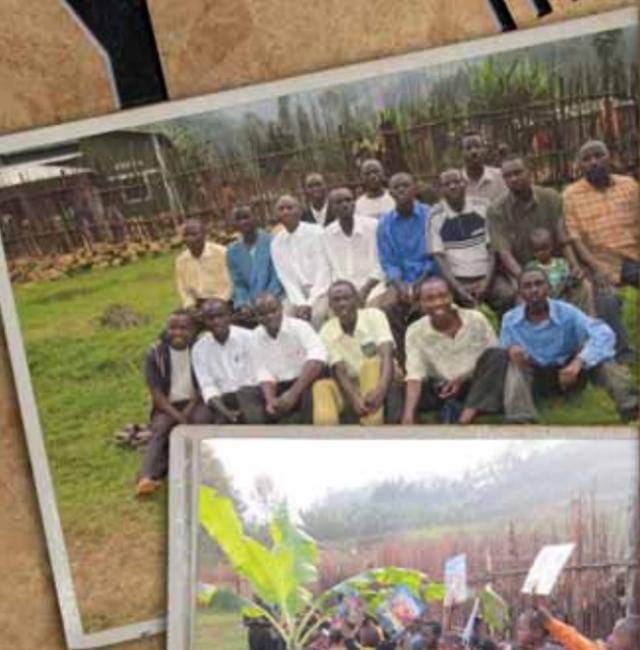


YOUTH messenger

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are you misunderstood?

A Spirit of Prophecy compilation, with brief commentary by Pam Stemmler

What about my situation?
What about my
circumstances? You just
don't understand!"

Do you think that no one understands? It certainly seems that way sometimes, doesn't it? But guess what? You are not alone! What does the Scripture state about Christ, who was "in all points tempted like as we are" (Hebrews 4:15). He understands. He dealt with every human emotional upset. Let us find the antidote in the words that He has inspired:

"Jesus was misunderstood by His brothers because He was not like them. His standard was not their standard. . . . The example of Jesus was to them a continual irritation. He hated but one thing in the world, and that was sin. He could not witness a wrong act without pain which it was impossible to disguise. Between the formalists, whose sanctity of appearance concealed the love of sin, and a character in which zeal for God's glory was always paramount, the contrast was unmistakable. Because the life of Jesus condemned evil, He was opposed, both at home and abroad. His unselfishness and integrity were commented on

with a sneer. His forbearance and kindness were termed cowardice. "Of the bitterness that falls to the lot of humanity, there was no part which Christ did not taste. There were those who tried to cast contempt upon Him because of His birth, and even in His childhood He had to meet their scornful looks and evil whisperings. If He had responded by an impatient word or look, if He had conceded to His brothers by even one wrong act, He would have failed of being a perfect example. Thus He would have failed of carrying out the plan for our redemption. Had He even admitted that there could be an excuse for sin, Satan would have triumphed, and the world would have been lost. This is why the tempter worked to make His life as trying as possible, that He might be led to sin.



“But to every temptation He had one answer, ‘It is written.’ He rarely rebuked any wrongdoing of His brothers, but He had a word from God to speak to them. Often He was accused of cowardice for refusing to unite with them in some forbidden act; but His answer was, It is written, ‘The fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding’ (Job 28:28).

“There were some who sought His society, feeling at peace in His presence; but many avoided Him, because they were rebuked by His stainless life. Young companions urged Him to do as they did. He was bright and cheerful; they enjoyed His presence, and welcomed His ready suggestions; but they were impatient at His scruples, and pronounced Him narrow and strait-laced. Jesus answered, It is written, ‘Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to Thy word.’ ‘Thy word have I hid in

mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee’ (Psalm 119:9, 11).

“Often He was asked, Why are you bent on being so singular, so different from us all? It is written, He said, ‘Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord. Blessed are they that keep His testimonies, and that seek Him with the whole heart. They also do no iniquity: they walk in His ways’ (Psalm 119:1-3).”

“When questioned why He did not join in the frolics of the youth of Nazareth, He said, It is written, ‘I have rejoiced in the way of Thy testimonies, as much as in all riches. I will meditate in Thy precepts, and have respect unto Thy ways. I will delight myself in Thy statutes; I will not forget Thy word’ (Psalm 119:14-16).

“Jesus did not contend for His rights. Often His work was made unnecessarily severe because He was willing and uncomplaining. Yet He did not fail nor become discouraged. He lived above these difficulties, as if in the light of God’s countenance. He did not retaliate when roughly used, but bore insult patiently.

“Again and again He was asked, Why do You submit to such spiteful usage, even from Your brothers? It is written, He said, ‘My son, forget not My law; but let thine heart keep My commandments: for length of



days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: so shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man' (Proverbs 3:1-4). . . .

“Harmless and undefiled, He walked among the thoughtless, the rude, the uncourteous; amid the unjust publicans, the reckless prodigals, the unrighteous Samaritans, the heathen soldiers, the rough peasants, and

the mixed multitude. He spoke a word of sympathy here and a word there, as He saw men weary, yet compelled to bear heavy burdens. He shared their burdens, and repeated to them the lessons He had learned from nature, of the love, the kindness, the goodness of God.”—*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 88-90.

Follow the Leader

Like young Jesus, we need to remember the many precious promises of the Word of God to His faithful children. Write out those that are special to you and keep them in a little packet in your purse or pocket. This is helpful when doubts or discouragements come. You just pull out the promise pack and refresh your mind and heart with God's Word.

“Those who take Christ at His word, and surrender their souls to His keeping, their lives to His ordering, will find peace and quietude. Nothing of the

world can make them sad when Jesus makes them glad by His presence. In perfect acquiescence there is perfect rest. The Lord says, 'Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee' (Isaiah 26:3). Our lives may seem a tangle; but as we commit ourselves to the wise Master Worker, He will bring out the pattern of life and character that will be to His own glory. And that character which expresses the glory—character—of Christ will be received into the Paradise of God. A renovated race shall walk with Him in white, for they are worthy."—*Ibid.*, p. 331.

