in His name.”—*Gospel Workers*, p. 192.

## 4. IT NEEDS PEOPLE

- a. What is our great lack at this time of Earth’s history? Luke 10:2.

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“The lost sheep of God’s fold are scattered in every place, and the work that should be done for them is being neglected. From the light given me I know that where there is one canvasser in the field, there should be one hundred.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 315.

- b. What type of people are needed and where will they be called from? Luke 10:3, 9.

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“In this closing work of the gospel there is a vast field to be occupied; and, more than ever before, the work is to enlist helpers from the common people. Both the youth and those older in years will be called from the field, from the vineyard, and from the workshop, and sent forth by the Master to give His message. Many of these have had little opportunity for education; but Christ sees in them qualifications that will enable them to fulfill His purpose. If they put their hearts into the work, and continue to be learners, He will fit them to labor for Him.”—*Education*, pp. 269, 270.

“Everyone is not fitted for this [missionary] work. Those of the best talent and ability, who will take hold of the work understandingly and systematically, and carry it forward with persevering energy, are the ones who should be selected. There should be a most thoroughly organized plan; and this should be faithfully carried out. Churches in every place should feel the deepest interest in the tract and missionary work.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 390.

- c. What do missionaries need to be successful? Psalm 25:4.

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“We have a work to do. Educate, educate, educate young men to give themselves to the ministry of the word. Educate them to become canvassers, to sell those books which the Lord by His Holy Spirit has stirred minds to write. This reading matter will thus be given to a large class of people who would never hear the truth unless it was brought to their doors. This is the work of the evangelist.”—*Colporteur Ministry*, p. 19.

## 5. WHO WILL GO?

- a. How many workers does God desire to see willing to reach the world? Matthew 20:6, 7.

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“Hundreds and thousands were seen visiting families and opening before them the Word of God. Hearts were convicted by the power of the Holy Spirit, and a spirit of genuine conversion was manifested.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 126.

- b. How can anyone be qualified to do this work? Luke 18:27.

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“The Lord imparts a fitness for the work to every man and woman who will cooperate with divine power. All the requisite talent, courage, perseverance, faith, and tact will come as they put the armor on. A great work is to be done in our world, and human agencies will surely respond to the demand.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 333.

- c. Of what must the canvasser be careful? Luke 9:62.

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“Careless spectators may not appreciate your work or see its importance. They may think it a losing business, a life of thankless labor and self-sacrifice. But the servant of Jesus sees it in the light shining from the cross. His sacrifices appear small in comparison with those of the blessed Master, and he is glad to follow in His steps. The success of his labor affords him the purest joy and is the richest recompense for a life of patient toil.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 340.

- d. How should you and I respond to this call? Isaiah 6:8; Luke 18:28–30.

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“The canvassing work should no longer be neglected. Many times I have been shown that there should be a more general interest in our canvassing work.”—*Colporteur Ministry*, p. 16.

## PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why is the printed page so high on God’s list of missionary methods?
2. How can I be involved with scattering these precious leaves in my community?
3. What should we remember about sharing the truth for this time?
4. What should I remember as I see others working in Christ’s lines and how can I encourage their training?
5. Am I willing to let the Lord guide me into His work at this time?

**The Appeal of Scripture.** “The Scriptures appeal to man as having power to choose between right and wrong; they speak to him in warning, in reproof, in entreaty, in encouragement.”—*The Review and Herald*, March 4, 1884.

**Scattering the Leaves of Autumn.** “As one brother was carrying away an armful of books, a canvasser laid his hand upon his arm and said: ‘My brother, what are you doing with so many books?’ Then I heard the voice of our Counselor saying: ‘Forbid them not. This is a work that should be done. The end is near. Already much time has been lost, when these books should have been in circulation. Sell them far and near. Scatter them like the leaves of autumn. This work is to continue without the forbiddings of anyone. Souls are perishing out of Christ. Let them be warned of His soon appearing in the clouds of heaven.’”—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 72.

**The Missionary Canvasser.** “Since canvassing for our literature is a missionary work, it should be conducted from a missionary standpoint. Those selected as canvassers should be men and women who feel the burden of service, whose object is not to get gain, but to give light to the people. All our service is to be done to the glory of God, to give the light of truth to those who are in darkness. Selfish principles, love of gain, dignity, or position, should not be once named among us.”—*Ibid.*, vol. 6, p. 317.

**Everyone Has Value.** “Some are better adapted than others for doing a certain work; therefore it is not correct to think that everyone can be a canvasser. Some have no special adaptability for this work; but they are not, because of this, to be regarded as faithless or unwilling. The Lord is not unreasonable in His requirements. The church is as a garden in which is a variety of flowers, each with its own peculiarities. Though in many respects all may differ, yet each has a value of its own.”—*Colporteur Ministry*, p. 27.

# The Field

“Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters” (Isaiah 32:20).

“A great work is to be done in America and in other lands. As yet, many fields are still unentered. The most important duty before those who have been sent out into the fields at home and abroad as missionaries is to combine the forces and strength of all whom they can possibly enlist as helpers. Thus they can make mighty strokes for their Master. God will do a great work in every part of the field, if with willing hearts His servants put self out of sight, and labor for His glory.”—*The Review and Herald*, December 1, 1904.

**Suggested Readings:** *Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 80–89.  
*The Ministry of Healing*, pp. 209–216.

## Sunday

August 13

### 1. A SOWER WENT

- a. **The Bible speaks of the sower, the one who sowed the seed of the Word of God. Who is the sower and where did he do his sowing? Matthew 13:24, 37.**

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- b. **What does the field represent? Matthew 13:38 (first part).**

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- c. **How does Christ sow the seed of His truth in this world? John 20:21 (last part); Romans 10:15; Revelation 14:6.**

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“As faithful husbandmen in God’s great field, we must sow with tears and be patient and hopeful. We must meet troubles and sorrows. Temptations and wearisome toil will afflict the soul, but we must patiently wait in faith to reap with joy. In the final victory God will have no use for those persons who are nowhere to be found in time of peril and danger, when the strength, courage, and influence of all are required to make a charge upon the enemy.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 3, p. 327.

## Monday

August 14

### 2. HE LOVES ALL

- a. **Where does Christ say that His followers should sow? Who does that include? Isaiah 32:20; Revelation 17:15.**

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- b. **Often the verse indicated in this question is thought of only in connection with money. Whom does it speak of that we must share out the “seed”? Matthew 19:21.**

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- c. **There is another class which should be reached. Who are they? Matthew 19:23, 24; Luke 19:23.**

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“Those who belong to the higher ranks of society are to be sought out with tender affection and brotherly regard. Men in business life, in high positions of trust, men with large inventive faculties and scientific insight, men of genius, teachers of the gospel whose minds have not been called to the special truths for this time—these should be the first to hear the call. To them the invitation must be given.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 230.

“Enter the large cities, and create an interest among the high and the low. Make it your work to preach the gospel to the poor, but do not stop there. Seek to reach the higher classes also. Study your location with a view to letting your light shine forth to others. This work should have been done long since.”—*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 400.

“Students, go out into the highways and hedges. Endeavor to reach the higher as well as the lower classes. Enter the homes of the rich as well as the poor, and as you have opportunity, ask, ‘Would you be pleased to have us sing some gospel hymns?’ Then as hearts are softened, the way may open for you to offer a few words of prayer for the blessing of God. Not many will refuse to listen. Such ministry is genuine missionary work.”—*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 548.

## 3. REACHING THE WEALTHY

- a. What does Jesus say of the rich in connection with how they can enter the kingdom of heaven? Matthew 19:25, 26.
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- b. What influence can the wealthy Christians have on their society? Matthew 27:57–60; Mark 15:43.
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“We talk and write much of the neglected poor: should not some attention be given also to the neglected rich? Many look upon this class as hopeless, and they do little to open the eyes of those who, blinded and dazed by the power of Satan, have lost eternity out of their reckoning. Thousands of wealthy men have gone to their graves unwarned because they have been judged by appearance and passed by as hopeless subjects. But, indifferent as they may appear, I have been shown that most of this class are soul-burdened. There are thousands of rich men who are starving for spiritual food. Many in official life feel their need of something which they have not. Few among them go to church; for they feel that they receive no benefit. The teaching they hear does not touch the soul. Shall we make no personal effort in their behalf?”—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 78.

- c. What is needed to reach the higher classes? James 3:17; 1:5.
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“Some are especially fitted to work for the higher classes. These should seek wisdom from God to know how to reach these persons, to have not merely a casual acquaintance with them, but by personal effort and living faith to awaken them to the needs of the soul, to lead them to a knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus.”—*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 213.

“But in order to do this all the workers will have to keep themselves up to a high level of intelligence. They cannot do this work and sink down to a low, common level, feeling that it does not much matter how they labor or what they say, since they are working for the poor and ignorant classes. They will have to sharpen up, and be armed and equipped in order to present the truth intelligently and to reach the higher classes. Their minds must rise higher, and show greater strength and clearness.”—*Evangelism*, p. 556.

