



AN APPEAL

From The 1939 Autumn Council *

As representatives of this Second Advent Movement assembled in Autumn Council, we express our profound conviction that we have now reached a most critical period in human history. The closing scenes of the last days so clearly portrayed in the prophetic word are now being enacted before our eyes.

"Never since the creation of the world were such important interests at stake as now depend upon the action of men who believe and are giving the last message of warning to the world."—*"Life Sketches," p. 246.*

"To sleep now is a fearful crime. The Lord is coming. We are appointed to prepare the way for His coming by acting our part to prepare a people to stand in that great day. Is there one Christian whose pulse does not beat with quickened action as he anticipates the great events opening before us? We hear the footsteps of an approaching God to punish the world for their iniquity."—*"Special Testimonies for Ministerial Workers," No. 11, p. 29.*

For years the merciful hand of our Heavenly Father has held in check the winds of strife. Thus has been accorded us a time of comparative peace in which to preach the everlasting gospel message. Have these precious moments, however, been employed in kindling our tapers from the divine altar? Are our lamps filled with the golden oil, and are they sending forth strong, pure, clear rays of heavenly light upon the pathway of sinners?

Believing with all our hearts that "the great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly," and that today we stand on the verge of eternity and that as watchmen upon the

walls of Zion it is our solemn duty to be always ready, with our lamps trimmed and burning, we earnestly dedicate ourselves, body, soul and spirit to the high and holy work of making ready a people prepared for the Lord.

Inasmuch as it God's desire "to perfect His household through the perfection of His ministers" (*"Testimonies," Vol. 9, p. 151*),

WE CALL UPON OUR BRETHREN IN THE MINISTRY to join in whole-hearted consecration to God, pledging themselves anew to a closer fellowship with the Lord.

WE CALL UPON OUR BELIEVERS everywhere to unite with our ministry in this holy covenant; to shun all worldliness, even the very appearance of evil, and to yield themselves wholly and unreservedly to God.

WE APPEAL TO THE PARENTS in our churches to give prayerful thought and earnest effort to the spiritual interests of their children. When in that great day the question is put to parents, "Where is the flock that was given the, thy beautiful flock?" what will be the response? Let all redouble their efforts in their behalf, resting neither day nor night, wrestling with God in prayer, ever remembering the precious promise of the Lord, "Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children." Isa. 49:25.

WE APPEAL TO OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH to give anew their hearts and to dedicate all their powers to Jesus their Saviour. We entreat them to think soberly and seriously of the truth in the following inspired statement:

"The perils of the last days are upon us, and a trial is before the young which they have not anticipated. They are to be brought into most distressing perplexity. The genuineness of their faith will be proved."—*"Testimonies," Vol. 1, p. 269.*

We know that the time has come for a mighty revelation of God's power through His commandment-keeping people.

"Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth, there will be among the people of the Lord, such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children."—*"Great Controversy," p. 464.*

"Christ has made provision that His church shall be a transformed body, illumined with the light of heaven, possessing the glory of Immanuel. It is His purpose that every Christian shall be surrounded with a spiritual atmosphere of light and peace."—*"Testimonies," Vol. 8, p. 19.*

Finally, in this last hour, before the Judge of all the earth shall arise and pronounce the sentence that will seal the eternal destiny of every soul, we appeal to all our fellow workers, to our believers, also to our children and youth, to unite in crowning Jesus Lord of all; thus shall we all be ready to welcome our Lord and Master at His glorious appearing.

*The above appeal was made at the Autumn Council of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in its session held in Lincoln, Nebraska, U. S. A., October 11-16, 1939.

WEEK OF PRAYER READINGS FOR THE CHILDREN

General Suggestions to Leaders

The basic theme running through most of these lessons has to do with the problem of sin and how to meet it. Surely no problem deserves greater emphasis, or should be of greater concern just now to both young and old. Closely associated with this theme is its parallel—the righteousness of Jesus. What a high privilege for any teacher or leader to bring to the spiritual comprehension of the children themes so vital, and yet so simple.