"Christ in His life on earth made no plans for Himself. He accepted God's plans for Him, and day by day the Father unfolded His plans. So should we depend upon God, that our lives may be the simple outworking of His will. As we commit our ways to Him, He will direct our steps. . . .

"Let God plan for you. As a little child, trust to the guidance of Him who will 'keep the feet of His saints' (1 Samuel 2:9). God never leads His children otherwise than they would choose to be led, if they could see the end from the beginning and discern the glory of the purpose which they are fulfilling as coworkers with Him."—*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 479.

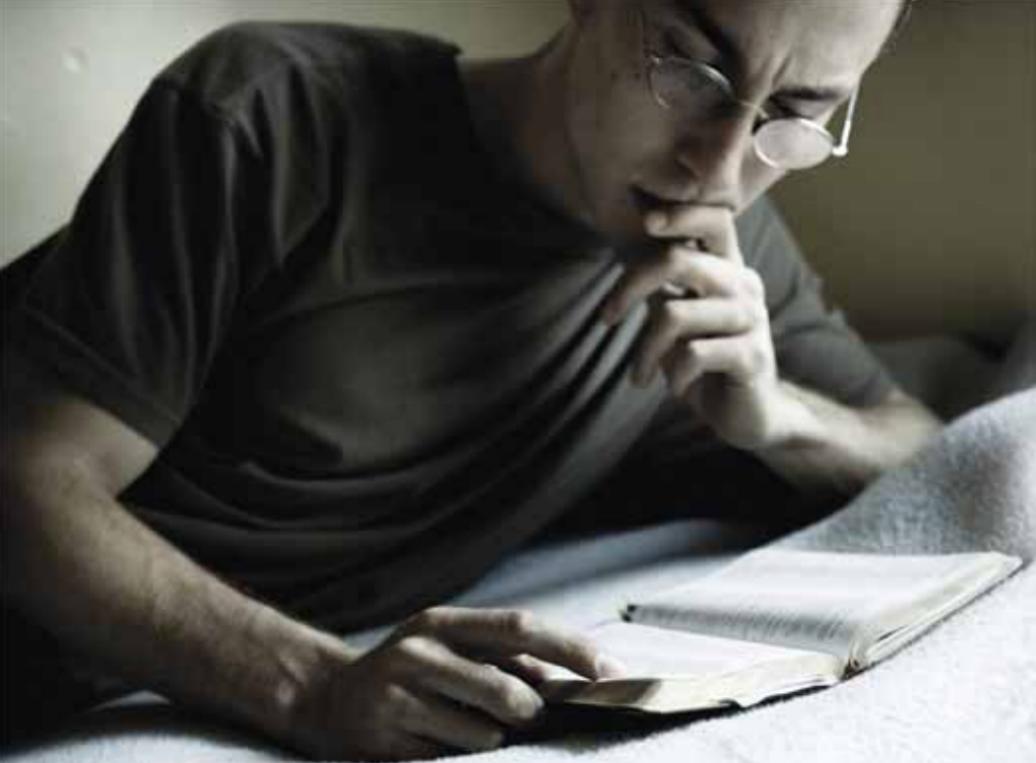
"Above the distractions of the earth [God] sits enthroned; all

things are open to His divine survey; and from His great and calm eternity He orders that which His providence sees best."—*Ibid.*, p. 417.

"If we meet with hardships in our work, let us look to Him who is the Author and Finisher of our faith. Then we shall not fail nor be discouraged. We shall endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ."—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 335.

Picture the scene

"The Elder Brother of our race is by the eternal throne. He looks upon every soul who is turning his face toward Him as the Saviour. He knows by experience what are the weaknesses of humanity, what are our wants, and where lies the strength of our temptations; for He was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. He is watching over you, trembling child of God. Are you tempted? He will deliver. Are you weak? He will strengthen. Are you ignorant? He will enlighten. Are you wounded? He will heal. The Lord 'telleth the number of the stars;' and yet 'He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds' (Psalm 147:4, 3). 'Come unto Me,' is His invitation. Whatever your anxieties and trials, spread out your case before the Lord. Your spirit will be braced for endurance. The way will be opened for you to disentangle yourself from embarrassment and difficulty. The weaker and more helpless you know yourself to be, the stronger



will you become in His strength. The heavier your burdens, the more blessed the rest in casting them upon the Burden Bearer.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 329.

“Oh, the blessed Saviour stands by many whose eyes are so blinded by tears that they do not discern Him. He longs to clasp our hands firmly, while we cling to Him in simple faith, imploring Him to guide us. It is our privilege to rejoice in God. If we will let the comfort and peace of Jesus into our lives, we shall be kept close to His great heart of love.”—*The Review and Herald*, November 25, 1884.

Keep in mind

“Worry is blind and cannot discern the future; but Jesus sees the

end from the beginning. In every difficulty He has His way prepared to bring relief. Our heavenly Father has a thousand ways to provide for us, of which we know nothing. Those who accept the one principle of making the service and honor of God supreme will find perplexities vanish, and a plain path before their feet. . . .

“In the heart of Christ, where reigned perfect harmony with God, there was perfect peace. He was never elated by applause, nor dejected by censure or disappointment. Amid the greatest opposition and the most cruel treatment, He was still of good courage. But many who profess to be His followers have an anxious, troubled heart,

"Jesus did not contend for His rights. Often His work was made unnecessarily severe because He was willing and uncomplaining. Yet He did not fail nor become discouraged. He lived above these difficulties."

because they are afraid to trust themselves with God. They do not make a complete surrender to Him; for they shrink from the consequences that such a surrender may involve. Unless they do make this surrender, they cannot find peace.

"It is the love of self that brings unrest. When we are born from above, the same mind will be in us that was in Jesus, the mind that led Him to humble Himself that we might be saved. Then we shall not be seeking the highest place. We shall desire to sit at the feet of Jesus and learn of Him. We shall understand that the value of our work does not consist in making a show and noise in the world, and in being active and zealous in our own strength. The value of our work is in proportion to the impartation of the Holy Spirit. Trust in God brings holier qualities of mind, so that in patience we may possess our souls."—*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 330, 331.

