

WHAT IS RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH?

I would like to share our experience as the church struggled to come to a true understanding of salvation. When we returned from our mission service in India in 1970, my husband was invited to join with the editors of the Review and Herald church paper, and so we were very aware of what was happening in the church.

Desmond Ford, a teacher at Avondale College in Australia, had started teaching the plan of salvation in a way that others in Australia could not agree with. So, he was sent to Pacific Union College, where, with other theologians, the problem might be settled. But it became a bigger problem. At least one of the teachers at PUC did not agree with him.

Then he was sent to Andrews University, but even there it could not be resolved. So the church had a meeting in California with a group of theologians and then another one in Takoma Park, where my husband and I were invited to attend. I was invited because Elder N.C. Wilson knew I had been deeply studying the plan of salvation. There were only 2 women there.

The discussion went on for three days. At one point Dr. Ford stood up and read from 1SM 211.

“The law of God, as presented in the Scriptures, is broad in its requirements. Every principle is holy, just, and good. The law lays men under obligation to God; it reaches to the thoughts and feelings; and it will produce conviction of sin in everyone who is sensible of having transgressed its requirements. If the law extended to the outward conduct only, men would not be guilty in their wrong thoughts, desires, and designs. But the law requires that the soul itself be pure and the mind holy, that the thoughts and feelings may be in accordance with the standard of love and righteousness.” 1SM 211

Then he said, “Do you see what the law requires? There is not one of you can obey the law.” and he sat down.

I looked around at all those theologians, to see if someone would defend God. None. Then I raised my hand and asked to speak. I had been impressed to bring that book with me to the meeting and I said I would like to read the complete statement.

“The law of God, as presented in the Scriptures, is broad in its requirements. Every principle is holy, just, and good. The law lays men under obligation to God; it reaches to the **thoughts and feelings**; and it will produce conviction of sin in everyone who is sensible of having transgressed its requirements. If the law extended to the outward conduct only, men would not be guilty in their **wrong thoughts, desires, and designs**. But the law requires that the **soul itself be pure and the mind holy**, that the **thoughts and feelings may be in accordance with the standard of love and righteousness**.

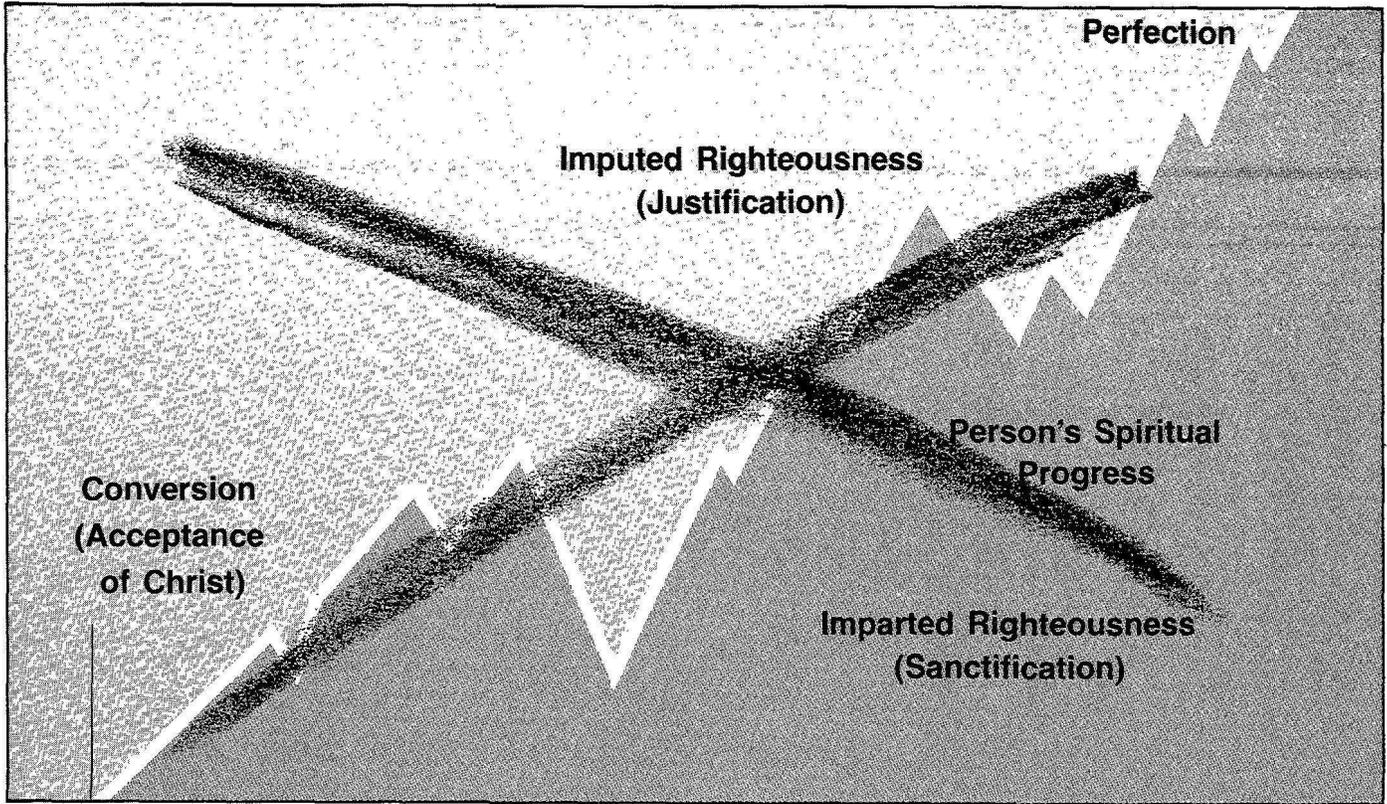
In His teachings, Christ showed how far-reaching are the principles of the law spoken from Sinai. He made a living application of that law whose principles remain forever the great standard of righteousness—the standard by which all shall be judged in that great day when the judgment shall sit, and the books shall be opened. He came to fulfill all righteousness, and, as the head of humanity, to show man that he can do the same work, meeting every specification of the requirements of God. Through the measure of His grace furnished to the human agent, not one need miss heaven. **Perfection of character** is attainable by everyone who strives for it. This is made the very foundation of the **new covenant** of the gospel. **The law of Jehovah is the tree; the gospel is the fragrant blossoms and fruit which it bears.”** 1SM 211