Since these lessons are to be given to children in all grades, it is necessary that they be adapted accordingly. In some instances the phraseology may be too difficult for the six-year old, or too simple for the twelve-year old.

These lessons are not designed to be read to the children. It is hoped that the teacher will find in them helpful suggestions, but most of all is it hoped that he will earnestly seek from God the spiritual illumination the children of his group particularly need.

The following general suggestions may prove helpful:

1. Make the Week of Prayer truly a season of prayer with the children. At these prayer seasons lead the children to pray earnestly for victory over every sin.

2. Let every leader acquaint himself with the heart needs of the children. Do not neglect the personal interview.

3. Select your songs carefully after

having prepared your study for the day.

4. It is only as the hearer gives expression to religious instruction that it becomes a part of him. As a means of self expression, give the children an opportunity to speak a little word of testimony—or to participate in sentence prayers, or just to stand, or to raise hands, or to bow heads in silent prayer. It matters not how simple the expression may be, it is very important in giving the children an opportunity to respond to the pleadings of the Holy Spirit.

5. In the first meeting be sure to tell the children about the annual offering which will be taken up at the last meeting. Lead the children to determine on a definite amount to work for, suggesting ways and means of earning this amount. It would be well to remind the children at each meeting about this offering and make efforts to earn their specified amounts, a part of your prayers from meeting to meeting.

Lesson I—For Sabbath, December 9

CHRIST OUR HELPER

Suppose, boys and girls, you were traveling along a path that lay very close to a deep wide pit, and suppose you were in danger any moment of slipping off into this pit. How thankful you would be if someone would offer you a strong hand to hold you up and keep you from slipping. The pathway of life which we are traveling is just such a path. Satan's cruel temptations make it unsafe, and we are in danger every day of slipping into the pit of sin. Jesus sees the danger we are in. In pity He reaches out His strong hand to help us. Listen to His loving offer of help in Isaiah 41:10: "I will uphold thee." This is Jesus' way of saying, "I will hold you up, and keep you from slipping into the pit of sin."

With His Strong Right Hand

Can it be that Jesus' hand is able to hold us up and keep us from falling? Yes, it can be, for Jesus' upholding hand is strong. He calls it "the right hand" of His "righteousness." He never did one sinful thing during His whole life on this earth. Day by day He met temptations, even greater ones than you and I meet, but without falling. Jesus is really saying to us: "Be-

cause I was upheld against temptation while in the world, you may know that I am strong to uphold you."

Jesus Will Strengthen Us

Perhaps you would like to know what it means to be upheld by the right hand of Jesus' righteousness. This question is answered for us in this same text. Says Jesus: "I will strengthen thee." This is His way of saying, "I will uphold you by making you strong with My strength." The strength of Jesus—think what this means—His strength upholds great worlds in space, and this is the strength He offers to you and to me to uphold us in the pathway of life. Yes, His strength becomes ours if we are willing to receive it. We are all saying in our hearts today, "Dear Jesus, uphold me by making me strong with Thy strength."

Jesus Will Lift Us When We Fall

But suppose some day we forget and do not take the strong hand Jesus offers us, what then? Jesus looks down upon us in sadness, but He is still our Helper. David said in Psalm 40:2: The Lord "brought me up also out of an horrible pit." Yes, the same hand that could have kept us from falling,

is reaching out also to lift us up and bring us out of the pit into which we have fallen. How does Jesus do this for us? By forgiveness of sin. It is forgiveness that lifts us up out of the pit of sin. I John 1:9 says: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins." And this is not all. We could not fall into a pit and stay clean, could we? Neither can we sin and be clean. Sin makes us very unclean in the sight of God. But Jesus says: "I will wash you and ye shall be clean." The last part of I John 1:9 says: "And to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." He lifts us up out of the pit, and then washes off all of the stains of sin.

Jesus Is Our Helper In Every Time of Need

What a wonderful Helper is Jesus. No matter what our trouble may be, Jesus can always do the thing that will help us most. He loves to have us keep our hand in His all the time, and then when trouble comes, when sorrow comes, when sickness comes, when danger of any kind comes, He can draw us very near and give us the help we need. Boys and girls, we are living now in a time that is full of trouble, a time, too, that will grow worse and worse, for the end is very, very near. But with our hand in the hand of Jesus we have nothing to fear, for as the dan-

ger grows greater and greater He will draw us closer and closer to Himself.