## 4. THE FOREIGN FIELDS

- a. Is the field only the area in which we live? Mark 16:15.
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“Our church members should feel a deep interest in home and foreign missions. Great blessings will come to them as they make self-sacrificing efforts to plant the standard of truth in new territory. The money invested in this work will bring rich returns. New converts, rejoicing in the light received from the word, will in their turn give of their means to carry the light of truth to others.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 49.

“To show a liberal, self-denying spirit for the success of foreign missions is a sure way to advance home missionary work; for the prosperity of the home work depends largely, under God, upon the reflex influence of the evangelical work done in countries afar off. It is in working to supply the necessities of others that we bring our souls into touch with the Source of all power. The Lord has marked every phase of missionary zeal that has been shown by His people in behalf of foreign fields. He designs that in every home, in every church, and at all the centers of the work, a spirit of liberality shall be shown in sending help to foreign fields, where the workers are struggling against great odds to give the light to those who sit in darkness. That which is given to start the work in one field will result in strengthening the work in other places.”—*Gospel Workers*, pp. 465, 466.

- b. How can we prepare to work in foreign lands? Matthew 11:29; Romans 10:15.
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“Great benefits would come to the cause of God in the regions beyond, if faithful effort were put forth in behalf of the foreigners in the cities of our homeland. Among these men and women are some who, upon accepting the truth, could soon be fitted to labor for their own people in this country and in other countries. Many might return to the places from which they came, in the hope of winning their friends to the truth. They could search out their kinsfolk and neighbors, and communicate to them a knowledge of the third angel’s message.”—*The Review and Herald*, October 29, 1914.

“There has been a slothful neglect and a criminal unbelief among us as a people, which has kept us back from doing the work God has left us to do in letting our light shine forth to those of other nations.”—*Life Sketches*, p. 213.

## 5. NOT ALL CAN GO

- a. Is everyone called to leave his or her home as a missionary? Mark 5:18, 19.

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- b. How can we help foreign missions while living on the home ground? 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Ephesians 6:18, 19.

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- c. What is another very practical way to help others in the work? 2 Corinthians 9:6, 7.

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“From every church, prayers should ascend to God for an increase of devotion and liberality. My brethren and sisters, do not plead for retrenchment in evangelical work. So long as there are souls to save, our interest in the work of soulsaving is to know no abating. The church cannot abridge her task without denying her Master. Not all can go as missionaries to foreign lands, but all can give of their means for the carrying forward of foreign missions.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, pp. 55, 56.

- d. What will be the results as we serve God in these various ways? 2 Corinthians 9:8–13.

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“Will you not, dear youth, become missionaries for God? Will you, as you have never done before, learn the precious lesson of making gifts to the Lord by putting into the treasury of that which He has freely given you to enjoy? Whatever you have received, let a portion be returned to the Giver as a gratitude offering. A part should also be put into the treasury for the missionary work to be done both at home and abroad.”—*The Youth’s Instructor*, August 26, 1897.

“We have but few missionaries. From home and abroad are coming urgent calls for workers. Young men and young women, the middle-aged, and in fact all who are able to engage in the Master’s service, should be putting their minds to the stretch in an effort to prepare to meet these calls.”—*Pacific Union Recorder*, August 13, 1914.

## PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How does Christ intend to reach the world with His truth?
2. How can I reach the poor in my area?
3. Is there anything that I need to develop in order to reach the wealthier classes? Am I willing to be used in this way?
4. How can I better help the gospel to be preached in every land?
5. How can I be a seed sower where I am?

**Patient Toil.** “Christ had come, not as a king, but as a sower; not for the overthrow of kingdoms, but for the scattering of seed; not to point His followers to earthly triumphs and national greatness, but to a harvest to be gathered after patient toil and through losses and disappointments.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 35.

**Returning to the Giver.** “Will you not, dear youth, become missionaries for God? Will you, as you have never done before, learn the precious lesson of making gifts to the Lord by putting into the treasury of that which He has freely given you to enjoy? Whatever you have received, let a portion be returned to the Giver as a gratitude offering. A part should also be put into the treasury for the missionary work to be done both at home and abroad.”—*Messages to Young People*, p. 306.

**Minds Led to the Gospel.** “By the parable of the sower, Christ illustrates the things of the kingdom of heaven, and the work of the great Husbandman for His people. Like a sower in the field, He came to scatter the heavenly grain of truth. And His parable teaching itself was the seed with which the most precious truths of His grace were sown. Because of its simplicity the parable of the sower has not been valued as it should be. From the natural seed cast into the soil, Christ desires to lead our minds to the gospel seed, the sowing of which results in bringing man back to his loyalty to God. He who gave the parable of the tiny seed is the Sovereign of heaven, and the same laws that govern earthly seed sowing govern the sowing of the seeds of truth.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 33.

**Leaving All to Follow Christ.** “Those who are called to unite with Christ must leave all, in order to follow Him. Old associations must be broken up, plans of life relinquished, earthly hopes surrendered. In toil and tears, in solitude, and through sacrifice, must the seed be sown.”—*Ibid.*, pp. 36, 37.

# The Sabbath School Work

“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching” (Hebrews 10:24, 25).

“The Sabbath School should be one of the greatest instrumentalities, and the most effectual, in bringing souls to Christ.”—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 10.

**Suggested Readings:** *Testimonies*, vol. 3, pp. 188, 189.  
*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, pp. 89–126; 162–167.

## Sunday

August 20

### 1. BRINGING THE WORD OF GOD TO SOULS IN NEED

- a. What do the following verses teach us about how the different methods of missionary work can combine? 1 Corinthians 12:4–11. What does Sabbath School have to do with missionary work?

“Our Sabbath Schools are nothing less than Bible societies, and in the sacred work of teaching the truths of God’s word, they can accomplish far more than they have hitherto accomplished. The Sabbath School, when rightly managed, possesses marvelous power, and is adapted to doing a great work, but it is not now what it may and should be.”—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 9.

- b. What is the purpose of the Sabbath School? Isaiah 2:3.

“Another work in which all may engage is gathering children and youth into the Sabbath School. The young may in this way labor efficiently for the dear Saviour. They may shape the destinies of souls. They may do a work for the church and the world the extent and greatness of which will never be known until the day of final accounts, when the ‘Well done’ is spoken to the good and faithful.”—*The Review and Herald*, June 10, 1880.

## Monday

August 21

### 2. GOD’S PLAN

- a. How is the Sabbath School to be run so that it will accomplish God’s purpose? 1 Corinthians 14:40.

“Very much can be done for the education and moral and religious training of our youth by well-organized, properly conducted Sabbath Schools. Time and attention should be given to this branch of the work; for its importance in its influence upon our youth cannot be estimated.”—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 10.

“It is a sad failing with many that they are always behind time on Sabbath morning. They are very particular about their own time, they cannot afford to lose an hour of that; but the Lord’s time, the only day out of the seven that the Lord claims as His, and requires us to devote to Him, quite a portion of this is squandered away by sleeping late in the morning. In this they are robbing God. It causes them to be behind in everything; it makes confusion in the family; and finally results in the tardiness of the entire family at Sabbath School, and perhaps at meeting. Now why can we not rise early with the birds, and offer praise and thanksgiving to God? Try it, brethren and sisters. Have your preparations all made the day before, and come promptly to the Sabbath School and meeting, and you will thereby not only benefit others, but you will reap rich blessings for yourselves.”—*The Youth’s Instructor*, March 19, 1879.

“Meetings for conference and prayer should not be made tedious. All should, if possible, be prompt to the hour appointed; and if there are dilatory ones, who are half an hour or fifteen minutes even behind the time, there should be no waiting. If there are but two present, they can claim the promise. The meeting should open at the appointed hour, if possible, be there few or many present.”—*The Review and Herald*, May 30, 1871.

- b. Are all church members called to be Sabbath School teachers? 1 Corinthians 12:28, 29. In order to be effective for missionary purposes, what type of people are to be the teachers?

“If any one thinks he is capable of teaching in the Sabbath School or in the day school the science of education, he needs first to learn the fear of the Lord, which is the beginning of wisdom, that he may teach this the highest of all sciences.”—*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 272.

## 3. HOW DOES IT WORK?

- a. What will happen as the teacher is seeking to reach hearts in the Sabbath School? Psalm 51:10–13.

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“To be a laborer together with God means that your heart is drawn out in strong desire for the salvation of the sinful souls for whom Christ has died. It means that you are filled with solicitude for the work, that you are ever planning to make your instruction interesting, to devise ways that you may draw with every entrusted power of your nature along the lines in which Christ is drawing, that souls may be won to His service and be bound to Him by the cords of His infinite love.”—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 120.