"In the darkest days, when appearances seem most

forbidding, have faith in God. He is working out His will, doing all things well in behalf of His people. The strength of those who love and serve Him will be renewed day by day.

"He is able and willing to bestow upon His servants all the help they need. He will give them the wisdom which their varied necessities demand."—*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 482. 

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"It Is My Way"

E. G. White

As published in the Youth's Instructor, October 2, 1902.

Sometimes one who professes to be a follower of Christ is heard saying, "You must not be surprised if I am rough, if I speak bluntly, if I manifest temper: it is my way."

You ask us not to be surprised! Is not Heaven surprised at such manifestations, since the plan of salvation has been devised, since an infinite sacrifice has been made on Calvary's cross, that you might reflect the image of Jesus? Will "your way" enter heaven? Suppose someone comes up to the pearly gates, and says, "I know that I have been rude and unkind, and that it is my disposition to lie and steal; but I want an entrance to the heavenly mansions." Will such a disposition find entrance through the portals of the heavenly city?—No, no! only those who keep God's way will enter there.

The manifestation of natural and cultivated tendencies to wrongdoing cannot be excused by the plea, "It is my way." Christians realize that in order to bring the principles of Christianity

into the daily life, they need much of the grace of Christ.

The youth who cooperate with Christ will find that their way is full of errors needing to be corrected. Brought into the character-building, these errors are as rotten timbers. Let no one allow them to remain. Let no one plead for the privilege of clinging to his imperfections, excusing himself by saying, "It is my way." Those who please self, refusing to give up their way for Christ's way, will suffer the sure result. They will find themselves strengthless, Christless.

Are you striving to walk in the way of truth and righteousness? Then be not discouraged by temptation. True, you will be tempted; but remember that temptation is not sin; it is no indication of the Lord's displeasure. He suffers you to be tempted, but He measures the temptation by the power which He imparts to enable you to resist and overcome. It is in the time of temptation and trial that you are to measure the degree of your faith in God, and to estimate

the stability of your Christian character.

Do not say, "It is impossible for me to overcome." Do not say, "It is my nature to do thus and so, and I cannot do otherwise. I have inherited weaknesses that make me powerless before temptation." In your own strength you cannot overcome, but help has been laid upon One that is mighty. Breathe the prayer, "Shew me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths." Then believe the promise, "The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way." Yes, the Lord says, "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye" (Psalms 25:4, 9; 32:8).

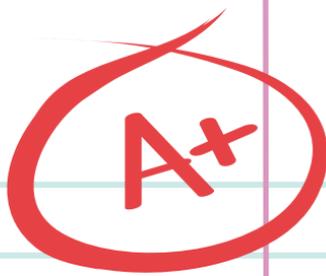
In order to receive the virtue of the blood of Christ, even the forgiveness of your sins, you must consent to the conditions He imposes. "If any man will come after me," He says, "let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Matthew 16:24). Seeking pardon of sin from His cross, you will seek direction from His throne. Looking to and believing in Christ as your personal Saviour is your only hope of salvation. Receiving Christ in all His completeness, you are in truth able to sing:

"I will follow Thee, my Saviour,
Wheresoe'er my lot may be.
Where Thou goest I will follow;
Yes, my Lord, I'll follow Thee."

God has given His Holy Spirit as a power sufficient to subdue all your hereditary and cultivated tendencies to wrongdoing. By yielding the mind to the control of the Spirit, you will grow into the likeness of God's perfect character, and will become an instrumentality through which He can reveal His mercy, His goodness and His love.

Whatever may be your defects, the Holy Spirit will reveal them, and grace will be given you to overcome. Through the merits of the blood of Christ you may be a conqueror, yes, more than a conqueror. Will you who read these words resolve never again to excuse your defects of character by saying, "It is my way"? Let no one again declare, "I cannot change my natural habits and tendencies." Let the truth be admitted into the soul, and it will work to sanctify the character.

Beholding Christ, we are changed through the power of the Holy Spirit. When this change takes place, the hands, the tongue, the feet, act in accord with the heart's spiritual advancement. Faith is a shining light, shining more and more unto the perfect day. We no longer plead for our will to be done, or for our old ways and habits to be left undisturbed. The converting power of God molds us after the divine similitude—after the likeness of the One who is "the Way, the Truth, and the Life" (John 14:6). 



Part 2 Exam Time!

A. Balbach

In the previous issue of the *Youth Messenger*, we learned about the final judgment that every human being must face. “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad” (2 Corinthians 5:10).

The beginning of the judgment in heaven at the time of the end coincides with the opening of the sanctuary. Before the seven last plagues can be poured out, the heavenly tabernacle is opened. John the Revelator describes: “I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened” (Revelation 15:5).

Since the temple of God in heaven was opened in connection with the judgment, and since this has been revealed to our understanding, it is our solemn duty to worship therein by faith. The Revelator continues: “The angel [that stood by me said], **Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.** But the court which is without the

temple leave out, and measure it not, for it is given unto the Gentiles” (Revelation 11:1, 2, emphasis added).

As believers, how do we “measure up” in this exam?

While we are worshipping in the temple, the connection between us and the temple must be measured in every detail. How, for example, is the altar of incense being measured? John the Revelator explains:

“Another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel’s hand” (Revelation 8:3, 4).

Of course, the altar of incense must be measured to see what kind of prayers have been poured upon it—honest prayers like that of the publican or self-righteous, presumptuous prayers full of conceit like that of the Pharisee (Luke 18:10-14).

The candlestick must be measured to see how we relate to Christ, the Light of the world (John 1:5, 9; 8:12; 1 John 1:7).

The table with the shewbread must be measured to see what kind of spiritual bread we are eating (John 6:51; Isaiah 4:1). (What kinds of things are we reading/watching/listening to?)

The testimony which is in the ark of the covenant must be measured to see how faithful we are in the keeping of the two principles of God's Law—love to God and to others (Matthew 22:36-40).

Once this is considered, a fearful question now comes to mind: What happens after we have been measured? We are marked either as approved or as rejected (Revelation 7:1-4; 14:1, 9; 13:16).