Dear boys and girls, at the very beginning of this Week of Prayer, Jesus is saying to each one of us, "This is

the help that I offer you, will you accept it?" May every boy and girl here say with great earnestness of heart—"Yes, Lord Jesus, be Thou *my Helper* and my Guide."

good students in school if we have this habit.

Many other things will come to us for our decision from day to day. What will we do about them?

Yes; worldly ways may seem all right, for "there is a way that *seemeth* right," but God says in the last part of this same verse, "but the end thereof are the ways of death." Can it be that we are choosing to follow in the worldly way? Lamentations 3:40 says, "Let us search and try our ways." This means let us ask ourselves seriously the questions, "Which way am I choosing? Am I choosing Jesus, the way of Life?" or "Am I walking in the worldly path?"

I Must Choose Jesus

Boys and girls, we must make a choice, a very important one, much more important than the little choices we make when our friends say to us, "Take your choice." It is God speaking to us this time saying, "Take your choice." There are two offers for us to choose from. God has made one offer, and Satan the other. God offers us Jesus, and Satan offers the world. To be worldly, then, is to be like the world in its ways that are not right. So our choice is between Jesus, and the ways of the world. So God says in Joshua 24:15, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve." Here is Jesus on one hand, the world on the other. "Take your choice," says God.

The Two Ways

The country is covered with roads and highways leading in every direction. But there are only two ways in the journey of life. In Jeremiah 21:8, God says, "Behold, I set before you the way of life, and the way of death." That is, He has told us all about these two ways, and we are to take our choice. Read these sign posts.

"The Way to Life"

"The Way to Death"

Whose name should we write on the first sign post? "*Jesus*," for He said of Himself, "I am the way, . . . and the life." What name should we write on the second sign post? "The world," for the ways of the world are Satan's way, and his way is the way of death. But Satan has put up another road sign to make us think that after all his way is the right way. Notice what it says, "This way *seemeth* right." He makes us think that after all these world ways are not so bad, and makes them seem right to us. Proverbs 14:12 says, "There is a way that *seemeth* right." What are some of the worldly ways that he has led us into by making them seem right?

We have only two ways, before us—the right and the wrong way. As we

come to the parting of the ways in these things, we must decide for ourselves what we are to do. What are some of the things.

First, we come into contact daily with boys and girls all about us. What sort of children are they? Are they those with whom we should associate? If they are evil and talk of things that are not right, then we should not mingle with them as companions in our daily play and life. Select those who are pure and true as our daily associates.

Second, we find in the cities and towns of today a large number of places which are intended to draw away the youth to those things, the theater or motion picture show, the dance hall, and many other things of like nature. These are no places for boys and girls who are Christians. One of the evils of to-day is the cigarette. Many boys and girls get a start down grade by forming this habit. We should leave these strictly alone, for they are bad for us in every way. They break down the health and the nervous system. We cannot be

Lesson III—For Monday, December 11

UNREADY TO MEET JESUS

Jesus told His disciples of a man who went to a wedding feast without having the special garment provided for the purpose. He said that the man was cast out. Why? Because he had neglected to do as he was asked to do, to put on the wedding garment. It could be had for the asking. Doubtless he thought, "My clothing is nice and clean, so why should I change for the other garment? My clothing is finer than that which they want to provide for me." But the one who was inviting the guests was not satisfied. If the man wanted to be present at the feast, then he should have put on the garment that was required.

What is this garment that the Lord wants us to wear for him? Let us illustrate it.

The White Garment

Once a company, which owns and operates big ships, hired a man to work for them. He was to have a special place of service for them, and one of the requirements was that he was to wear at all times the uniform that they gave him. It was pure white, and he was to keep it clean and white. He was never to appear in public without it. Even in his room, if anyone came to see him, he was to have the uniform on. One day an old friend came to see him in his room, and he thought it did

not make any difference if he did not put on the uniform, so he entertained the friend in his common clothes. His superior officers learned of this, and then informed him that they could not use him any more, for he did not conform to their ideals.