“Where sincere piety is lacking, where daily communion with God is neglected, the teacher in the Sabbath School will be dry and tedious in his manner of teaching. His words will have no power to reach the hearts of his pupils.”—*Ibid.*, pp. 119, 120.

“Each teacher should be a humble follower of Him who is meek and lowly in heart. No one should study or work that he may be considered a superior teacher, or a person of unusual ability, but that he may lead souls to Christ. There will come temptations to weave self into all that is done, but the work will be marred if this is done, for it will lead to making dry, lengthy remarks that will fail to interest or benefit the minds of the children.”—*Ibid.*, pp. 121, 122.

- b. After the Sabbath School members have been introduced to the truth, what question will be answered? Acts 16:30.

- c. As Sabbath Schools accomplish their task, what will be a further result? Acts 2:47.

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“If the church of Christ were fulfilling the purpose of our Lord, light would be shed upon all that sit in darkness and in the region and shadow of death. Instead of congregating together and shunning responsibility and cross bearing, the members of the church would scatter into all lands, letting the light of Christ shine out from them, working as He did for the salvation of souls, and this ‘gospel of the kingdom’ would speedily be carried to all the world.”—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 42, 43.

## 4. BE EFFECTIVE

- a. What should all teachers remember? Romans 2:21; 1 Timothy 4:11–16; 2 Timothy 2:2, 24, 25.

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“God would have all who are connected with His institutions show aptness, discrimination, and forethought. He would have them become men and women of cultivated intellect, coming behind in no qualification; and as they shall individually feel the necessity of this and shall work to the point, Jesus will aid them in their endeavors. As they work upon the plan of addition in securing the graces of the Spirit, God will work in their behalf upon the plan of multiplication. Connection with God will give the soul expansion, will exalt it, transform it, and make it sensible of its own powers, and will give a clearer sense of the responsibility resting upon each individual to make a wise use of the faculties which God has bestowed.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 449.

- b. What specific area needs special attention in order to be effective in the Sabbath School work? 1 Timothy 4:12; Philippians 1:27; 1 Peter 1:15, 22; 2 Peter 3:14.

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“We must have consecrated teachers, who love God supremely and their neighbors as themselves. The Lord has made ample provision that teachers may have increased ability from Sabbath to Sabbath, that they may teach to some purpose, working as for time and eternity. We need in our schools young men and women who have vital godliness, not a cheap, superficial experience, but a deep inward piety.”—*Testimonies on Sabbath School Work*, p. 41.

- c. What other element is necessary in teaching properly? Nehemiah 8:8.

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“The power of speech is a talent that should be diligently cultivated. Of all the gifts we have received from God, none is capable of being a greater blessing than this. With the voice we convince and persuade, with it we offer prayer and praise to God, and with it we tell others of the Redeemer’s love. How important, then, that it be so trained as to be most effective for good.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 335.

5. MULTIPLIED EFFORTS

- a. As members experience heart conversion and choose to follow Christ, what will they do? Luke 4:18, 19; Acts 16:10; Romans 10:15.

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“Each soul saved will save other souls; for those who are truly converted will realize that they are the depositaries of sacred trusts. What rich blessings will follow pure, consecrated effort, the worker depending on God to give the increase!”—*The Review and Herald*, April 26, 1898.

- b. When each church is operating as God intended, what will we see? Acts 16:5.

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“Those who are the chosen of God are required to multiply churches wherever they may be successful in bringing souls to the knowledge of the truth. But the people of God are never to collect together into a large community as they have done in Battle Creek. Those who know what it is to have travail of soul will never do this, for they will feel the burden that Christ carried for the salvation of men.”—*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 199.

- c. As churches grow, filled with consecrated individuals, what prophecy will be fulfilled? Isaiah 60:1–5.

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“Our ministers should call upon the church members to let the truth triumph. ‘Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising’ (Isaiah 60: 1–3). Unity and love will accomplish wonderful things for the believers. Will not our churches arouse and give the last warning message to the world?”—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 70.

PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

**No Place for Controversy.** “The Sabbath School should not be made a place for controversy; it is not the place to make differences of opinion manifested. Let all this kind of work be kept out of the school, and let harmony be maintained. If ideas are advanced that are questioned by members of the school, let not a combative spirit arise and discussion and controversy follow.”—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 117.

**Punctuality Is Essential.** “Punctuality and decision in the work and cause of God are highly essential.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 3, p. 500.

**Deep Study.** “In some schools, I am sorry to say, the custom prevails of reading the lesson from the lesson sheet. This should not be. It need not be, if the time that is often needlessly and even sinfully employed, were given to the study of the Scriptures. There is no reason why Sabbath School lessons should be less perfectly learned by teachers or pupils than are the lessons of the day school. They should be better learned, as they treat of subjects infinitely more important. A neglect here is displeasing to God.”—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, pp. 117, 118.

**Every Teacher a Missionary.** “Every teacher in the school should feel that he is a missionary for God. He must improve his moments and his ability to obtain a knowledge of the word of God, that he may impart the same to his scholars. Teachers will become disqualified for their position if they are not learners. They need freshness of ideas, fresh, wise plans, life, tact, and spirit in their work. They must be apt to teach.”—*Ibid.*, p. 118.

**Preparation for Teaching.** “The teacher should not confine himself to the repetition of the set words of the lesson, yet he wants to be perfectly familiar with the words as well as the ideas. Every teacher, before he stands at the head of his class, should have his plans distinctly laid out in his mind as to what he wants to do for that day and on that occasion. Reciting a lesson yourself before the class is not teaching it; you want simple words and plainly, clearly stated ideas. Make sure that your scholars understand you. If they cannot comprehend your ideas, then your labor is lost. Do not skim the surface; work deep. The Bible is the rule and guide of the life. Sound doctrine must be brought into actual contact with the minds and hearts of your scholars; then it will produce fruit, for sound practice will be seen as the result of your labors.”—*Ibid.*, pp. 118, 119.

## First Sabbath Offering

for Orlando, Florida, USA

The city of Orlando, founded in 1875, is also known by its nickname: “the city beautiful.” It is located in a subtropical climate zone, and is the county seat of Orange County.



It is the sixth-largest city in the state of Florida with a metropolitan population of more than 2 million. Orlando is a well-known city worldwide because of its famous amusement parks and other attractions located in its area that bring an estimated 52 million tourists every year. “Those who in response to the call of the hour have entered the service of the Master Workman, may well study His methods of labor. During His earthly ministry, the Saviour took advantage of the opportunities to be found along the great thoroughfares of travel” (*Christian Service*, p. 126).

The main religion is Roman Catholicism, established since the beginning of the development of the region. Protestantism was first introduced by French Huguenots in 1562.

The work of reformation started in the city of Orlando when a family moved from the north of the state to the Orlando area. With no one to worship with, they began seeking out earnest souls in the area who wanted to learn more of the gospel. Within a year the first fruits of their labor were seen with the baptism of seven precious souls and the Orlando group was then organized. Today Orlando is a growing and vibrant church environment.

Now it is necessary that a proper lighthouse be constructed in this city. As a central location for all the churches in the state, it is an ideal location to further the development of the work. Our present facilities can no longer accommodate properly the weekly attendance.

Over the years the members of this church have assisted in the construction of churches throughout the Southeast U.S. Field and around the world. Now we ask for your generous assistance in helping us finish this missionary center. May the Lord richly bless you and your gift to the work.

*Your brethren and sisters from the Orlando Church*

## Holy Convocations

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1).

“The camp meeting is one of the most important agencies in our work. It is one of the most effective methods of arresting the attention of the people.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 31.

**Suggested Readings:** *Testimonies*, vol. 6, pp. 72–86, 105–108.  
*Testimonies*, vol. 9, pp. 81–83.  
*The Review and Herald*, August 15, 1882.

### Sunday

August 27

#### 1. MORE THAN A SOCIAL MEETING

- a. **What did God intend for spiritual exercise and missionary effort in the camp meetings? Proverbs 22:2.**

“In our work we have been perplexed to know how to break through the barriers of worldliness and prejudice, and bring before the people the precious truth which means so much to them. The Lord has instructed us that the camp meeting is one of the most important instrumentalities for the accomplishment of this work.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, pp. 31, 32.

- b. **Does God intend for this to be a social meeting or is there something more? Acts 17:11.**

“Properly conducted, the camp meeting is a school where pastors, elders, and deacons can learn to do more perfect work for the Master. It should be a school where the members of the church, old and young, are given opportunity to learn the way of the Lord more perfectly, a place where believers can receive an education that will help them to help others.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 49.

- c. **Who should attend the camp meetings and what should be desired? Matthew 5:6; John 7:37.**

## 2. REACHING FURTHER

- a. What preparation is necessary before a camp meeting? 1 Corinthians 5:8; James 4:8.