Those who have not received the light of the sanctuary are in "the court which is outside the temple" (Revelation 11:2, NKJV).

They are not to be measured by the measuring rod of the temple. They are responsible for the lesser amount of light they have, while we are responsible for the greater light that we have.

Can we know when the temple of God in heaven was opened and when the investigative judgment began?

The Word of God shows that those who, by faith, have seen the contents of the ark of the covenant, when the heavenly sanctuary was opened to their understanding, knew exactly when the judgment in heaven began. Otherwise they could not have started preaching the message, "Fear God, and give glory to him: for the hour of his judgment is come" (Revelation 14:7).

These are convinced that the heavenly sanctuary, which must be measured (Revelation 11:1), must also be cleansed (Daniel 8:14; Hebrews 9:23) "at the time of the end" (Daniel 8:17). But before this could happen, a long period of desolations and abominations would set in (Daniel



9:24-27). Only after the religio-political power represented by the little horn has stood up against the Prince of the host (the Prince of princes), and has caused abominations and desolations “for many days” (Daniel 8:9-13, 24-26), desecrating God’s sanctuary, would the prophecy of Daniel 8:14 be fulfilled: “Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.” Daniel the prophet was greatly concerned about the vision of the “two thousand and three hundred evenings and mornings” which would pass before the sanctuary could be cleansed. And, of course, the Lord would not fail to send him an explanation—for his own benefit, for the benefit of the faithful Jews who were waiting for the coming of the promised Messiah century after century up to the Roman domination, and especially for the benefit of God’s servants living in the time of the end.

No event can be found in history where 2300 literal days could fit in with the prophecy connected with this period of time.

Since the other
periods of
time

in the book of Daniel (7:25; 9:25-27; 12:7, 11, 12) are given in prophetic days or weeks (one day for a year), we can see no reason why Daniel 8:14 (the vision about the 2300 days) should be an exception.

On top of that, the abominations and desolations, the taking away of the “daily” ministry of Christ, the profanation of the (heavenly) sanctuary, and the standing up against the Prince of princes (the Prince of the host)—which would take place before the cleansing of the sanctuary at the end of the 2300 days—are ascribed to a power that would destroy Jerusalem and continue its work up to the time of the end. (Compare Daniel 8:11-13, 25; 9:26, 27; 11:16, 22, 31, 36, 41, 45; 12:7, 11, 12; Matthew 24:15.)

Gabriel, the Lord’s messenger, who was sent to make the prophet “understand the vision” of the 2300 days (Daniel 8:16), said to him: “Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be [the fulfillment of] the vision. . . . He [the power represented by the little horn] shall magnify himself in his heart, and . . . he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes. . . . And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it shall be for many days” (Daniel 8:17, 25, 26).

The amazing vision of Daniel

The angel of the Lord had only started explaining the vision when Daniel fainted. So the angel left him, but Daniel continued “astonished at the vision,” especially because “none understood it” (Daniel 8:27). Many days, later, while Daniel was praying, Gabriel came back to him to complete the explanation of the vision. Read Daniel 9:20-27 to see exactly how it happened.

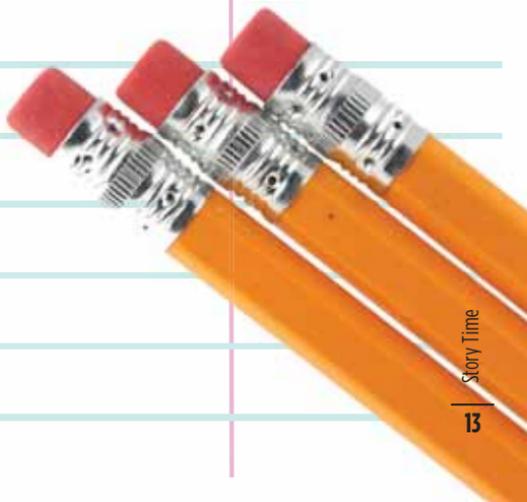
The explanation

This is how God’s messenger explained the first part of the vision of the 2300-day-period, which begins with the 70 weeks (490 years) dedicated to the Jewish nation. The final decree for the rebuilding of Jerusalem was issued in the fall of 457 B.C. Sixty-nine prophetic weeks (483 years) reckoned from 457 B.C. end in A.D. 27, when the Messiah began His public ministry (Matthew 3:15-17; 4:17; John 1:29). And He was “cut off” (His own people put Him to death) in the middle of the 70th week (A.D. 31), when the law of the sacrifice and the oblation lost its meaning (Hebrews 9:8-12; 10:1-4). A special privilege was still granted to the Jewish nation during the second half of the 70th week, as, in obedience to Christ’s instructions, the disciples dedicated their efforts exclusively “to the lost sheep of the house of Israel” (Matthew 10:6). Thus, the 490 years, the first part

of the 2300 prophetic days, ended in the year A.D. 34.

Therefore, the remaining 1810 years of that prophetic period must extend to the year 1844, when the heavenly sanctuary was opened to the understanding of God’s servants (Revelation 15:5); when they saw the contents of the ark of the covenant (Revelation 11:19), namely, the Ten Commandments; when they realized that it was their duty to worship in the sanctuary according to its requirements (Revelation 11:1). Then they began to announce that the hour of God’s judgment had come (Revelation 14:6, 7). And the prophetic word indicates that they must be able to identify the right time for these things; otherwise they would not be able to give such a message.

Yes, it may seem complicated, but there is no doubt about it. We are being measured, so our only hope is to walk in the way of Christ through His mighty strength. 