The Bible says that the uniform that we are to wear is the Righteousness of Christ. Our own righteousness is as filthy rags, and He does not want us to be seen in that sort of garb. By this, the Bible means that we are to be always in a condition to represent Christ in every act of life. Let us take that garment.

What is the white garment—the special dress we must be wearing when Jesus comes? It is the garment of Jesus' pure life. A life that is all free from wrong, is a life that is *all* right, or a righteous life. So the special dress we should be wearing is the *all right*, or the righteous life of Jesus, the dear Son of God.

Boys and girls, we need the *all* right life of Jesus to cover us, for our lives are all wrong. We are wearing a garment that is stained and ragged with sin. The garment of sin does not cover our lives any more than a soiled ragged coat or dress full of holes would cover our bodies. Do you wonder the Bible says we are "naked" when we are wearing the ragged garment of sin?

Can it be that we are not asking and believing as we should, and have lost the garment of right doing? God says: "Yes, you are wearing in its place the garment of wrong doing, and in My sight you are poor and naked." Can it be that we think we are all right when we are all wrong? God says: "Yes, you are too blind to see it. What you need is My eyesalve—the Holy Spirit—to open your eyes that you may see how wrong you are."

Is it possible, boys and girls, that we do not have on the special garment of Jesus' righteous life? And is it possible that we care but little because we are unready to meet Jesus? O, what a serious thought to know that Jesus is coming soon. Because it is so serious, God says, in Revelation 3:19: "Be zealous therefore and repent." Be in earnest, not lukewarm about repenting. Dear boys and girls, let us repent with all our hearts to-day. Let us tell Jesus we are *all* wrong and ask Him for His *all* right life, that at His coming He may not find us unrobed and unready to meet Him.

Lesson IV—For Tuesday, December 12

GOD'S CALL TO YOUTH

Suppose, boys and girls, I speak softly, for it is such a sacred thing I am about to say. Suppose it might happen that you could hear the voice of God calling you, once, twice, and perhaps three times. That sounds like God's call to Samuel; but God is calling you today just as truly as He called little Samuel of old. He may not awaken you in the night with His call as He did Samuel. You may not actually hear His voice with your ears, but if you listen you may hear His soft call deep down in your heart. In Isaiah 43:1, God says, "I have called thee by thy name."

Hearing God's Call in Our Hearts

Boys and girls, have you heard God's call to your heart? Perhaps you are thinking, "I really don't know." But it is easy to know. We are told that every desire to serve God is a call to His service. You have all had this thought deep down in your heart at times,—“I really want God to have my heart. I truly want Him to use me every day in His service.” This is God's call to your heart,—just as truly as if you could hear Him actually calling you by name.

Why Is God Calling You?

Perhaps you are wondering, "Why is God calling me?" Why was the colt to be untied and brought to Jesus? "The Lord hath need of Him," was to be the answer. This is God's answer to your question. "The Lord hath need of you." God claims *you* as "His helping hand." Think of it, "His helping hand." And why? One reason is because you are young and strong. God's task is a large one. It needs your helping hand. But more than strength, it takes love to do God's task.

"Because You Are Strong"

Let us look back for awhile and think of Joseph and Esther and Daniel. Why did God choose these youth of the past to be His helping hands? When of old God needed a boy to stand before Pharaoh and explain his dreams, He chose a boy who was able to say "No," when tempted to do some secret wrong. When God wanted a girl to save His people from the trickery of wicked Haman, He chose a girl who was willing to do

the thing she knew to be right, even at the risk of losing her own life. This was the strength of Joseph and Esther and Daniel, and this is the real strength that is necessary in order to be God's helping hand to-day.

A Task Greater Than Joseph's or Esther's

God is saying "I need Josephs and Esthers in this time even more than in the past. Never was there a time so serious, not even in Esther's time. Never was there a task so great, not even Joseph's task in Egypt, or Daniel's task in Babylon. For there are people to be saved not of one nation only as in Esther's time, but of many nations all over the world. The Lord's messenger tells us that the boys and girls who are learning the lessons of faithful service will yet stand in royal courts before great kings and speak for Jesus, the King of kings.