Then several ministers also tried to defend God and His Law which He expects us to obey, but there was no clear conclusion.

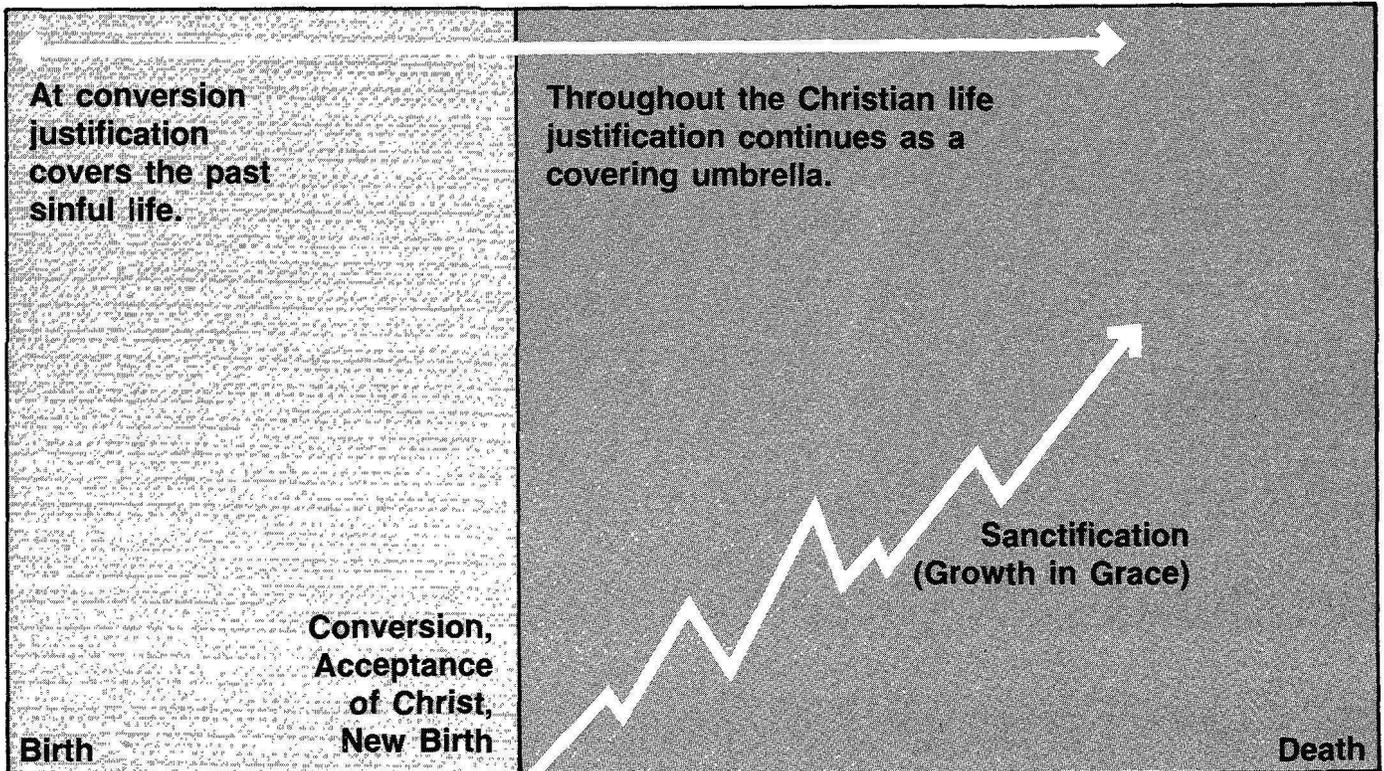
Since Dr. Ford thought he had won, he then said he did not believe in the Investigative Judgment. The church leaders then had to have another meeting, and it was at **that time** he lost his ministerial credentials. But his false teaching of salvation remains.