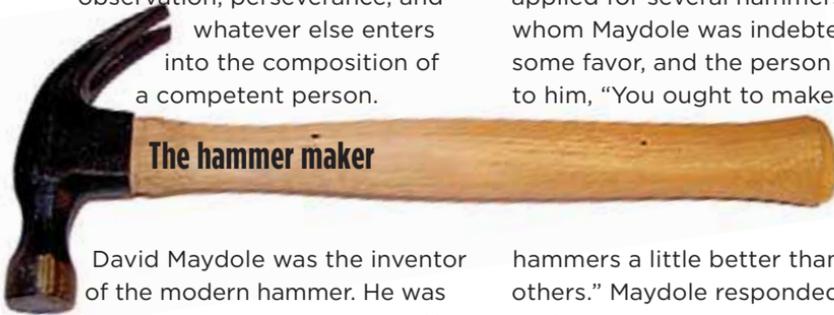


DOING THINGS WELL

William M. Thayer



Many youth are more anxious about what they do than about how they do it, and, as a consequence, they are unsuccessful. Whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well. Experience and observation declare that this is the only rule that promotes progress in art, science, industry and literary pursuits. To observe it requires the enlistment of all the powers of application, singleness of purpose, observation, perseverance, and whatever else enters into the composition of a competent person.



David Maydole was the inventor of the modern hammer. He was known as the hammer maker. He made the first one for his own use, being dissatisfied with any he could buy. He made it so well that a neighbor ordered one for himself, and then another neighbor, and then the town merchant, until finally a hardware dealer from New York City, seeing one of them, ordered as many as

Maydole could manufacture. In this way his business grew to large proportions and his fortune was assured.

When Maydole's business had become very large, James Parton said to him, "By this time you ought to be able to make a pretty good hammer." Maydole replied, "No, I can't. I can't make a pretty good hammer; I make the best that's made." Once a person applied for several hammers, to whom Maydole was indebted for some favor, and the person said to him, "You ought to make my

hammers a little better than the others." Maydole responded, "I can't make any better ones. When I make a thing, I make it as well

"I can't make a pretty good hammer; I make the best that's made."

—David Maydole

as I can, no matter who it is for.” Doing his best every time led him on to fortune. He never pushed his business; he never advertised. Making the best hammer on the market created all the business he wanted.

Making each one the best

Something of this quality is found in every successful person, whatever his or her occupation may be—farmer, mechanic, merchant, painter, lawyer, doctor, or a spiritual leader. Thoroughness appears to be the key to success. Sir Joshua Reynolds, the painter, replied to a gentleman who asked him, “How do you attain to such excellence in your profession?” “By observing one simple rule, namely, to make each picture the best.” That rule produced the painting as well as the hammer. The same rule produced the finest piano, sewing machine, and automobile. We make the best merchants out of the best clerks, the best railroad president out of the best employee, and so forth.

Striving for the highest aim

Samuel Budgett said, “In whatever calling a man is found, he ought to strive to be the best in his calling: If a shoeshine man, he should strive to be the best shoeshine man in the neighborhood.” Budgett conducted his immense business, in which he employed six hundred men and boys, on this principle. When a boy was

introduced into his store, he set him to straightening old nails. If he straightened nails well, he was promoted to bag mending; if he did not do it well he was dismissed. The thorough nail-straightener and bag mender moved upward into larger and higher fields of work; and so the great English merchant could boast of having the most efficient and faithful class of employees in the British realm. Training them to do their best did it.

Lesson from a printer

The well-known publishing house of New York—the Harper & Brothers—established in 1817, built up its mammoth business on the basis of doing everything well. When working as apprentices in a printing-office, they were the best. When their sign was put in 1817, “J. & J. Harper, Printers,” a bookseller told them that there were more



James Harper, 1869

LITTLE THINGS. It is the little things of life that develop the spirit and determine the character. Those who neglect the little things will not be prepared to endure severe tests when they are brought to bear upon them. Remember that the character building is not finished till life ends. Every day a good or bad brick is placed in the structure. You are either building crookedly or with the exactness and correctness that will make a beautiful temple for God. Therefore, in looking for great things to do, neglect not the little opportunities that come to you day by day. He who neglects

the little things, and yet flatters himself that he is ready to do wonderful things for the Master, is in danger of failing altogether. Life is made up, not of great sacrifices and of wonderful achievements, but of little things.

Whatever your hands find to do, do it with your might. Make your work pleasant with songs of praise. If you would have a clean record in the books of heaven, never fret or scold. Let your daily prayer be, "Lord, help me to do my best. . . . Give me energy and cheerfulness. Help me to bring into my service the loving ministry of the Saviour."

—*In Heavenly Places*, p. 226.

printers in New York that could get a living. Nevertheless, he gave them a book to print. The work was done so thoroughly and promptly that this publisher gave them all the work he had thereafter. Soon other publishers did the same. It was their Harper's rule of doing things well that made them thrifty enough to start a noted publishing house of their own. Their aim was the best things in the best style.

in the secular realm. Why not? In the material world, God provides the best of everything. The leaf, flower, and blade of grass are



Our works follow us

We are wont to apply the "blessed" of Revelation 14:13 "and their works do follow them," to spiritual things only, but the principle is just as true

perfect; even the moss of the African desert, which no one but Mungo Park ever saw, made to live and perish in the wilderness, was as perfect and beautiful as the flower in a window garden.

Thoroughness is a principle of God's government, and we may say truthfully of all who imitate it in their secular pursuits, "Their works do follow them." 

The Missing piece

Eunice Braidman Caro

It was a cold winter day with overcast skies and bone-chilling breezes. Consequently, there weren't many ways to pass the evening hours, so I pulled out a puzzle and sat down at the dining room table in an attempt to fight boredom.

The hours went by, and piece after piece was found and put in its place. I soon noticed the increasingly small pile of puzzle pieces left and inwardly smiled with satisfaction. I beheld the breathtaking scene laid out on the table before my eyes—a snow-clad countryside, a crystal clear river flowing by the edge of an old sturdy fence, and pine trees with snow-frosted branches surrounding a typical red-and-white barn standing in a field sparkling under the sun's bright rays.

After glancing at the clock and realizing how much time had gone by, I reached for the remaining pieces and began putting them all in their designated places. I was almost finished! But to my dismay I found that the very last piece was missing. I quickly scanned the floor and peered under the

table in hopes of finding that one vital piece. It wasn't long before I reluctantly accepted that it was gone—it was nowhere to be found. With a frown of frustration and disappointment I surveyed the nearly-complete puzzle, my eyes automatically focusing on the empty space. I remember the sigh that escaped my lips as I thought of all the time and patience used in the piecing together of that puzzle, only to end up with an almost-perfect picture; its beauty and completeness marred by the absence of one sole piece.