Getting Ready for God's Great Task

We can easily see that while God's call is to the heart of every boy and girl, yet it is only those who are strong enough to say "No," when temptation comes, who are ready to be God's helping hand in a very special way. What must we be doing from day to day to be ready as was Joseph and Esther? What did they do to be ready? One thing is certain, they *prayed* a great deal. We are told that Joseph prayed much all the way to Egypt as he rode along in the hot sun on a camel's back; and Daniel seemed to have his regular times for prayer, morning, noon, and night. I wonder at what hour Daniel prayed each morning and each evening. But it matters not the exact hour. We know that whatever the hour, when it came, Daniel was on his knees.

Dear boys and girls, will morning, noon, and night find us on our knees, with softer whispers to Jesus in between times, as we feel our need of His help? It was prayer that made Joseph and Esther and Daniel strong; it is prayer that will make the boys and girls of today strong to meet temptation.

Do you remember, too, how faithfully Daniel *studied God's Word* when only a little boy in His Judean home?

Joseph and Esther also had earnestly studied the scrolls of the prophets when only children. God's word was hidden away in their hearts that they might not sin against Him, and it kept them in the hour of temptation.

There is still another way of getting ready to be God's strong, helping hand. We must remember that God is saying to us what the father said to his son in the parable in Matthew 21:28, "Son, go work today in my vineyard." It is

by working today in little ways that we grow strong for the harder tasks that will come later.

Dear boys and girls, the Lord has called you by name, for He hath need of you, and He claims you as His helping hand. God is listening for your answer today. Will not every boy and girl here today say, "Here am I, dear Lord, I am young. I cannot do much, but take me and use me every day as Thy helping hand?"

ten years more lights were shining in other parts of Europe, and in other parts of the world. Every ten years that passed, more and more lights were shining in still other places here and there, until in 1936 the whole world was covered with tiny lights showing that our message, which started with only one light, is now shining in almost all the world.

Is the Gospel Going to My Neighborhood?

Yes, the gospel is going to all the world, but is it going to my neighborhood? Has it gone to my next door neighbor? Does my playmate know that Jesus is coming soon? Does my grocery man, my milkman, my postman know? Am I telling them all? God expects me to. I am the only missionary they may ever know. What a terrible thing if I should fail them. Boys and girls, we must not fail in our neighborhood. When the end comes, if there are some in my neighborhood who have not heard about the coming of Jesus, God will ask me *why*, for I am the missionary God placed there.

God is doing great things in the world, and boys and girls, He will do great things in your hearts if you will let Him. The gospel is going to *all* the world, and it must go to your heart, too. Let Jesus come into your heart today, and save you as He is saving the heathen. We must not delay, dear boys and girls; for the sign is fulfilling before our eyes, and the end is near.

Lesson V—For Wednesday, December 13

GREAT THINGS GOD IS DOING

When we speak of signs we think at once of the coming of Jesus, for the world is so full of them just now. In this lesson we are going to study about the last great sign the Bible gives us that the coming of Jesus is near. It is found in Matthew 24:14. "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world; . . . *then* shall the end come." In all the world. Such a big, big world (pointing to a world map), and so many, many people. What a task to carry the gospel to them all! Can it ever be done? It is *being done*, as we shall see in our lesson today, and this is the last great sign. This is God's sign that the end is near.

The Gospel is Being Preached

The gospel is going as God said it should, because our brave missionaries are carrying it into all the world. It matters not where we go, north, south, east, west, we will find our brave missionaries making known that Jesus is coming soon. Yes, this sign is coming to pass.

The Gospel Is Being Received

And the gospel message is being received. There are many wonderful reports given in our church paper, showing how God's Holy Spirit is going quickly from place to place and searching out hearts to receive the gospel.

(Note: Let the leader here find some story of recent work of our missionaries, from the field, from the *Review*, or from our Division paper, and give it along with the lesson.)