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“For your soul’s sake, for Christ’s sake, and for the sake of others, work at home. Pray as you are not accustomed to pray. Let the heart break before God. Set your house in order. Prepare your children for the occasion. Teach them that it is not of so much consequence that they appear with fine clothes as that they appear before God with clean hands and pure hearts. Remove every obstacle that may have been in their way—all differences that may have existed between themselves or between you and them. By so doing you will invite the Lord’s presence into your homes, and holy angels will attend you as you go up to the meeting, and their light and presence will press back the darkness of evil angels. Even unbelievers will feel the holy atmosphere as they enter the encampment. Oh, how much is lost by neglecting this important work! You may be pleased with the preaching, you may become animated and revived, but the converting, reforming power of God will not be felt in the heart, and the work will not be so deep, thorough, and lasting as it should be. Let pride be crucified, and the soul be clad with the priceless robe of Christ’s righteousness, and what a meeting will you enjoy. It will be to your soul even as the gate of heaven.”—*The Review and Herald*, August 15, 1882.

- b. What else is necessary in order to have the right spirit in these meetings? Ephesians 4:30–32; Colossians 3:12–17; Exodus 32:29.

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“Because this [work of humiliation and heart-searching] preparation is neglected, these yearly meetings have accomplished but little. The ministers are seldom prepared to labor for God. There are many speakers—those who can say sharp, crank things, going out of their way to whip other churches and ridicule their faith—but there are but few earnest laborers for God. These sharp, self-important speakers, profess to have truth in advance of every other people, but their manner of labor and their religious zeal in no way correspond with their profession of faith.”—*The Review and Herald*, August 15, 1882.

## 3. WHAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED?

- a. What should be included in the camp meeting itinerary? 2 Timothy 4:2–5; Titus 2:1, 2; 1 Corinthians 2:2.

- b. What activities are to be added in addition to the discourses? Deuteronomy 4:10; Mark 6:34.

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“In connection with our camp meetings in past years, God’s servants have improved many precious opportunities for instructing our people in practical methods of presenting the saving truths of the third angel’s message to their friends and acquaintances. Many have been taught how to labor as self-supporting missionaries in their home communities. Many have returned home from these annual gatherings to labor with greater zeal and intelligence than hitherto.

“It would be pleasing to God if far more of this practical instruction were given the church members who attend our camp meetings, than has usually been given in years past. Our general workers and our brethren and sisters in every conference should remember that one of the objects of our annual gatherings is that all may gain a knowledge of practical methods of personal missionary work.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 81.

- c. What about the youth and children? Titus 2:4, 5; Matthew 19:14.

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“At all our camp meetings, work should be done for the children and youth. A children’s meeting or Bible kindergarten should be held daily under the direction of teachers qualified for the work. In simple language, lessons should be given both from the Bible and from nature. Kindergarten methods and object lessons from nature will be of great advantage in interesting the little ones. At some of our camp meetings children’s meetings have been held twice a day. After the morning lesson, on pleasant days, teachers and children would take a long walk, and during the walk, by the banks of a river or in the grassy fields, a halt would be called and a short lesson from nature given. In such lessons as these the children can be taught the parables of Christ. The truth will be fastened in their minds as a nail in a sure place.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 105.

## 4. WHERE AND WHAT

- a. What does God want to be the center of every sermon given? 1 Corinthians 1:21–25.
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- b. Where should camp meetings be held and why? Acts 1:8.
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“Camp meetings must be held in or near the cities, the workers at one time pitching the tent in one part of the city and the next time in another part. Right at our doors there are heathen who need to hear the warning message. In the large cities of America memorials for God are to be established.”—*Evangelism*, p. 79.

“The work has been confined to a few centers, until the people in them have become gospel hardened. It is difficult to make an impression on those who have heard so much truth and yet have rejected it. In a few places too much has been expended, while many, many cities have been left unwarned and unworked.”—*Ibid.*, pp. 60, 61.

- c. What is necessary in scheduling that we may gain the most benefit from them? 1 Corinthians 14:40; Psalm 127:2; Colossians 2:5.
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“Those who labor at camp meetings should frequently engage together in prayer and counsel, that they may labor intelligently. At these meetings there are many things that demand attention. But the ministers should take time to meet together for prayer and counsel every day. You should know that all things are drawing in even lines, ‘that you are standing,’ as the words were spoken to me, ‘shoulder to shoulder, marching right ahead, and not drawing off.’ When the work is carried on in this way, there is unity of heart, and there will be harmony of action. This will be a wonderful means of bringing the blessing of God upon the people.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 50.

## 5. DON'T FORGET TO FOLLOW-UP

- a. Is it enough in any missionary activity to only present the truth? Matthew 28:20.
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“The work should not stop when the meetings on the camp ground close. Doctrines have been presented that are new and strange to the people. Those who are convicted and who desire to accept the truth, will have to meet the most determined and subtle opposition. Ministers, friends, and acquaintances will put forth every effort to catch away the seeds of truth sown in the heart. We must not leave the seed to be thus caught away. We must not allow it to wither for want of moisture.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 74.

- b. What types of follow-up will be effective in reaching the visitors that come to the camp meeting, and who should do that work? Habbakuk 2:2.
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“In following up the interests after a camp meeting, helpers are needed in various lines, and these occasions should be as training schools for workers. Let young men work in connection with experienced laborers who will pray with them and patiently instruct them. Consecrated women should engage in Bible work from house to house. Some of the workers should act as colporteurs, selling our literature and giving judiciously to those who cannot buy.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, pp. 120, 121.

## PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is the purpose of the camp meeting, and how can I help to fulfill it?
2. Who should benefit from camp meetings?
3. What types of things should be included in our camp meetings, and how can I be of help?
4. Do we offer different activities to broaden our practical skills in missionary work?
5. How can I help with following up interests after such a meeting?

**Receiving the Divine Touch.** "Our camp meetings have another object. . . . They are to promote spiritual life among our own people. . . . God has committed to our hands a most sacred work, and we need to meet together to receive instruction, that we may be fitted to perform this work. We need to understand what part we shall individually be called upon to act in building up the cause of God in the earth, in vindicating God's holy law, and in lifting up the Saviour as 'the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world' (John 1:29). We need to meet together and receive the divine touch, that we may understand our work in the home."—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, pp. 32, 33.

**Developing Character.** "We have our convocation meetings yearly, and all who possibly can attend them should feel under obligation to do so. If they neglect to improve the opportunities to obtain a better knowledge of the truth and to become more thoroughly in earnest in their efforts to perfect Christian character, they will be held responsible for the light, and privileges, and blessings which they might have had. Their case is nearly as bad in the sight of God as that of those who attend the meetings but fail to improve by the light and blessings there received."—*The Review and Herald*, July 10, 1879.

**Teaching Temperance.** "In our work more attention should be given to the temperance reform. Every duty that calls for reform involves repentance, faith, and obedience. It means the uplifting of the soul to a new and nobler life. Thus every true reform has its place in the work of the third angel's message. Especially does the temperance reform demand our attention and support. At our camp meetings we should call attention to this work and make it a living issue. We should present to the people the principles of true temperance and call for signers to the temperance pledge. Careful attention should be given to those who are enslaved by evil habits. We must lead them to the cross of Christ."—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 110.

## A United Army

"So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army" (Ezekiel 37:10).

"Go forth in faith, and proclaim the truth as if you believed it. Let those for whom you labor see that to you it is indeed a living reality."—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 42.

**Suggested Reading:** *Testimonies*, vol. 8, pp. 239–243.

## Sunday

September 3

## 1. KNOW THE ENEMY'S STRATEGY

- a. In order to be successful in a battle, it helps to know the enemy's strategy. What is Satan's number-one-way to defeat the work of God? 1 Peter 5:8.

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"Satan can skilfully play the game of life with many souls, and he acts in a most underhanded, deceptive manner to spoil the faith of the people of God and to discourage them."—*Evangelism*, p. 359.

- b. Why is division so successful? Matthew 12:25; Mark 3:25.
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"A house divided against itself cannot stand. When Christians contend, Satan comes in to take control. How often has he succeeded in destroying the peace and harmony of churches. What fierce controversies, what bitterness, what hatred, has a very little matter started! What hopes have been blasted, how many families have been rent asunder by discord and contention!

"Paul charged his brethren to beware lest in trying to correct the faults of others they should commit sins equally great themselves. He warns them that hatred, emulation, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, and envyings are as truly the works of the flesh as are lasciviousness, adultery, drunkenness, and murder, and will as surely close the gate of heaven against the guilty."—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 244.

## 2. GOD'S PLAN FOR VICTORY

- a. The enemy may have his strategy but God has His as well. What is God's plan to defeat Satan? 1 Peter 3:8; Romans 12:10–16; James 4:7, 8.

- b. How does Solomon explain the benefits of unity? Ecclesiastes 4:9–12.