I mention this happening to you because I see the life of every individual as a puzzle being slowly pieced together with the passing of time by the Master Creator and Maker Himself. And I know many of us feel we are missing the final piece to the puzzle of our life—that special person to make us feel complete and whole. Many times this realization gives way to frustration, sadness, despondency, impatience, and other such feelings; this causes us to set out and try to find it on our own. But just like with all the other pieces, only the Puzzle Maker knows

where it is, and only He knows when is the right time for it to appear. Yet, due to our impatient nature as humans, many of us don't wait for God to guide us to it, or for Him to send it our way; rather we go looking for it just as we do with missing jigsaw puzzle pieces. Sadly, this results the most of the time in needless heartache, complications, and regrets that could even be an impediment for the true piece to fit as perfectly as it should. For the edges surrounding the empty spot will be forever changed by these experiences—by these pieces that were forced and thrust into a place they were not meant to be, causing those edges to become slightly deformed or bent once the misplaced piece is removed.

There may be many times when it seems we have found our missing piece—the persons with whom we will be happy throughout our future years. When this happens, we bend and push to make them fit, because they appear to belong, but in reality they are the missing pieces to someone else's puzzle. And maybe, just maybe, we overlooked the piece that really fit because we were too busy looking for it in the wrong pile. Perhaps we ignored the possibility of it being “the one” because we saw others that, in our opinion, seemed to have a better chance of being it. It is sorely disappointing and painful to discover our mistake further

down the road. But, unfortunately, many times that's what it takes for us to finally let go and let God. Instead of allowing ourselves to be led by impulse, emotions, or feelings, it would be so much easier if we let God's faultless providence guide our steps and, from the start, trust in Him—believing that He will find our “missing piece” for each one of us in HIS time. For some it might happen sooner than for others, but no matter how long the wait, His timing is always best. It takes patience as well as faith, and you must be willing to let go of pieces that don't belong. This may be hard as well as painful, but in the end, when each piece has carefully been put in its place and you gaze back at the beautiful and complete puzzle your life has become, you will know that every bit of it was worth it. And with a smile on your lips and joyful gratitude in your heart you will say, “Thank you God, because every piece fits perfectly. You make all things beautiful in your time.”

“ ‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future’ ” (Jeremiah 29:11, NIV).

“God knows when, God knows how. God knows with whom God knows why. Let God lead; God knows best. So just let go and be at rest.” 

Finding the Missing “Peace”:

The Cure for Restless Loneliness

The advertising industry, the entertainment world, and common myths are trying to make us think today that to be without some kind of romantic relationship is to be living in a parched and disappointing desert. What a lie!

The apostle Paul—who lived and dwelled alone—enjoyed some of the deepest, most rewarding joy that can ever be experienced by mortals. And his words echo down to this generation: “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him” (Colossians 2:8-10).

That’s right—when you know Jesus and abide in His loving presence, you “are complete in him”! Don’t let anyone fool you into thinking you need to lean on an arm of flesh in order to survive and be happy. In reality, a curse

is actually pronounced on those with such a mindset:

“Thus saith the Lord; cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord. For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh. . . . Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters” (Jeremiah 17:5-8).

Be content to lean on the everlasting arms. Treasure the family that God has already given you. Only as we appreciate what we have will God ever be able to entrust us safely with expanded blessings.

The psalmist could sing with wholehearted satisfaction: “Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee. My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever” (Psalm 73:25, 26). 



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE MASTER

2011 Medical Mission Trip Report

Michel-Ange Ducheine

Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. . . . Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me” (Matthew 25:34-36, 40). Inspired by these words which represent the core of true Christian ministry, The Welfare & Medical Departments of the SDARM General Conference, after months of planning, launched

a multifaceted mission project in one of the poorest nation on earth in the summer of 2011.

100 on the frontlines

Nestled between Rwanda to the north, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to the west, Tanzania and the beautiful lake Tanganyika to the east and south, the Kirundi and French-speaking Republic of Burundi—one of the most poverty-stricken countries on the planet—was the place selected for the 2011 Mission Project.

Over 60 youth from such countries as Australia, Brazil, Germany, Italy, Romania, Serbia, Spain and U.S.A., met initially in Lindach, Germany, in the last

weekend of July for a training session conducted by David Zic, the coordinator of the project. Then they departed for Burundi in different groups on August 1st for this two-week mission (August 1-14).

As we arrived in the village of Gafumbegedi (5,000 inhabitants) located in the province of Cibitoke in the northwest region of Burundi, thousands lined up in the narrow streets of the village to greet and welcome us with songs, making it impossible for the bus to move forward. For most—if not all—this was the warmest welcome ever received, a welcome in the African way! The team coming from Brazil, Europe, and U.S.A. was joined by other youth coming from neighboring Kenya, DRC, and Rwanda. Surrounded by mountains, we set up our tents—naming them according to the names of the sons of Israel—on each side of the hangar which served as a meeting place, dining area, and fellowship hall. A dozen translators were needed by the team, in addition to the Burundi Mission Staff, the local Bible workers, plus several local kitchen cooks. About 100 people—mostly youth from a dozen different countries—cooperated together in the execution of this project.

Our great Pattern

While on earth, Jesus spent His time ministering to meet the

needs of suffering humanity. And we are called to walk in His footsteps by following the example that He has set for us. “Jesus came in personal contact with men. He did not stand aloof and apart from those who needed His help. He entered the homes of men, comforted the mourner, healed the sick, aroused the careless, and went about doing good. And if we follow in the footsteps of Jesus, we must do as He did. We must give men the same kind of help that He did.”—*My Life Today*, p. 227.

“Do we want to walk in the footsteps of Jesus? We need not seek out the paths in Nazareth, Bethany, and Jerusalem. We shall find the footprints of Jesus by the sick-bed, by the side of suffering humanity, in the hovels of the poverty-stricken and distressed. We may walk in these footsteps, comforting the suffering, speaking words of hope and comfort to the despondent. Doing as Jesus did when He was upon earth, we shall walk in His blessed steps.”—*The Review and Herald*, June 9, 1896.