God's Work Grew from Small Beginnings

And the great things God is doing will seem still more wonderful to us when we remember from what small

beginnings our work began. It began with such a few. Then in a little while a few more, a little later a few more—a few here and a few there—but on and on it grew. At our last General Conference a wonderful map was shown, a very large map of the world. It was covered with small electric bulbs that lighted up place after place as our work grew. In the year 1840 there was only one tiny light up in Maine where our work first began. Before the end of the first ten years two more lights were shining. Then the lights on the map changed to add other lights made to shine during the next ten years. Every ten years that passed other places in America were lighted with the gospel light, until in 1874 a little light began to shine in Europe. During the next

Lesson VI—For Thursday, December 14

FINISHING THE WORK

In our last lesson we learned of the great work that is being done in carrying the gospel to the world. But when we look at the work still to be done, when we think not of the thousands but the millions yet to be warned, it seems so much that what we have done seems only a beginning. Can such a *big* task ever be finished in the *short* time that is left? Paul tells us in Romans 9:28 that God plans to do this very thing. "For He will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth."

Our Unfinished Task

We learned yesterday that gospel

lights were burning in all the world—this is what we have done in carrying the gospel to all the world; but when we hear that there are still *many, many* dark places yet to be lighted with the gospel—what we have done seems only a beginning.

I am going to tell you what we saw and heard at our last General Conference. It was Sabbath afternoon, and the meeting was about the finishing of God's work. A long row of people were sitting on the platform. There were native people wearing their bright native dress; some had bushy hair, and some had dark skins, but they all had good faces. They all

looked very serious and there were tears in the eyes of some, for they were thinking of the multitudes in their native countries who had not yet heard the gospel and were still unsaved.

Listen to Pastor Thomas from South India. "There are 5,000 of my people who have received the gospel, but there are 400,000,000 still in darkness. If you should stand them all in a line they would reach around the world nine times. O, come and help us to finish the work in my country."

God Will Shorten His Task

Yes, God has a short way of doing this big task, a way of doing it in much less time. It is a way that He calls the way of righteousness. We have studied about righteousness in our lesson in being ready to meet Jesus, but let us study it some more, for it is very important. Hiding in this word righteous (write it upon the board), we find still another word. It is the word *right* (underline right in the word righteous). The rest of the word (draw a line under *eous*) means to be "full of." So the whole word righteousness means to be full of the right, or rightfulness. When one is righteous, where is this fullness of the right? It can be no place but in the heart, and in such a heart every thought is right, every wish is right, every feeling is right. That sounds like a perfect heart, does it not? And who has such a perfect heart? *Only* the perfect Jesus. God says, "I will use people who are righteous with the righteousness of Jesus, and My work will be done *right* and the time will be shortened." This is what God means when He says He will cut His work short in righteousness.

Workers With God

And this is a *sure* way of cutting the work short, for a boy or girl who has this right-fullness in the heart is ready and willing to go quickly on God's errands. God wants our dimes and our nickles with which to build schools in which the little children may learn of Jesus, and to build churches, too, in which the heathen may hear the gospel story, to build hospitals, where the poor sick people can learn that Jesus can heal their diseases and forgive their sins. So boys and girls, with this rightfulness in our hearts when the temptation comes to spend our money for candy or for gum, we will stop, and think of the millions of people still in darkness, and we will save it for mis-

sions or for the Sabbath school offering.

It is God's plan to use us, who have this righteousness, this righteousness of Jesus. It is His only plan for finishing this great task in the short time that is left. Will you not today pray this prayer: "Jesus, I ask you to take away

my heart of sin, and give me your heart of righteousness." And, dear boys and girls, Jesus sends the answer back to you: "I will give you a new heart, make you right with My rightfulness, and I will use you to help finish *My* work quickly."

Lesson VII—For Friday, December 15

THE HOLY SPIRIT OUR HELPER

Jesus did not mean by this that He would come to us in body, but in Spirit. His Spirit is the Holy Spirit. His promise to come, then, is His promise to send the Holy Spirit. Jesus made this promise when He was having His goodbye talk with His disciples just before He went away. They were so sorrowful. What a comfort it was to hear that Jesus' Holy Spirit would be with them as Jesus was, and would do all the things that Jesus would do if He were still on earth.