I went to his meeting which he had with many of his followers soon after. He told them to stay in the church and rescue their brethren from the Adventist cult.

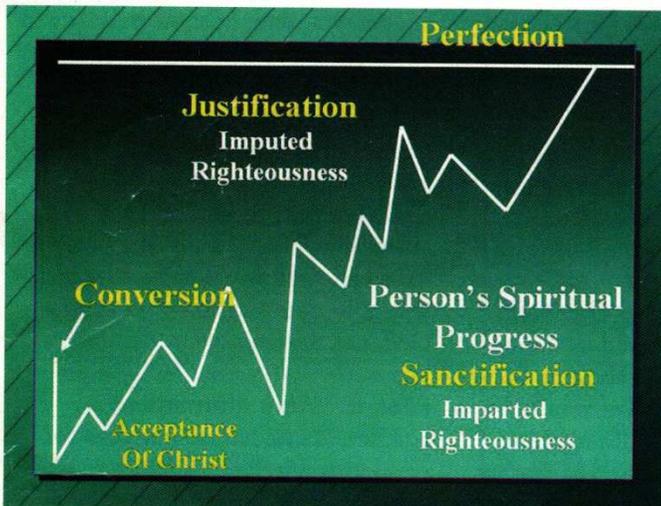
In the following diagrams which appeared in Ministry magazine in 1978, you can see some of the discussion of the **misunderstandings of the plan of salvation**.



Great care must be used in trying to illustrate the truths of salvation. The diagram above (which appeared in the August *MINISTRY*) presents the single truth that the Christian life is a matter of continuing progress; however, it implies that less justification is needed the more one progresses—a definite error. The diagram below, although it presents a more accurate picture of the salvation process by depicting justification as a continuous covering over the life, cannot be made to conform in every detail to what really takes place in the life of one who accepts Christ.



A similar diagram appeared in the Adventist Review, our church paper, in 2006, so the error continues.



Is justification a covering for sin as long as we are trying to obey the law of God?

“But while God can be just, and yet justify the sinner through the merits of Christ, no man can cover his soul with the garments of Christ’s righteousness while practicing known sins or neglecting known duties. God requires the entire surrender of the heart, before justification can take place; and in order for man to retain justification, there must be continual obedience, through active, living faith that works by love and purifies the soul.

In order for man to be justified by faith, faith must reach a point where it will control the affections and impulses of the heart; and it is by obedience that faith itself is made perfect.” 1SM 366

When Adam and Eve sinned, what happened to their covering of light? It was gone and they were naked. And what did Adam have to do? He had to bring a lamb and slay it.

“To Adam, the offering of the first sacrifice was a most painful ceremony. His hand must be raised to take life, which only God could give. It was the first time he had ever witnessed death, and he knew that had he been obedient to God, there would have been no death of man or beast. As he slew the innocent victim, he trembled at the thought that his sin must shed the blood of the spotless Lamb of God. This scene gave him a deeper and more vivid sense of the greatness of his transgression, which nothing but the death of God’s dear Son could expiate. And he marveled at the infinite goodness that would give such a ransom to save the guilty. A star of hope illumined the dark and terrible future and relieved it of its utter desolation.” PP 68

“Our condition through sin is unnatural, and the power that restores us must be supernatural, else it has no value. There is but one power that can break the hold of evil from the hearts of men, and that is the power of God in Jesus Christ. **Only through the blood of the Crucified One is there cleansing from sin.** His grace alone can enable us to resist and subdue the tendencies of our fallen nature.” MH 428

He Will Forgive, Cleanse, Regenerate and Transform You

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. The blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.” 1 John 1:9, 7

“There is only **one provision** made for the transgressor. Faithful repentance and confession of sin, and faith in the cleansing blood of Christ, will bring forgiveness, and pardon will be written against his name.” 2T 292

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” Acts 4:12

“The precious blood of Jesus is the fountain prepared to cleanse the soul from the defilement of sin.” 4T 625

“Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.” Hebrews 9:22

“When the soldier pierced the side of Jesus as He hung upon the cross, there came out two distinct streams, one of blood, the other of water. The blood was to wash away the sins of those who should believe in His name, and the water was to represent that living water which is obtained from Jesus to give life to the believer.” EW 209

“Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.” Ephesians 5:25-27

“All the **washings and sprinklings** enjoined in the ceremonial law were lessons in parables, teaching the necessity of a work of regeneration in the **inward heart** for the purification of the soul dead in trespasses and sins, and also the necessity of the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit.” 4BC 1176

“**Forgiveness** has a broader meaning than many suppose. . . . God’s forgiveness is not merely a judicial act by which He sets us free from condemnation. It is not only forgiveness for sin but reclaiming from sin. **It is the outflow of redeeming love that transforms the heart.** David had the true conception of forgiveness when he prayed, “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.” Psalm 51:10.” MB 114