Healing the sick

“Jesus went about all the cities and villages, . . . healing every sickness and every disease among the people” (Matthew 9:35). He has commissioned His disciples to do the same (Luke 9:2; 10:9) by empowering them “to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease” (Matthew 10:1).

The medical team led by Dr. Dragan Ivanov (GC Medical Missionary Director) worked around the clock to take care of the people who flocked by the hundreds in front of the small three-room Eden clinic, newly built for the project. About 3,000 people with various diseases—from minor ear infections to surgery and baby delivery—were taken care of by this team, who worked untiringly from dawn to dusk.

While the clinic was running, a naturopath from Brazil, Geraldo Cardoso, held daily lectures on Natural Health, teaching hundreds of people of the villages how to use natural means they have within their reach, such as herbs, clay, and plant food to prevent illness and cure most of the common diseases of the locality. A pregnant woman showed up in the morning of our last full day of activities. She was due for delivery, and she wanted us not only to assist her in the delivery but also to name the baby. Around 9:00 a.m. local time, a healthy baby girl was born. We named her VICTORIA. Members from the different teams came to the clinic to welcome the newborn with songs of praise to the Lord. Later the same day, around 6:00 p.m., a second baby girl was born, and we called her GLORIA. The birth of these two babies brought great joy to us all. It was like the highlight and crowning act of our mission trip.

Feeding the hungry

Our compassionate Saviour ministered to the physical needs of the people by feeding them (Mark 6:34-44; 8:4-9). The Operation Team of this mission project, led by Jorai Cruz, organized the kitchen team to cook and feed not only our Mission Project personnel, but also the people of the village. They lined up to receive joyfully their daily portion. Between 700 and 1,000 people were fed every day. In total, roughly 11,000 meals were served during our two-week stay.

Clothing the naked

Jesus said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God" (Luke 18:16). Our children ministry directed by Sister Sonia Conceição from Brazil was able to wash and clothe about 800 children during these two weeks. But we did not stop there; every day we took them (several hundred) to a nearby school and divided them into 4 age groups to teach them to sing, to pray, and to tell them Bible stories. And one group (the teenage boys) were blessed enough to have music classes, and each boy was so happy to play the recorder he had freely received.

Preaching the Gospel

The mission of the church is to proclaim the present truth of the three angels' messages to a dying

world. And our team did not miss this great opportunity to share some of our doctrines with the people. We went out on Sunday for a missionary outreach in the nearby village of Mubayi. First, we assembled in a soccer field to sing several hymns, thus attracting the people of the village, and then Dr. Emil Barbu from Romania presented a short message on Health. Afterward, we divided ourselves into small groups and walked the streets of the village, distributing nearly ten thousand pamphlets on the Sabbath and the second coming of Christ (two of the main and fundamental doctrines of our church).

A lasting impact

At the end of the first week, a news person from the National

Radio came to visit the clinic in operation. He went back to his radio station, and the news spread throughout the country as the project was broadcasted freely. As a result, more people came the second week.

The chief of the village (the mayor) came daily to express his gratitude, while the security of our camp was freely provided by the National Police of Burundi. On Sabbath, the church building was able to contain only children coming from far and near—over 400. The human sea of adult souls gathered outside of the church and participated in the open-air service. Thousands came from the nearby village to listen to the word of God. Brother Jorai Cruz focused his message on the experience of Hezekiah who



had been cured from his fatal illness by using simple means as guided by God but failed to glorify God in the presence of the ambassadors from Babylon (2 Kings 20). He urged the people to always be grateful and to go tell others about the God who has cured them.

The impact of our mission project on the population could be easily felt while we were there. But it is the lasting impact of the mission that made it worth the undertaking. The 3,000 people freely cured will ever be grateful, the 11,000 people generously fed will always remember, the hundreds of children clothed and taught will always look forward for our return; and the 10,000 brochures distributed will surely bring fruit in due season. PRAISE BE TO GOD!

A double blessing

The Bible teaches us that "he that watereth shall be watered also himself" (Proverbs 11:25); and the Spirit of Prophecy states that: "the effort to bless others will react in blessings upon ourselves. . . .

"The spirit of unselfish labor for others gives depth, stability, and Christlike loveliness to the character, and brings peace and happiness to its possessor. The aspirations are elevated. There is no room for sloth or selfishness. Those who thus exercise the Christian graces will grow and

will become strong to work for God. They will have clear spiritual perceptions, a steady, growing faith, and an increased power in prayer. The Spirit of God, moving upon their spirit, calls forth the sacred harmonies of the soul in answer to the divine touch. Those who thus devote themselves to unselfish effort for the good of others are most surely working out their own salvation."—*Steps to Christ*, pp. 79, 80.

Looking forward

We departed with joy and sadness: The joy and satisfaction of a work well done: "This was THE TRIP of my life" one youth said. But we also left with sorrow for not being able to stay longer and help more as we have witnessed the great need of these friendly African natives. As I look back at this unforgettable mission project, not everything went as planned; the leading brethren have taken note in order to improve in different areas as they prepare other projects for the future.

I am so thankful to God for the success of this Mission. I am very grateful for the opportunity that He has granted me to serve in this worthy project. From Central Africa to Southeast Asia, the cry of suffering humanity is growing louder and louder. Dear youth, the Lord is calling you, and He needs your helping hands. Wouldn't you want to walk in the

footsteps of the Great Master in answering the call to go to the next Mission Project?

2011 Medical Mission Trip

Administration: David Zic

David Devai

Lidia Tomoiaga

Regia Araujo

Michel-Ange Ducheine

Medical team captain:

Dragan Ivanov, M.D.

Welfare team captain:

Jorai Cruz

Children Ministry team captain:

Sonia Santos Conceição

In a nutshell

Organized by: Welfare and Medical Departments of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement General Conference.

Location: Gafumbegedi, in the province of Cibitoke (northwest Burundi).

Crew: 100 (64 from the Mission Project + 12 translators+ Burundi Mission staff and Bible workers).

Medical: 2 physicians, one naturopath, several nurses, and medical and nursing students.