Blessings that Flow Through the Holy Spirit

So many blessings flow to us through the Holy Spirit; in fact every blessing we receive comes through this channel.

(1) Searching Out Sin

The blessing that we need just now is the help of the Holy Spirit in getting ready for the time of the judgment. Every sin must be searched out before that solemn moment comes in our lives. There are sins deep down in our hearts that nobody sees. We may not see them ourselves. But the Holy Spirit, the great sin Searcher, sees them all. He can turn the great sin searchlight into our hearts, and show us every sin that is lurking there.

(2) The Holy Spirit Makes Us Sorry For Our Sins

Being discouraged cannot help to get rid of sin, but there is one thing that will help. Every time we feel sorry for our sins it is the dear Holy Spirit of Jesus doing His work in our hearts. It is His work to make us so sorry for our sins that we will go to Jesus and ask Him to forgive us. Ask Jesus for His Holy Spirit in your heart, dear boys and girls, that every day you may be so sorry for your sins that you may truly mean it when you pray, "Dear Jesus, forgive all my sins." And if we pray in this way forgiveness will come, for the promise in I John 1:9 is sure; "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to

cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

(3) The Holy Spirit Is Able to Keep Us From Sinning

I can hear some of you say, "I am sorry for my sin." To stop sinning is much too hard for us. We must connect with the powerhouse of heaven through prayer, and then how quickly overcoming power comes to us through the channel of the Holy Spirit. Boys and girls, we do not have to go on losing our tempers, or telling lie after lie. The Holy Spirit will bring us the power that we need to keep from sinning. When we pray, Jesus says, "Go, Holy Spirit, and 'keep' that boy or that girl from sinning in 'the hour of temptation.'" Revelation 3:10.

"And Grieve Not the Holy Spirit"

This is what Paul says in Ephesians 4:30. The Holy Spirit is easily grieved. Some people you know are very sensitive and get their feelings hurt very easily. The Holy Spirit is very sensitive about sin. The smallest sin will grieve the Holy Spirit. And will He leave our hearts at once? O no, He lingers on, pleading and pleading with us to stop that little sin or that big sin. We hear His pleadings and we say, "My conscience hurts me." And will He go

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on pleading and pleading with us forever?

But we are not going to keep on grieving the Holy Spirit, dear boys and girls; today, this very day, we are going to ask Jesus to send His Holy Spirit into our hearts, and we are going to make sure He stays in our hearts

by confessing every sin that He tells us about. Today the Holy Spirit is pleading to come in. Will He be pleading tomorrow? We do not know. Let us kneel right now and say, "Dear Jesus, today I open my heart to your dear Holy Spirit."

the Bible. So we talk to Jesus in prayer, and then we let Him talk to us by reading His Holy Word.

Walking With Jesus

And every day we must have our walk with Jesus. He tells us He wants to go with us wherever we go. He wants to go to school with us each day, to follow us to the playground at recess time, to sit beside us as we study at our desks. "I want to always go with you," says Jesus; "that I may 'keep you' and 'help you' in all your ways." He wants to help us with that hard lesson, He wants to keep us from sin and from danger on the school ground and on the streets. How safe we are when Jesus is with us. That day will be a happy day in which we go on some errand with Jesus. It would be a good thing to pause again and ask ourselves this question: "Have I gone on some errand with Jesus today?"

This, boys and girls, is what it means to be living with Jesus, and to have Him living with us. We talk and walk with Him, while He talks and walks with us.

"Canvasser-evangelists are needed to hunt and fish for souls. The canvassing work should now be earnestly and decidedly taken up. The canvasser whose heart is meek and lowly and humble can accomplish much good. Canvassers who go forth in the spirit of the Master have the companionship of heavenly beings."—*Colporteur Evangelists*, p. 31.

The chains of habit are generally too light to be felt until they are too strong to be broken.—*D. Johnson*.

Our blessings are equal to our needs and far outnumber our misfortunes.