“Only as they were united with Christ could the disciples hope to have the accompanying power of the Holy Spirit and the cooperation of angels of heaven. With the help of these divine agencies they would present before the world a united front and would be victorious in the conflict they were compelled to wage unceasingly against the powers of darkness. As they should continue to labor unitedly, heavenly messengers would go before them, opening the way; hearts would be prepared for the reception of truth, and many would be won to Christ. So long as they remained united, the church would go forth ‘fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners’ (Song of Solomon 6:10). Nothing could withstand her onward progress. The church would advance from victory to victory, gloriously fulfilling her divine mission of proclaiming the gospel to the world.”—*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 90, 91.

- c. What will a united front do for the work of God? John 13:34, 35; Ephesians 4:13.

“But, on the other hand, when the storm of persecution really breaks upon us, the true sheep will hear the true Shepherd's voice. Self-denying efforts will be put forth to save the lost, and many who have strayed from the fold will come back to follow the great Shepherd. The people of God will draw together and present to the enemy a united front. In view of the common peril, strife for supremacy will cease; there will be no disputing as to who shall be accounted greatest. . . .

“The love of Christ, the love of our brethren, will testify to the world that we have been with Jesus and learned of Him. Then will the message of the third angel swell to a loud cry, and the whole earth will be lightened with the glory of the Lord.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 401.

## 3. HOW TO GET CLOSE AND STAY CLOSE

- a. Since unity is so important, how can we have it in our families and in our churches? 1 Peter 1:22, 23; John 17:17.

“After a long and severe conflict, the faithful few decided to dissolve all union with the apostate church if she still refused to free herself from falsehood and idolatry. They saw that separation was an absolute necessity if they would obey the word of God. They dared not tolerate errors fatal to their own souls, and set an example which would imperil the faith of their children and children's children. To secure peace and unity they were ready to make any concession consistent with fidelity to God; but they felt that even peace would be too dearly purchased at the sacrifice of principle. If unity could be secured only by the compromise of truth and righteousness, then let there be difference, and even war.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 45.

- b. How can I be gaining a closer walk with Jesus? 1 John 1:6, 7; John 15:4–7.

“Then as the children of God are one in Christ, how does Jesus look upon caste, upon society distinctions, upon the division of man from his fellow man, because of color, race, position, wealth, birth, or attainments? The secret of unity is found in the equality of believers in Christ. The reason for all division, discord, and difference is found in separation from Christ. Christ is the center to which all should be attracted; for the nearer we approach the center, the closer we shall come together in feeling, in sympathy, in love, growing into the character and image of Jesus. With God there is no respect of persons.”—*Selected Messages*, bk. 1, p. 259.

- c. How will this experience help us keep close to our fellow believers? Galatians 5:25, 26.

“Draw near to God, and come into closer union with His people. Let your interest and your affections center in Christ and His followers. Love those best who love Christ most. Sever the links which have bound you to those who love not God and the truth. What communion hath light with darkness? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?”—*Testimonies*, vol. 2, p. 48.

## 4. PRAY AND WORK

- a. What two ingredients are necessary in fulfilling God's commission as a church body? James 5:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:25.

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"It is the will of God that union and brotherly love should exist among His people. The prayer of Christ just before His crucifixion was that His disciples might be one as He is one with the Father, that the world might believe that God had sent Him."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 520.

- b. When does the Lord desire His people to pray together and for one another? Hebrews 10:24, 25; Malachi 3:16.

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"Some, fearing they will suffer loss of earthly treasure, neglect prayer and the assembling of themselves together for the worship of God, that they may have more time to devote to their farms or their business. They show by their works which world they place the highest estimate upon. They sacrifice religious privileges, which are essential to their spiritual advancement, for the things of this life, and fail to obtain a knowledge of the divine will. They come short of perfecting Christian character, and do not meet the measurement of God. They make their temporal, worldly interests first, and rob God of the time which they should devote to His service. Such persons God marks, and they will receive a curse rather than a blessing."—*Testimonies*, vol. 2, p. 654.

- c. How can we work together? John 9:4; Nehemiah 4:6.

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"Angels work harmoniously. Perfect order characterizes all their movements. The more closely we imitate the harmony and order of the angelic host, the more successful will be the efforts of these heavenly agents in our behalf. If we see no necessity for harmonious action, and are disorderly, undisciplined, and disorganized in our course of action, angels, who are thoroughly organized and move in perfect order, cannot work for us successfully. They turn away in grief, for they are not authorized to bless confusion, distraction, and disorganization. All who desire the cooperation of the heavenly messengers must work in unison with them."—*Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 649.

## 5. UNITED THANKSGIVING

- a. Which other element is needed to be victorious in defeating the foe? What does God tell us to do? Psalms 111:1; 149:4.

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"To praise God in fullness and sincerity of heart is as much a duty as is prayer. We are to show to the world and to all the heavenly intelligences that we appreciate the wonderful love of God for fallen humanity and that we are expecting larger and yet larger blessings from His infinite fullness. . . . After a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit, our joy in the Lord and our efficiency in His service would be greatly increased by recounting His goodness and His wonderful works in behalf of His children.

"These exercises drive back the power of Satan. They expel the spirit of murmuring and complaint, and the tempter loses ground. They cultivate those attributes of character which will fit the dwellers on earth for the heavenly mansions.

"Such a testimony will have an influence upon others. No more effective means can be employed for winning souls to Christ."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 299, 300.

- b. Why is praise such a wonderful weapon? Psalm 22:3; 2 Chronicles 20:21, 22.

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"The principalities and powers of heaven are watching the warfare which, under apparently discouraging circumstances, God's servants are carrying on. New conquests are being achieved, new honors won, as the Christians, rallying round the banner of their Redeemer, go forth to fight the good fight of faith. All the heavenly angels are at the service of the humble, believing people of God; and as the Lord's army of workers here below sing their songs of praise, the choir above join with them in ascribing praise to God and to His Son."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 154.

- c. What will praise accomplish in my own heart and in the fellowship of believers? 1 Peter 2:9.

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"We are to praise God by tangible service, by doing all in our power to advance the glory of His name."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 300.

## PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Can I recognize situations where the enemy is seeking to distract, discourage, and divide? How can I put a stop to his plan?
2. What am I doing to press together with Jesus and my fellow believers?
3. Is Christ and every element of His truth the most important in my daily life? If not, what will I do to change that?
4. Am I praying with and for my fellow believers? Am I willing to meet together with them on a regular basis?
5. Do I praise the Lord? Am I willing and do I give Him thanks and praise in the midst of the congregation? If not, what is stopping me?

**The Most Powerful Argument.** “A Christlike life is the most powerful argument that can be advanced in favor of Christianity.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 21.

**Double Agents.** “There are many who profess the name of Christ whose hearts are not engaged in His service. They have simply arrayed themselves in a profession of godliness, and by this very act they have made greater their condemnation, and have become more deceptive and more successful agents of Satan in the ruin of souls.”—*The Review and Herald*, March 27, 1888.

**An Irresistible Power.** “Our confession of [the Lord’s] faithfulness is Heaven’s chosen agency for revealing Christ to the world. We are to acknowledge His grace as made known through the holy men of old; but that which will be most effectual is the testimony of our own experience. We are witnesses for God as we reveal in ourselves the working of a power that is divine. Every individual has a life distinct from all others, and an experience differing essentially from theirs. God desires that our praise shall ascend to Him, marked by our own individuality. These precious acknowledgments to the praise of the glory of His grace, when supported by a Christlike life, have an irresistible power, that works for the salvation of souls.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 347.

**Harvest of the Enemy.** “Divisions, and even bitter dissensions which would disgrace any worldly community, are common in the churches . . . A house divided against itself cannot stand. Criminations and recriminations are engendered and multiplied. Satan and his angels are actively at work to secure a harvest from seed thus sown.”—*Selected Messages*, bk. 1, p. 123.

## Promises and Power

“Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month” (Joel 2:23).

“When we bring our hearts into unity with Christ, and our lives into harmony with His work, the Spirit that fell on the disciples on the Day of Pentecost will fall on us.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 8, p. 246.

**Suggested Readings:** *Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 339–342.  
*Selected Messages*, book 1, pp. 109–111.

## Sunday

September 10

## 1. WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

- a. What did Jesus give to His disciples so that they could preach the gospel in every place? John 20:22.

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- b. What does God promise to give to His children in order that they may accomplish His task of going into all the world and preaching the gospel? Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8; Joel 2:28–30.

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“To us today, as verily as to the first disciples, the promise of the Spirit belongs. God will today endow men and women with power from above, as He endowed those who on the Day of Pentecost heard the word of salvation. At this very hour His Spirit and His grace are for all who need them and will take Him at His word.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 8, p. 20.

- c. How do we receive this promised power? Matthew 7:7.

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“The promise of the Holy Spirit is not limited to any age or to any race. Christ declared that the divine influence of His Spirit was to be with His followers unto the end. From the Day of Pentecost to the present time, the Comforter has been sent to all who have yielded themselves fully to the Lord and to His service.”—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 49.