“**Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.**” John 3:5-7

“**Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; that being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a faithful saying.**” Titus 3:5-8

“None but God can subdue the pride of man’s heart. We cannot save ourselves. **We cannot regenerate ourselves.** . . . **What is justification by faith?** It is the work of God in laying the glory of man in the dust and doing for man that which it is not in his power to do for himself.” TM 456

“There is no other way for man’s salvation. “Without me,” says Christ, “ye can do nothing” (John 15:5). Through Christ, and Christ alone, the springs of life can vitalize man’s nature, transform his tastes, and set his affections flowing toward heaven. Through the union of the divine with the human nature Christ could enlighten the understanding and **infuse** His life-giving properties through the soul dead in trespasses and sins.” 1SM 341

“Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. **And I will put my spirit within you,** and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.” Ezekiel 36:25-27

“**When the Spirit of God takes possession of the heart, it transforms the life. Sinful thoughts are put away, evil deeds are renounced; love, humility, and peace take the place of anger, envy, and strife. Joy takes the place of sadness, and the countenance reflects the light of heaven. No one sees the hand that lifts the burden, or beholds the light descend from the courts above. The blessing comes when by faith the soul surrenders itself to God. Then that power which no human eye can see creates a new being in the image of God.**

“It is impossible for finite minds to comprehend the work of redemption. Its mystery exceeds human knowledge; yet he who passes from death to life realizes that it is a divine reality. The beginning of redemption we may know here through a **personal experience.** Its results reach through the eternal ages.” DA 173

“**The grace of Christ purifies while it pardons, and fits men for a holy heaven.**” TMK 336

“The same power that turned the water to wine at the marriage feast of Cana is able to eradicate all evil from our nature, and to make us **partakers of the divine nature.** The very same power that made the leper clean can make the heart pure, fit for the society of God, of angels, and of the redeemed host.” ST 8-10-1891

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth.” Romans 1:16

“**According to your faith be it unto you.**” Matthew 9:29

“Faith is simple in its operation and powerful in its results. Many professed Christians, who have a knowledge of the sacred Word, and believe its truth, **fail in the childlike trust that is essential to the religion of Jesus. They do not reach out with that peculiar touch that brings the virtue of healing to the soul.**” 6BC 1074

“The **new birth** is a rare experience in this age of the world. This is the reason why there are so many perplexities in the churches. Many, so many, who assume the name of Christ are **unsanctified and unholy.** They have been baptized, but they were buried alive. **Self did not die,** and therefore they did not rise to newness of life in Christ.” 6BC 1075

“The warfare against self is the greatest battle that was ever fought. The yielding of self, surrendering all to the will of God, requires a struggle; but **the soul must submit to God** before it can be renewed in holiness.” SC 43

“As the sinner, drawn by the power of Christ, approaches the uplifted cross, and prostrates himself before it, there is a **new creation**. A new heart is given him. He becomes a new creature in Christ Jesus. Holiness finds that it has nothing more to require. God Himself is “the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.” Romans 3:26.” COL 163

“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.” 2 Corinthians 5:21

“In the new birth the heart is brought into harmony with God, as it is brought into accord with His law. When this mighty change has taken place in the sinner, he has passed from death unto life, from sin unto holiness, from transgression and rebellion to obedience and loyalty. The old life of alienation from God has ended; the new life of reconciliation, of faith and love, has begun. **Then “the righteousness of the law” will “be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” Romans 8:4.** And the language of the soul will be: “O how I love Thy law! it is my meditation all the day.” Psalm 119:97.” GC 468

“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. Through the power of Christ, men and women have broken the chains of sinful habit. They have renounced selfishness. The profane have become reverent, the drunken sober, the profligate pure. Souls that have borne the likeness of Satan have become transformed into the image of God. **This change is in itself the miracle of miracles. A change wrought by the Word, it is one of the deepest mysteries of the Word. We cannot understand it; we can only believe, as declared by the Scriptures, it is “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” AA 476**

He Will Abide In You

“When the sinner accepts Christ and lives in Him, Jesus takes his sins and weaknesses and then **grafts** the repentant soul into Himself, so that he sustains the relation to Christ that the branch does to the vine. We have nothing, we are nothing, unless we receive virtue from Jesus Christ.” TMK 109

“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.” John 15:5

“For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, . . . that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, . . . might be filled with all the fulness of God.” Ephesians 3:14-19

“Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: to whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Colossians 1:26, 27

“Christ abiding in the soul exerts a transforming power, and the outward aspect bears witness to the peace and joy that reign within. We drink in the love of Christ, as the branch draws nourishment from the vine. If we are grafted in Christ, if fiber by fiber we have been united with the Living Vine, we shall give evidence of the fact by bearing rich clusters of living fruit.” ISM 337



“Christ’s connection with his believing people is illustrated by the parable of the vine and its branches as by no other. We should study the lesson, that we may know what the parent stock is to the branch, and in what light the Lord regards those who believe and abide in Christ. Let all contemplate the completeness it is their privilege to have, and ask themselves the question, Is my will merged in Christ’s will? Is the fulness and richness of the Living Vine—his goodness, his mercy, his compassion and love—seen in my life and character?” RH 9-18-1900