Timeframe: two weeks (August 1-14).

The Clinic: nearly 3,000 cases treated.

The needy: 1,000 fed daily (more than 11,000 meals).

Evangelism: 10,000 pamphlets on the Second Coming and the Sabbath were distributed.

Children: 800 washed and clothed, and about 700 were educated daily.

The Highlights: birth of Victoria and Gloria. 



Saved To Serve

Bethany Montrose

Saved to serve, O yes it's true!
Jesus came and shed His blood
On the cross at Calvary—
Giving us the cleansing flood.

Jesus gave His precious life
Just so we might ransomed be.
He came down to our dark world
So that we can be made free!

He was hung high on a cross;
Nails pierced through His very feet.
As they mocked He said no word
But they will the Judge soon meet!

With His blood, He's purchased us.
To the Holiest He went;
Blotting out forsaken sin,
He will save those who repent.

Do not disappoint the Lord,
Who has risen from the grave.
He is interceding now;
He will make you strong and brave!

While you try your very best,
By your side He'll always be;
Helping you whene'er you ask.
Ask Him now on bended knee!

Heaven is worth everything;
All your talents you should give.
Love the Master's service, too—
That in glory we may live.

Can't we go and tell our friends
That our Lord brings peace and life?
Tell them all right now, today,
"He will come and end all strife!"

Don't give up; it's worth your all—
Let's be faithful 'till the end
To receive eternal life.
He will help you fight the trend!

May we all be there to hear
Jesus and His angel choir.
We will sing triumphantly,
"We were pulled out of the mire!"

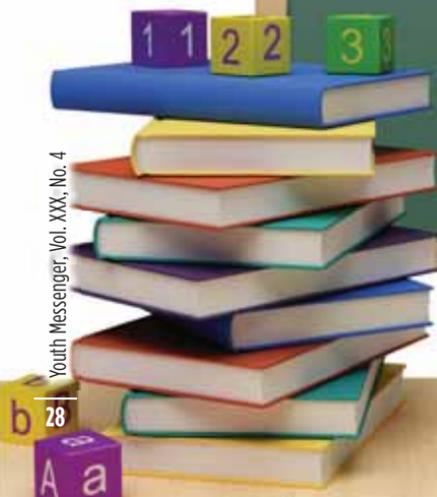
Test Your Reading!

ACROSS

- 1 The inventor of the modern _____ was determined to make his product the best that could be made.
- 3 If the truth is admitted into the soul, it will work to _____ the character.
- 5 John the Revelator was told to measure the temple and _____.
- 10 In heaven, the redeemed will be able to sing, "We were pulled out of the _____!"
- 11 To say "It is my way" is often only a poor _____ for wrongdoing.
- 12 Over 60 youth joined in the 2011 Mission Project in _____.
- 13 Like we so often are, Jesus was _____ by His own brothers, who labeled Him as narrow and strait-laced.

DOWN

- 2 What we read/watch/listen to is illustrated by the shewbread that is to be _____.
- 4 _____ is a principle of God's government.
- 6 Heartache and complications come when we try to force-find what for many is thought of as the missing _____ piece in their life.
- 7 Much of today's music incites the young to _____ God's commandments.
- 8 An anxious, troubled heart comes from a refusal to _____ completely to Christ.
- 9 The spirit of _____ labor for others brings depth, stability, and Christlike loveliness to the character, and peace and happiness to its possessor.
- 10 Many do not realize we need to ask Jesus to direct our taste in _____ to glorify Him in our life. 





What's Behind the Music

S. Gillis

As a child, I was taught that the modern music of today was of the devil. I thought my mother was becoming a fanatic. But as I left the world and drew closer to God, I better understood her warnings. My taste in music then began changing more and more to be in closer harmony with the character of a pure and holy God.

It was not until recently that God unveiled the real picture to me through research on what kind of music one should be listening to. He did this by leading me to a video that discloses the enemy's plan to use music to control the youth and thus turn them away from Christ.

It is shocking to realize how bad this diabolical plan really is! The music drives the young into breaking the commandments of God without shame and even can get them to actively serve Satan.

If you really listen to the words of today's popular music that so many young people crave, you can hear how it is actually telling them to disobey parents, teachers, and all authority. Is it any surprise that they are becoming more rebellious?

The Bible clearly states in 1 John 3:4 that sin (which one popular singer boasts as "the new thing") is transgression of the law. Another popular singer says plainly that it's okay to break the law. But Romans 6:12 says, "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof!"

In their music, most of today's artists are telling you to go against God because it is supposedly "cool." It's the "new thing" and it's okay to do your "own thing" by breaking the rules God has set. Remember in the Bible how Balaam corrupted Israel through dancing, drinking, adultery, and the worshipping of pagan gods? (Numbers 25:2, 3, 5; 31:16, 17.) It looks like plans have not changed, because today Satan is still trying even harder to corrupt God's people in the same ways as ever. He knows his time is short.

But it does not have to be this way with us! Let us take Jesus as our best friend and ask Him to direct our music taste to glorify Him in our life, researching with an open mind what is truth, even if it hurts. God bless! 🎧

A "School Days" Experience

Nikita Espinal

There are many stories about Ellen G. White's childhood school days. Here is one. In those days at her school, they had long desks that two or three students would share. One day the girl that was sitting next to Ellen got the teacher angry. Without thinking, the teacher grabbed a ruler lying near by and hurled it at her. But instead of hitting his target, he accidentally aimed it at Ellen and the ruler hit her instead, giving her a deep cut. What can we learn from the way she ended up responding? Here is how she tells the story:

"I have sat in school with a pupil sitting by my side, when the master sent a ruler to hit that student upon the head, but it hit me, and gave me a wonderful wound. I rose from my seat and left the room. When I left the schoolhouse and was on the way home, he ran after me and said, 'Ellen, I made a mistake; won't you forgive me?'

"Said I, 'Certainly I will, but where is the mistake?'

"'I did not mean to hit you.'

"'But,' said I, 'it is a mistake that you should hit anybody. I would just as soon have this gash in my forehead as to have another injured.'"—

Manuscript Releases, vol. 9, p. 57. 