## 2. THE PREREQUISITES

- a. What did the disciples have before receiving the pentecostal outpouring? Acts 1:13, 14; 2:1.

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“If the fulfillment of the promise is not seen as it might be, it is because the promise is not appreciated as it should be. If all were willing, all would be filled with the Spirit.”—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 50.

- b. **The promise of the Holy Spirit is sure, but is He given to everyone?** John 14:14–17; Acts 5:32.

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“Christ has promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to His church, and the promise belongs to us as much as to the first disciples. But like every other promise, it is given on conditions. There are many who believe and profess to claim the Lord’s promise; they talk *about* Christ and *about* the Holy Spirit, yet receive no benefit. They do not surrender the soul to be guided and controlled by the divine agencies. We cannot use the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is to use us. Through the Spirit God works in His people ‘to will and to do of His good pleasure.’ But many will not submit to this. They want to manage themselves. This is why they do not receive the heavenly gift. Only to those who wait humbly upon God, who watch for His guidance and grace, is the Spirit given.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 672.

- c. **How does the Bible emphasize obedience? Can we receive of the promised power if we do not follow God’s plan?** James 4:17.

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“The great outpouring of the Spirit of God, which lightens the whole earth with His glory, will not come until we have an enlightened people, that know by experience what it means to be laborers together with God. When we have entire, wholehearted consecration to the service of Christ, God will recognize the fact by an outpouring of His Spirit without measure; but this will not be while the largest portion of the church are not laborers together with God.”—*The Review and Herald*, July 21, 1896.

## 3. THE RIGHT REASON

- a. What was the underlying reason for the disciples’ asking for the Holy Spirit? 2 Corinthians 5:14.

- b. What needs to be our reason for asking for this power? Romans 5:8; 1 Peter 2:21; Philippians 2:5.

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“The disciples did not ask for a blessing for themselves. They were weighted with the burden of souls. The gospel was to be carried to the ends of the earth, and they claimed the endowment of power that Christ had promised. Then it was that the Holy Spirit was poured out, and thousands were converted in a day.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 8, p. 21.

- c. **The Bible talks about this power being called by a certain name. What is it?** Acts 3:19.

- d. **What is needed to receive this refreshing?** Acts 2:38; Joel 2:12, 13.

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“There are some who, instead of wisely improving present opportunities, are idly waiting for some special season of spiritual refreshing by which their ability to enlighten others will be greatly increased. They neglect present duties and privileges, and allow their light to burn dim, while they look forward to a time when, without any effort on their part, they will be made the recipients of special blessing, by which they will be transformed and fitted for service. . . .

“Those only who are constantly receiving fresh supplies of grace, will have power proportionate to their daily need and their ability to use that power. Instead of looking forward to some future time when, through a special endowment of spiritual power, they will receive a miraculous fitting up for soul winning, they are yielding themselves daily to God, that He may make them vessels meet for His use. Daily they are improving the opportunities for service that lie within their reach. Daily they are witnessing for the Master wherever they may be, whether in some humble sphere of labor in the home, or in a public field of usefulness.”—*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 54, 55.

## 4. THE EVIDENCE

- a. How can I know if I have repented and converted? 2 Corinthians 13:5; Romans 6:22; 8:14; Galatians 5:22–26.
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- b. If I have truly received the Holy Spirit, what will be evidenced in my life? Romans 15:13; John 13:35.
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“Whoever has received the Holy Spirit, will make it manifest; for all his powers will be employed in the most active service. All who actually receive Christ by faith, work. They feel the burden of souls. God now calls upon everyone who has a knowledge of the truth, who is a depository of sacred truth, to arise and impart the light of heaven to others. Those who have been illuminated by the Holy Spirit will show its office work upon life and character. They will be mediums through which the Holy Spirit will communicate light and knowledge to others. The wonderful truth revealed to us in these last days is to be revealed to others. ‘The end of all things is at hand.’ The Lord has been speaking to you in America, and may the Lord forbid that at the time of great illumination, darkness should come upon you because you fail to walk in the light that has been given. Darkness corresponding to your light will surely come upon you if you do not now arouse from your slumbers, and shake off your useless musings and selfish indulgences, and trade diligently with your Lord’s goods. Move out from your pleasant homes. Develop the talents God has given you, and tell to others what the Holy Spirit has communicated to you. God requires you to work in proportion to the light He has given.”—*The Review and Herald*, December 5, 1893.

- c. Will an individual necessarily know if others or himself has received of this power? 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 6:15, 16.
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“There must be no neglect of the grace represented by the former rain. Only those who are living up to the light they have, will receive greater light. Unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of the active Christian virtues, we shall not recognize the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it.”—*The Faith I Live By*, p. 333.

## 5. THE EFFECT

- a. What will happen in our churches when members have had a real experience with the early rain and the latter rain? Acts 2:42–47.
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“There can be no growth or fruitfulness in the life that is centered in self. If you have accepted Christ as a personal Saviour, you are to forget yourself, and try to help others. Talk of the love of Christ, tell of His goodness. Do every duty that presents itself. Carry the burden of souls upon your heart, and by every means in your power seek to save the lost. As you receive the Spirit of Christ—the Spirit of unselfish love and labor for others—you will grow and bring forth fruit. The graces of the Spirit will ripen in your character. Your faith will increase, your convictions deepen, your love be made perfect. More and more you will reflect the likeness of Christ in all that is pure, noble, and lovely.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 67, 68.

- b. What has happened before and will happen again when there are a people who have a deep desire to work for the salvation of souls? Acts 4:8, 13; 17:6; Ephesians 6:12–18.
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“‘When the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.’ Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 69.

- c. What will happen in heavenly places when the Holy Spirit has been given to empower and to seal His people? Revelation 7:3; 8:5; John 14:3.
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“By giving the gospel to the world it is in our power to hasten our Lord’s return. We are not only to look for but to hasten the coming of the day of God.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 633.

“[God] has put it in our power, through cooperation with Him, to bring this scene of misery [in the world] to an end.”—*Education*, p. 264.

## PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Do I really want to be a missionary for the Lord? What will I do if the answer is yes? What should I do if the answer is no?
2. What must I change in my life so that the Holy Spirit will come and dwell within me and use me?
3. How can I have this deep love for souls in my heart?
4. What is the difference between fanaticism and the real outpouring of the Holy Spirit?
5. Am I being a power for good in my family, my church, and my community?

**Ask in Faith.** “Let Christians put away all dissension and give themselves to God for the saving of the lost. Let them ask in faith for the promised blessing, and it will come.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 8, p. 21.

**Make Use of the Given Light.** “As God gives us light, we should make use of it; God will not give us a second ray while the first is not appreciated. We must praise the Lord for the light already graciously given and reflect it upon those around us. Then more light will shine upon us, and as we praise, we shall know that ‘the path of the just is as a shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.’ Do not say, I will praise the Lord when the Holy Spirit is poured out upon us. How will you know when the Holy Spirit is poured out, unless you walk in the light day by day? You are to go about your duties, advancing step, by step, according to the counsel of the Lord, and you will find that you will have light and peace and joy, and will make melody in your heart unto the Lord. Thus the people of God will mingle their praises with those of the hosts of heaven, and sing songs of thanksgiving with the angels of God.”—*The Review and Herald*, October 11, 1892.

**No Limit.** “There is no limit to the usefulness of the one who, putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart, and lives a life wholly consecrated to God.”—*Christian Service*, p. 254.

**A Special Privilege.** “It is the privilege of every Christian not only to look for but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, (2 Peter 3:12, margin). 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.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 69.

## The Call

“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” (Isaiah 6:8).

“There are at the present time many doors unbolted and thrown open to the workers. Will they enter these doors? Who is ready at the bidding of the Master to say, ‘Here am I, Lord, send me’? The Macedonian cry comes to us in pitiful appeals from all parts of the world, ‘Come over and help us.’”—*The Review and Herald*, December 15, 1885.

**Suggested Reading:** *Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 219–237.

## Sunday

September 17

## 1. GOD USES PEOPLE

- a. When God desires to speak to people, how does He most often work? Romans 10:13–15.

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- b. What would happen if no one would give God’s messages to the people? Luke 19:40.

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“The rebuke of the Lord will rest upon those who would bar the way, that clearer light shall not come to the people. A great work is to be done, and God sees that our leading men have need of more light, that they may unite with the messengers whom He sends to accomplish the work that He designs shall be done. The Lord has raised up messengers, and endued them with His Spirit, and has said, ‘Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.’ Let no one run the risk of interposing between the people and the message of Heaven. This message will go to the people; and if there were no voice among men to give it, the very stones would cry out.”—*Gospel Workers*, p. 304.

- c. What blessings come to us if we would allow ourselves to be used? Isaiah 52:7.

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## 2. GOD QUALIFIES THE CALLED

- a. The commission from God looks very big. How can we accomplish it? Philippians 4:13; Isaiah 41:10; 43:10; 44:8.