“If Christ is in you, . . . your spirits are alive because of righteousness.” Romans 8:10

“Inward grace will be revealed in the outward actions.” 5T 568

“Righteousness within is testified to by righteousness without. He who is righteous within is not hard-hearted and unsympathetic, but day by day he grows into the image of Christ, going on from strength to strength. He who is being

sanctified by the truth will be self-controlled and will follow in the footsteps of Christ until grace is lost in glory. The righteousness by which we are justified is **imputed**; the righteousness by which we are sanctified is **imparted**. The first is our **title to heaven**, the second is our **fitness for heaven**.” MYP 35

“Through faith in his name, He **imputes** unto us His righteousness, and **it becomes a living principle in our life**.” RH 7-12-1892

“His **imputed grace and power** He gives to all who receive Him by faith.” 7BC 929

“By receiving His **imputed righteousness**, through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, we become like Him.” 6BC 1098

“When a soul receives Christ, he receives power to live the life of Christ.” COL 314

“Gospel religion is Christ in the life—a living, active principle. It is the grace of Christ revealed in character and wrought out in good works.” COL 384

“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, **according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory**.” Ephesians 3:20, 21

“It is through the truth, by the power of the Holy Spirit, that we are to be sanctified—transformed into the likeness of Christ. And in order for this change to be wrought in us, **there must be an unconditional, wholehearted acceptance of the truth, an unreserved surrender of the soul to its transforming power**.” OHC 212

“His **divine power** hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” 2 Peter 1:2-4

“Put your whole being into the Lord’s hands, soul, body, and spirit, and resolve to be His loving, consecrated agency, moved by His will, controlled by His mind, infused by His Spirit.” SD 105

“**Satan** had claimed that it was impossible for man to obey God’s commandments; and in our own strength it is true that we cannot obey them. But Christ came in the form of humanity, and by His perfect obedience He proved that humanity and divinity **combined** can obey every one of God’s precepts.

“As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.” John 1:12. This power is not in the human agent. **It is the power of God**. When a soul receives Christ, he receives power to live the life of Christ.” COL 314

“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” Philippians 4:13

“The Lord Jesus loves His people, and when they put their trust in Him, depending wholly upon Him, He strengthens them. **He will live through them, giving them the inspiration of His sanctifying Spirit, imparting to the soul a vital transfusion of Himself**. He acts through their faculties and causes them to choose His will and to act out His character. With the apostle Paul they then may say, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but **Christ liveth in me**: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).” TMK 78

“True obedience is the outworking of a principle within.” COL 97

“When His words of instruction have been received, and have taken possession of us, Jesus is to us an abiding presence, controlling our thoughts and ideas and actions. . . The words of Christ are spirit and life. We cannot, then, center our thoughts upon self; it is no more we that live, **but Christ that liveth in us, and He is the hope of glory. Self is dead, but Christ is a living Saviour**.” TM 389

“**He is the source** of spiritual power implanted within us, and His influence will flow forth in words and actions, refreshing all within the sphere of our influence, begetting in them desires and aspirations for strength and purity, for holiness and peace, and for that joy which brings no sorrow with it. **This is the result of an indwelling Saviour**.” TM 390

“Even **the mystery** which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: to whom God would make known **what is the riches of the glory of this mystery** among the Gentiles; **which is Christ in you, the hope of glory**.” Colossians 1:26, 27

“Abide in Me, and I in you.” Abiding in Christ means a constant receiving of His Spirit, a life of unreserved surrender to His service. The channel of communication must be open continually between man and his God. As the vine branch constantly draws the sap from the living vine, so are we to cling to Jesus, and receive from Him by faith the strength and perfection of His own character.” DA 676

“What is sanctification? It is to give one’s self wholly and without reserve—soul, body, and spirit—to God; to deal justly; to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God; to know and to do the will of God without regard to self or self-interest; to be heavenly-minded, pure, unselfish, holy, and without spot or stain.

“It is through the truth, **by the power of the Holy Spirit**, that we are to be sanctified—transformed into the likeness of Christ. And in order for this change to be wrought in us, there must be an unconditional, wholehearted acceptance of the truth, **an unreserved surrender of the soul to its transforming power.**” OHC 212

The Scriptures teach us to seek for the sanctification to God of body, soul, and spirit. In this work we are to be laborers together with God. Much may be done to restore the moral image of God in man, to improve the physical, mental, and moral capabilities. Great changes can be made in the physical system by obeying the laws of God and bringing into the body nothing that defiles. **And while we cannot claim perfection of the flesh, we may have Christian perfection of the soul.** Through the sacrifice made in our behalf, sins may be perfectly forgiven. Our dependence is not in what man can do; it is in what God can do for man through Christ. **When we surrender ourselves wholly to God, and fully believe, the blood of Christ cleanses from all sin. The conscience can be freed from condemnation. Through faith in His blood, all may be made perfect in Christ Jesus.** Thank God that we are not dealing with impossibilities. 2SM 32

“At every stage of development our life may be perfect; yet if God’s purpose for us is fulfilled, there will be continual advancement. Sanctification is the work of a lifetime. As our opportunities multiply, our experience will enlarge, and our knowledge increase. We shall become strong to bear responsibility, and our maturity will be in proportion to our privileges.” COL 65

“Let a living faith run like threads of gold through the performance of even the smallest duties. Then all the daily work will promote Christian growth. There will be a continual looking unto Jesus. Love for Him will give vital force to everything that is undertaken. Thus through the right use of our talents, we may link ourselves by a golden chain to the higher world. This is true sanctification; for **sanctification consists in the cheerful performance of daily duties in perfect obedience to the will of God.**” COL 360

“Even your thoughts must be brought into subjection to the will of God and your feelings under the control of reason and religion. Your imagination was not given you to be allowed to run riot and have its own way without any effort at restraint or discipline. **If the thoughts are wrong the feelings will be wrong, and the thoughts and feelings combined make up the moral character.**” 5T 310

“**Moral perfection is required of all.** Never should we lower the standard of righteousness in order to accommodate inherited or cultivated tendencies to wrongdoing. We need to understand that **imperfection of character is sin.** All righteous attributes of character dwell in God as a perfect, harmonious whole, and everyone who receives Christ as a personal Saviour is privileged to possess these attributes.” COL 330

“It is the **spiritual and moral character** that is of value in the sight of Heaven, and that will survive the grave and be made glorious with immortality for the endless ages of eternity.” 1SM 259

“**A character formed according to the divine likeness is the only treasure that we can take from this world to the next.** Those who are under the instruction of Christ in this world will take every divine attainment with them to the heavenly mansions. And in heaven we are continually to improve. How important, then, is the development of character in this life.” COL 332

“**Many have an idea that they must do some part of the work alone.** They have trusted in Christ for the forgiveness of sin, but now they seek by their own efforts to live aright. But every such effort must fail. Jesus says, “Without Me ye can do nothing.” **Our growth in grace, our joy, our usefulness,—all depend upon our union with Christ.** It is by communion with Him, daily, hourly,—**by abiding in Him**,—that we are to grow in grace. He is not only the Author, but the Finisher of our faith. It is Christ first and last and always. He is to be with us, not only at the beginning and the end of our course, **but at every step of the way.**” SC 69

“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. **I am the vine, ye are the branches:** He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. . . If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. **Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit.”** John 15:4-8

“The life of Christ **in you** produces the same fruits as in Him. Living in Christ, adhering to Christ, supported by Christ, drawing nourishment from Christ, you bear fruit after the similitude of Christ.” DA 677

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.” Galatians 5:22-26

“Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.” 1 Corinthians 13:1-8

“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.” 1 John 4:7, 8

“Are you in a position where you do not possess these graces? Just as soon as anyone crosses you, or offends you, does there arise in your heart a feeling of bitterness, a spirit of rebellion? If this is the spirit you have, bear in mind that you have not the spirit of Christ. **It is another spirit.”** RH 12-21-1886

“Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.” 1 John 4:13

“The Spirit of Christ will be revealed in all who are born of God. **Strife and contention** cannot arise among those who are controlled by His Spirit.” 5T 227

“Love worketh no ill to his neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.” Romans 13:10

“Examine yourselves, to see whether you are holding to your faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you?- unless indeed you fail to meet the test!” 2 Corinthians 13:5

“But you will say, **How am I to know that Christ is in my heart?** If, when you are criticized or corrected in your way, and things do not go just as you think they ought to go,—**if then** you let your passion arise instead of bearing the correction and being patient and kind, **Christ is not abiding in the heart.”** RH 7-12-1887

“Ye shall know them by their fruits.” Matthew 7:16

“When we live by faith on the Son of God, the fruits of the Spirit will be seen in our lives, not one will be missing.” DA 676

“When we **give way to impatience**, we drive the Spirit of God out of the heart and give place to the attributes of Satan.” 2SM 235

“To whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey.” (Romans 6:16) If we indulge anger, lust, covetousness, hatred, selfishness, or any other sin, we become servants of sin. **“No man can serve two masters.”** If we serve sin, we cannot serve Christ.” MYP 114

“Christ does not say that man will not or shall not serve two masters, but that he cannot.” MB 93

“We cannot be fretful and impatient and still be Christians, for a fretful and impatient spirit is not the Spirit of Christ.” RH 8-14-1888

“Impatience brings the enemy of God and man into your family and drives out the angels of God. If you are abiding in Christ, and Christ in you, you cannot speak angry words.” HP 99

“When Christ dwells in the heart, His presence is apparent. Good and pleasant words and actions reveal the Spirit of Christ. Sweetness of temper is manifested. There is no angry passion, no obstinacy, no evil-surmising. There is no hatred in the heart, . . . When the truth controls the life, there is purity and freedom from sin.” TDG 357