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“Those whom God employs as His instruments may be regarded by some as inefficient; but if they can pray, if in simplicity they can talk the truth because they love it, they may reach the people through the Holy Spirit’s power. As they present the truth in simplicity, reading from the Word, or recalling incidents of experience, the Holy Spirit makes an impression on mind and character. The will becomes subordinate to the will of God; the truth heretofore not understood comes to the heart with living conviction and becomes a spiritual reality.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 444.

“God will accept the wholehearted service, and will Himself make up the deficiencies.”—*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 150.

- b. What happens if I don’t feel qualified to do any work for the Lord? Psalm 71:16; Jeremiah 1:7–9.

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“God qualifies His disciples for the work which He would have them do, and gives them talents according to their several ability. But in order that they may do the work for which they are called, they are admonished to wait, to watch, to pray, lest Satan shall take advantage of them.”—*The Signs of the Times*, July 18, 1895.

- c. What should I do if I don’t know what job I am to do? 2 Chronicles 19:8, 9.

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“You can best recommend the truth by the meekness of your life and the faithful discharge of your daily duties. If you are conscientiously strict to do your part, and are faithful and earnest to see what you can and should do for those for whom you labor, you will then better represent the truth. The best way in which you can recommend the truth is, not by argument, not by talk, but by living it daily, by leading a consistent, modest, humble life as a disciple of Christ.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 3, p. 334.

## 3. WHOM IS HE CALLING

- a. To whom is the missionary call given? Isaiah 6:8 (first part).

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“But in order to accept the invitation to the gospel feast, they must make their worldly interests subordinate to the one purpose of receiving Christ and His righteousness. God gave all for man, and He asks him to place His service above every earthly and selfish consideration. He cannot accept a divided heart. The heart that is absorbed in earthly affections cannot be given up to God.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 223.

- b. Are there any exemptions in this great work of spreading the gospel? Proverbs 21:25; 6:9–11; Luke 9:57–62.

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“There are many who profess to be servants of Christ in name, but they are not so in obedience. Where religious principle governs, the danger of committing important errors is small; for selfishness, which always blinds and deceives, is subordinate. The sincere desire to do others good so predominates that self is forgotten. To have firm religious principles is an inestimable treasure. It is the purest, highest, and most elevated influence mortals can possess. Such have an anchor. Every act is well considered, lest its effect be injurious to another, and lead away from Christ. The constant inquiry of the mind is, Lord, how shall I best serve and glorify thy name in the earth? How shall I conduct my life to make thy name a praise in the earth, and lead others to love, serve, and honor thee? Let me only desire and choose thy will. Let the words and example of my Redeemer be the light and strength of my heart. While I follow and trust in Him, He will not leave me to perish. He shall be my crown of rejoicing.”—*The Review and Herald*, August 10, 1886.

- c. What should we remember if we have pledged ourselves to be part of God’s army? 2 Timothy 2:3, 4.

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“Sanctified, self-sacrificing men are needed; men who will not shun trial and responsibility; men who are brave and true; men in whose hearts Christ is formed ‘the hope of glory,’ and who with lips touched with holy fire will ‘preach the word.’”—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 507.

## 4. A SPECIAL CALL TO THE YOUTH

- a. In a secular war, leaders look for a specific group of people to be soldiers? Who does God look for in His army? Titus 2:6–8.

- b. Why does God want to especially use young people? 1 John 2:14.

“The burden bearers among us are falling in death. Many of those who have been foremost in carrying out the reforms instituted by us as a people are now past the meridian of life and are declining in physical and mental strength. With the deepest concern the question may be asked, Who will fill their places? To whom are to be committed the vital interests of the church when the present standard-bearers fall? We cannot but look anxiously upon the youth of today as those who must take these burdens, and upon whom responsibilities must fall. These must take up the work where others leave it, and their course will determine whether morality, religion, and vital godliness shall prevail, or whether immorality and infidelity shall corrupt and blight all that is valuable.”—*Gospel Workers*, p. 68.

“With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world!”—*Education*, p. 271.

“Youthful talent, well organized and well trained, is needed in our churches. The youth will do something with their overflowing energies. Unless these energies are directed into right channels, they will be used by the youth in a way that will hurt their own spirituality, and prove an injury to those with whom they associate.”—*Gospel Workers*, p. 211.

“Many young men who have had the right kind of education at home are to be trained for service and encouraged to lift the standard of truth in new places by well-planned and faithful work. By associating with our ministers and experienced workers in city work, they will gain the best kind of training. Acting under divine guidance and sustained by the prayers of their more experienced fellow workers, they may do a good and blessed work. As they unite their labors with those of the older workers, using their youthful energies to the very best account, they will have the companionship of heavenly angels; and as workers together with God, it is their privilege to sing and pray and believe, and work with courage and freedom. The confidence and trust that the presence of heavenly agencies will bring to them and to their fellow workers will lead to prayer and praise and the simplicity of true faith.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 119.

## 5. WHO WILL GO?

- a. God’s call is a very serious one. What will happen if we say no? Luke 12:47, 48.

“The work of fitting a people in these last days for the coming of Christ, is a most sacred, solemn work, and calls for devoted, unselfish laborers. Those who have humility, faith, energy, perseverance, and decision will find plenty to do in their Master’s vineyard. There are responsible duties to be performed, which require earnestness and the exertion of all their energies. It is willing service that God accepts. If the truth we profess is of such infinite importance as to decide the destiny of souls, how careful should we be in its presentation.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 3, p. 64.

- b. If we heed God’s call, what will it require? Matthew 16:24–27; Luke 9:23–26.

- c. What does God’s word say that we should do before answering? Luke 14:28–33.

“Let many missionaries enter the field, but let them count the cost before beginning the work. Let each ask himself, Am I prepared to surrender everything for the success of the work? Then as wise men lay your plans that you may devote yourself to the work, that in singleness of purpose you may endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ, giving yourselves wholly to His service, humbly trusting in God, who has said, ‘The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.’ Go forth to labor in the interests of the truth, and become agents in the hands of God for the saving of perishing souls for whom Christ died.”—*The Review and Herald*, July 4, 1893.

- d. What response should we willingly give to the Lord? Genesis 22:11; Exodus 3:4; Acts 9:6, 10.

## PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Am I allowing God to use me to share His truth with the world?
2. What promise is especially meaningful to me regarding God's help?
3. Am I willing to be what He wants, go where He leads, and do what He wills?
4. How can I help encourage the youth to be workers in God's cause?
5. What will I do today to make a difference in my spiritual condition and that of those around me?

**Today Is the Day.** "I feel urged by the Spirit of the Lord to tell you that now is your day of privilege, of trust, of blessing. Will you improve it? Are you working for the glory of God, or for selfish interests? Are you keeping before your mind's eye brilliant prospects of worldly success, whereby you may obtain self-gratification and financial gain? If so, you will be most bitterly disappointed. But if you seek to live a pure and holy life, to learn daily in the school of Christ the lessons that He has invited you to learn, to be meek and lowly in heart, then you have a peace which no worldly circumstances can change."—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 487.

**Train the Youth.** "When the youth give their hearts to God, our responsibility for them does not cease. They must be interested in the Lord's work, and led to see that He expects them to do something to advance His cause. It is not enough to show how much needs to be done, and to urge the youth to act a part. They must be taught how to labor for the Master. They must be trained, disciplined, drilled, in the best methods of winning souls to Christ. Teach them to try in a quiet, unpretending way to help their young companions. Let different branches of missionary effort be systematically laid out, in which they may take part, and let them be given instruction and help. Thus they will learn to work for God."—*Gospel Workers*, p. 210.

**Called to the Mission Field.** "Young men are wanted. God calls them to missionary fields. Being comparatively free from care and responsibilities, they are more favorably situated to engage in the work than are those who must provide for the training and support of a large family. Furthermore, young men can more readily adapt themselves to new climates and new society, and can better endure inconveniences and hardships. By tact and perseverance, they can reach the people where they are."—*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 517.

## Power From Above

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16).

"The gospel is the power of God unto salvation when it is interwoven with the practical life, when it is lived and practiced."—*The Review and Herald*, March 4, 1902.

**Suggested Readings:** *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, pp. 196–200.  
*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 557–567.

## Sunday

September 24

## 1. GRASPING THE SOLUTION

- a. How does the Bible define sin? 1 John 3:4; James 4:17.

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- b. Why do we struggle with sin, and how can we gain the victory over it? Romans 7:14–24; John 8:34, 36; 15:5.

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"The nearer we come to Jesus, and the more clearly we discern the purity of His character, the more clearly shall we see the exceeding sinfulness of sin, and the less shall we feel like exalting ourselves. There will be a continual reaching out of the soul after God, a continual, earnest, heartbreaking confession of sin and humbling of the heart before Him. At every advance step in our Christian experience our repentance will deepen. We shall know that our sufficiency is in Christ alone and shall make the apostle's confession our own: 'I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing.' 'God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world' (Romans 7:18; Galatians 6:14)."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 561.