“For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth.” Ephesians 5:9

“And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; that ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; **being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.”** Philippians 1:9-11

“But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and **lie not** against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.” James 3:14-18

“**What is lying against the truth?** It is claiming to believe the truth while the spirit, the words, the deportment, represent not Christ but Satan. To surmise evil, to be impatient and unforgiving, is lying against the truth, but love, patience, and long forbearance are in accordance with the principles of truth. Truth is ever pure, ever kind, breathing a heavenly fragrance unmingled with selfishness.” TMK 185

“Selfishness can no more live in the heart that is exercising faith in Christ than light and darkness can exist together.” 5T 48

“This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that **God is light**, and in him is no darkness at all. **If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie**, and do not the truth: but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” 1 John 1:5-7

“Have you fallen into sin? Then without delay seek God for mercy and pardon. . . **Mercy is still extended to the sinner.** The Lord is calling to us in all our wanderings: “Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings.” The blessing of God may be ours if we will heed the pleading voice of His Spirit. “Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him.” 5T 177

“God does not give us up because of our sins. We may make mistakes, and grieve His Spirit; but when we repent, and come to Him with contrite hearts, He will not turn us away. There are hindrances to be removed. Wrong feelings have been cherished, and there have been pride, self-sufficiency, impatience, and murmurings. All these separate us from God. Sins must be confessed; there must be a deeper work of grace in the heart.” 1SM 350

“**Only as they were willing to be purged from sin could they enter into fellowship with Him. Only the pure in heart could abide in His presence.**” DA 108

“Jesus stands in the holy of holies, now to appear in the presence of God for us. There He ceases not to present His people moment by moment, complete in Himself. But because we are thus represented before the Father, we are not to imagine that we are to presume upon His mercy and become careless, indifferent, and self-indulgent. **Christ is not the minister of sin.** We are complete in Him, accepted in the Beloved, **only as we abide in Him by faith.**” FW 107

“No human being is righteous any longer than he has faith in God and maintains a vital connection with Him.” TM 367

“The helpless sinner must cling to Christ as his only hope. If he lets go his hold for a moment, he imperils his own soul and the souls of others. Only in the exercise of living faith are we safe. But the commission of any known sin, the neglect of known duties, at home or abroad, will destroy faith, and disconnect the soul from God.” FLB 138

“And now, little children, **abide in him;** that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that everyone that doeth righteousness is born of him.” 1 John 2:28, 29

“**The righteousness of Christ is not a cloak to cover unconfessed and unforsaken sin; it is a principle of life that transforms the character and controls the conduct. Holiness is wholeness for God; it is the entire surrender of heart and life to the indwelling of the principles of heaven.**” DA 555

“When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; **we live His life.** This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness.” COL 312

“**All must obtain a living experience for themselves;** they must have Christ enshrined in the heart, his Spirit controlling the affections, or their profession of faith is of no value, and their condition will be even worse than if they had never heard the truth.” 5T 619

“The gospel is to be presented, not as a lifeless theory, but as a living force to change the life. God desires that the receivers of His grace shall be witnesses to its power.” DA 826

“For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, . . . that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, . . . might be filled with all the fullness of God.” Ephesians 3:14-19

“True obedience is the outworking of a principle within.” COL 97

“God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.” Romans 6:17-19

“As the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.” Ephesians 6:6

“All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. And **if we consent**, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses. The will, refined and sanctified, will find its highest delight in doing His service. When we know God as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience. Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to us. As Christ lived the law in humanity, so we may do if we will take hold of the Strong for strength.” DA 668

“Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, . . . according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith.” Romans 16:25, 26

“If we would have the spirit and power of the third angel’s message, we must present the law and the gospel together, for they go hand in hand. As a power from beneath is stirring up the children of disobedience to make void the law of God, and to trample upon the truth that Christ is our righteousness, a power from above is moving upon the hearts of those who are loyal, **to exalt the law**, and to **lift up** Jesus as a complete Saviour. Unless divine power is brought into the experience of the people of God, false theories and ideas will take minds captive, Christ and His righteousness will be dropped out of the experience of many, and their faith will be without power or life.” GW 161

“Keep yourselves in the love of God; wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.” Jude 21

“Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. Matthew 26:41

“But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.” Romans 13:14

“Each day he must renew his consecration, each day do battle with evil. Old habits, hereditary tendencies to wrong, will strive for the mastery, and against these he is to be ever on guard, striving in Christ’s strength for victory.” AA 477

“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.” 1 Peter 2:21-24

“Christ’s life represents a perfect manhood. Just that which you may be, He was in human nature. He took our infirmities. He was not only made flesh, but He was made in the likeness of sinful flesh.” 5BC 1124

“Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” Romans 8:12-14

“Christ’s humanity was united with divinity; He was fitted for the conflict by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. And He came to make us partakers of the divine nature. So long as we are united to Him by faith, sin has no more dominion over us. God reaches for the hand of faith in us to direct it to lay fast hold upon the divinity of Christ, that we may attain to perfection of character.” DA 123

“Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession, for we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:14-16

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” 1 Corinthians 10:13

“We are to live only one day at a time. We do not have to do the work of a lifetime in a few hours. We need not look into the future with anxiety; for God has made it possible for us to be overcomers every day.” FLB 249

“By the exercise of living faith today, we are to conquer the enemy. We must today seek God and be determined that we will not rest satisfied without His presence. We should watch and work and pray as though this were the last day that would be granted us.” FLB 249

“So long as we are in the world, we shall meet with adverse influences. There will be provocations to test the temper; and it is by meeting these in a right spirit that the Christian graces are developed. If Christ dwells in us, we shall be patient, kind, and forbearing, cheerful amid frets and irritations. Day by day and year by year we shall conquer self and grow into a noble heroism. This is our allotted task; but it cannot be accomplished without help from Jesus, resolute decision, unwavering purpose, continual watchfulness, and unceasing prayer. Each one has a personal battle to fight. Not even God can make our characters noble or our lives useful unless we become co-workers with Him. Those who decline the struggle lose the strength and joy of victory.” MH 487

“Temptations will pour in upon us, for by them we are to be tried during our probation upon earth. This is the proving of God, a revelation of our own hearts. There is no sin in having temptations; but sin comes in when temptation is yielded to.” 4T 357

“Paul admonishes believers: “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.” Philippians 2:12, 13. 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. GC 469

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.” James 4:7, 8

“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.” Jude 24

“If you are right with God today, you are ready if Christ should come today. What we need is Christ formed within, the hope of glory.” HP 227

“The life of God in the soul is man’s only hope.” MH 115

“Christ became one flesh with us, in order that we might become one spirit with Him. It is by virtue of this union that we are to come forth from the grave,—not merely as a manifestation of the power of Christ, but because, through faith, His life has become ours. Those who see Christ in His true character, and receive Him into the heart, have everlasting life. It is through the Spirit that Christ dwells in us; and the Spirit of God, received into the heart by faith, is the beginning of the life eternal.” DA 388

“Be diligent to be found of him in peace, without spot and blameless.” 2 Peter 3:14

“It is only the blessed and holy who will be ready for the first resurrection; for when Christ comes, He will not change the character. ST 2-9-1891

Compiled by Margaret Davis
<http://www.whatshallido.org/>

Reaction from Roy E. Gane

I am deeply grateful to Margaret Davis for sharing this document with me. It is a very impressive, compelling, and useful account and compilation of inspired testimony regarding how we are saved. I have been profoundly blessed by reading it. I know that I will refer to this in the future. I wish it could be published where it could reach all SDAs. I have always believed what this compilation demonstrates, and my father (Erwin R. Gane) believed it too. But so many in the church do not believe in the valid, balanced, biblical teaching of perfection, which is necessary for individual salvation and for those who are alive at the close of probation. They do not believe that God is really able to keep them from

stumbling (against Jude 24) and think that full obedience to God's law is inaccessible for them (against Deut 30:11-14). They do not understand the power and significance of the Holy Spirit pouring love, the basis of God's law and the essence of His moral character, into our hearts when we receive the gift of the Spirit from Christ by faith (Rom 5:5). There has been a massive over-reaction against M. L. Andreasen's over-emphasis on human performance in achieving victory over sin. Desmond Ford's teaching, including his mantras that "I go on sinning a thousand times a day until Jesus comes" and "our works have nothing to do with our salvation" (misleading because we are not saved by works, but we are not saved without works) continues to lull many into false security.

This compilation demonstrates the heart not only of justification and sanctification, but also of the message to Laodicea and the third angel's message, which are to transform the church and finish the Gospel work so that Christ will come. Our church is in the depths of Laodicea now, so much so that we are losing many of our young people to a Lost Generation Theology. Our denomination is distracted from its core mission by splits in the church, for example, over the non-essential issue of woman's ordination when there is no sacramental "ordination" (as in Exod 29 and Lev 8, for an elite human mediatorial priesthood typifying the priesthood of Christ) as such in the New Testament for Christians; there is only the equivalent of Old Testament commissioning (Num 27:18-23). Male-only lifetime ordination to elevate the clergy above the laity is Catholic in origin, diverting attention from the priesthood of Christ, and it eviscerates the full engagement of the priesthood of all believers (1 Pet 2:9), without which the Gospel work will not be finished. This unfortunate and unnecessary split and other kinds of strife must have Satan and his comrades celebrating when these are the very kinds of divisive sins that have kept us from going Home "ere this," as Ellen White said several times during her lifetime. The time has come for massive reform and revival through the Spirit, and I am praying for that because only God can move the church in the way that it should be moved. Biblical prophecy (including Dan 11) is almost fulfilled (as Ellen White said regarding Dan 11 in *9T*, p. 14) and the time is desperately short as the world crumbles around us while God's people are asleep. The true message must go out with the power of God.

– Roy E. Gane, Ph.D.

Prof. of Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near Eastern Languages

Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary
Andrews University
Berrien Springs, MI 49104-1502