- c. What should we realize in seeking Christ's strength? Hebrews 4:15, 16; 7:25; 12:2.

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## 2. JUSTIFICATION

- a. What happens when we come to Christ? Ephesians 2:8; Romans 2:4; 5:1, 2.

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“Many are confused as to what constitutes the first steps in the work of salvation. Repentance is thought to be a work the sinner must do for himself in order that he may come to Christ. They think that the sinner must procure for himself a fitness in order to obtain the blessing of God’s grace. But while it is true that repentance must precede forgiveness, for it is only the broken and contrite heart that is acceptable to God, yet the sinner cannot bring himself to repentance, or prepare himself to come to Christ. Except the sinner repent, he cannot be forgiven; but the question to be decided is as to whether repentance is the work of the sinner or the gift of Christ. Must the sinner wait until he is filled with remorse for his sin before he can come to Christ? The very first step to Christ is taken through the drawing of the Spirit of God; as man responds to this drawing, he advances toward Christ in order that he may repent. . . .

“When before the high priests and Sadducees, Peter clearly presented the fact that repentance is the gift of God. Speaking of Christ, he said, ‘Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins’ (Acts 5: 31). Repentance is no less the gift of God than are pardon and justification, and it cannot be experienced except as it is given to the soul by Christ. If we are drawn to Christ, it is through His power and virtue. The grace of contrition comes through Him, and from Him comes justification.”—*Selected Messages*, bk. 1, pp. 390, 391.

- b. When we accept Christ as our personal Saviour, how are we benefited by the work that Christ has done for us? Romans 5:18, 19; 2 Corinthians 5:21.

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“Justification is a full, complete pardon of sin. The moment a sinner accepts Christ by faith, that moment he is pardoned. The righteousness of Christ is imputed to him, and he is no more to doubt God’s forgiving grace.”—*The SDA Bible Commentary* [E. G. White Comments], vol. 6, p. 1071.

## 3. SANCTIFICATION

- a. What work does Christ do in us through the Holy Spirit, with our consent and cooperation? John 3:7, 8; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 7:1.

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“It is the grace that Christ implants in the soul which creates in man enmity against Satan. Without this converting grace and renewing power, man would continue the captive of Satan, a servant ever ready to do his bidding. But the new principle in the soul creates conflict where hitherto had been peace. The power which Christ imparts enables man to resist the tyrant and usurper. Whoever is seen to abhor sin instead of loving it, whoever resists and conquers those passions that have held sway within, displays the operation of a principle wholly from above.”—*The Great Controversy*, p. 506.

- b. In what way does the process of sanctification involve daily choices on our part? Romans 8:1, 5, 13; Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 5:8–11.

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“To walk in the light means to resolve, to exercise thought, to exert will power, in an earnest endeavor to represent Christ in sweetness of character. It means to put away all gloom. Let no one rest satisfied simply in saying, ‘I am a child of God.’ Are you beholding Jesus, and, by beholding, becoming changed into His likeness? To walk in the light means advancement and progress in spiritual attainments. Paul declared, ‘Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but . . . forgetting those things which are behind,’ constantly beholding the Pattern, I reach ‘forth unto those things which are before.’ To walk in the light means to ‘walk uprightly,’ to walk ‘in the way of the Lord,’ to ‘walk by faith,’ to ‘walk in the Spirit.’ to ‘walk in the truth,’ to ‘walk in love,’ to ‘walk in newness of life.’ It is ‘perfecting holiness in the fear of God.’ . . .

“God will honor and uphold every true-hearted, earnest soul who is seeking to walk before Him in the perfection of Christ’s grace. He will never leave nor forsake one humble, trembling follower of His.”—*The Signs of the Times*, June 3, 1903.

4. A JOINT OPERATION

- a. How do justification and sanctification operate together in our salvation? 1 John 1:9; Romans 6:1, 2, 7, 22. Give examples. 1 Corinthians 6:9–11; Colossians 3:8–10.

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“Justification means the saving of a soul from perdition, that he may obtain sanctification, and through sanctification, the life of heaven. Justification means that the conscience, purged from dead works, is placed where it can receive the blessings of sanctification.”—*The SDA Bible Commentary* [E. G. White Comments], vol. 7, p. 908.

“The Christian will feel the promptings of sin, but he will maintain a constant warfare against it. Here is where Christ’s help is needed. Human weakness becomes united to divine strength, and faith exclaims: ‘Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ’ (1 Corinthians 15:57).”—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 469, 470.

- b. In what sense do we have to cooperate with Christ to become holy? Colossians 1:21–23, 29.

- c. For what purpose do we receive power through the gospel? Romans 1:16; Ephesians 3:16–19.

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“The work of gaining salvation is one of copartnership, a joint operation. There is to be cooperation between God and the repentant sinner. This is necessary for the formation of right principles in the character. Man is to make earnest efforts to overcome that which hinders him from attaining to perfection. But he is wholly dependent upon God for success. Human effort of itself is not sufficient. Without the aid of divine power it avails nothing. God works and man works. Resistance of temptation must come from man, who must draw his power from God. On the one side there is infinite wisdom, compassion, and power; on the other, weakness, sinfulness, absolute helplessness.”—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 482.

5. THE POWER OF GOD IN MAN

- a. What changes does God bring forth in giving us His grace? Titus 2:11–14; 3:5.

- b. How does the leaven in the parable illustrate our personal salvation? Matthew 13:33.

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“As the leaven, when mingled with the meal, works from within outward, so it is by the renewing of the heart that the grace of God works to transform the life. No mere external change is sufficient to bring us into harmony with God. There are many who try to reform by correcting this or that bad habit, and they hope in this way to become Christians, but they are beginning in the wrong place. Our first work is with the heart.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 97.

- c. On what condition can we receive the power of God’s grace? Jude 20.

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“The heavenly intelligences will work with the human agent who seeks with determined faith that perfection of character which will reach out to perfection in action. To everyone engaged in this work Christ says, I am at your right hand to help you.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 332.

- d. What kind of faith do we need? Matthew 17:20.

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“Be ambitious, for the Master’s glory, to cultivate every grace of character. In every phase of your character building you are to please God. This you may do; for Enoch pleased Him though living in a degenerate age. And there are Enochs in this our day. . . .

“As the will of man cooperates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent. Whatever is to be done at His command may be accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enablings.”—*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 332, 333.

## PERSONAL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How can we overcome feebleness in our religious experience?
2. What is justification and how can we receive it?
3. What is sanctification and how can we obtain it?
4. Explain our copartnership with Christ in the plan of redemption.
5. What symptoms reveal the action of the leaven of truth in the Christian's heart?

**Slave to Satan.** "If ever there was a time when every house should be a house of prayer, it is now. Infidelity and skepticism prevail. Iniquity abounds. Corruption flows in the vital currents of the soul, and rebellion against God breaks out in the life. Enslaved by sin, the moral powers are under the tyranny of Satan. The soul is made the sport of his temptations; and unless some mighty arm is stretched out to rescue him, man goes where the archrebel leads the way."—*Testimonies*, vol. 7, p. 42.

**Seeing the Invisible.** "Our faith must pierce beyond the veil, seeing things that are invisible. No one else can look for you. You must behold for yourself. In the place of murmuring for blessings that are withheld, let us remember and appreciate the blessings already bestowed."—*The SDA Bible Commentary* [E. G. White Comments], vol. 7, p. 930.

**Controlled by Grace.** "The grace of Christ is to control the temper and the voice. Its working will be seen in politeness and tender regard shown by brother for brother, in kind, encouraging words. An angel presence is in the home. The life breathes a sweet perfume, which ascends to God as holy incense. Love is manifested in kindness, gentleness, forbearance, and long-suffering.

"The countenance is changed. Christ abiding in the heart shines out in the faces of those who love Him and keep His commandments. Truth is written there. The sweet peace of heaven is revealed. There is expressed a habitual gentleness, a more than human love.

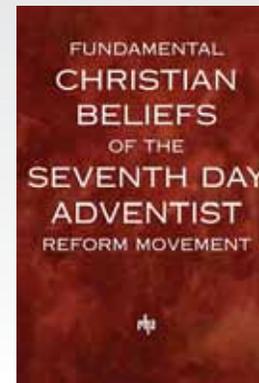
"The leaven of truth works a change in the whole man, making the coarse refined, the rough gentle, the selfish generous. By it the impure are cleansed, washed in the blood of the Lamb. Through its life-giving power it brings all there is of mind and soul and strength into harmony with the divine life. Man with his human nature becomes a partaker of divinity. Christ is honored in excellence and perfection of character. As these changes are effected, angels break forth in rapturous song, and God and Christ rejoice over souls fashioned after the divine similitude."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 102.

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(See p. 35.)



**September 2**  
**for Orlando,**  
**Florida, USA**  
(See p. 60.)