Lesson VIII—For Sabbath, December 16

LIVING WITH JESUS

Of all the wonderful things the Bible tells us about heaven, have you ever decided what you think will be the best of all? Could anything be more wonderful than living with Jesus, talking with Him every day, listening to His lovely voice, and walking with Him hand in hand down the streets of gold and looking up into His lovely face? O, I want to go to heaven some day and live with Jesus, don't you? But the Bible says we do not have to wait until we go to heaven to have Jesus with us. We can have Him with us right now. In John 15:4 Jesus says, "Abide in Me, and I in you." This is Jesus' way of saying, "You live *for* Me, and I will live *with* you." And this is His way of promising to come and live with us.

Jesus in Our Hearts

When Jesus comes to live with us, where will He stay? We give the best room we have to our earthly guests. What room shall we give to Jesus? He has already made His choice. He says in Proverbs 23:26, "Give Me thine heart." In the heart, that is where Jesus wants to stay. He wants to go there so much that He stands just outside the door of our hearts knocking and waiting for us to throw open the door

and say, "Come in." With what joy Jesus comes into our hearts when we say, "Welcome." In Revelation 3:20, He tells us He "will come in" and "will sup" with us.

Keeping Jesus With Us

And Jesus says "I never, never want to leave your heart. I have come to stay always, but I'll go whenever you tell Me to." Tell Jesus to go? Could anyone ever do that? Yes, sad as it is, this very thing happens. You have told Him to go, and so have I. When we do things that do not please Jesus, it is just the same as if we told Him to go. Anything that does not please Jesus is sin, and He cannot stay for one moment where there is sin.

Talking to Jesus

To make Jesus happy, talk to Him. Talk to Him in the morning, at noon, and at night, kneeling in prayer and then keep whispering to Him all day long as we need His help. Talk to Him about the things we have been studying during this Week of Prayer. Ask Him to uphold you with His strong right hand, and keep you from slipping into the pit of sin. But it must not be a one-sided talk. Our heart-Guest must be given a chance to talk to us, too. He talks to us through His Holy Word,

GENERAL NOTICE

The Week of Prayer Readings for this year are published in two issues of the MESSENGER. This number contains the lessons for the children. There is a lesson for each day of the week prepared by the General Conference especially for the children. We invite the attention of the leaders of the children's meetings to the "General Suggestions to Leaders" on the following page.

The Week of Prayer Readings for adults are printed in the December 1, 1939, number of the MESSENGER. Please preserve your copy of the papers and use them in the meetings and in your home during the week.

May these readings and lessons help all, both young and old, to heed and follow the inspired, solemn admonition—"Prepare to meet thy God, O Israel."

FREELY YE HAVE RECEIVED FREELY GIVE

By W. C. RALEY

The Week of Prayer offering is a special offering. It is a special token of our appreciation of the greatest of all gifts to us. It is a thank-offering for our great blessings, spiritual and temporal. It is also an offering of special importance to the mission board, for during the year, the calls for money to carry on the work have been many and insistent. The needs have been great. There have been emergencies and unexpected expenses so that the treasury has been unable to meet all of the calls. The situations caused by war are examples of the kind of emergencies that must be met.

In the last month of the year the privilege of bringing a

thank-offering is given to us, and of thus assisting in bearing the burdens of the treasury. And why should we not give at this time? For a large majority of us, this has been a good year. We have been spared many hardships and to all of us the Lord is good. We can now bring this special thank-offering to Him. "Every sacrifice made for Christ enriches the giver, and every suffering and privation endured for His dear sake increases the overcomer's final joy in heaven."—*Testimonies*, Vol. IV, p. 219.

It is the last hour of this earth's history, "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven." Matthew 6:20.

TEN-MINUTE MISSIONARY SERVICES

December 2, 1939

Bringing to a Decision

It is the harvest and not the seed sowing which determines the value of the farmer's tireless, faithful toil. Even so is it in the spiritual realm. Getting results, bringing in the sheaves is the test of the spiritual seed sower's labor. Careful, prayerful study should be given by all who engage in soul-winning work, whether this be through systematic literature distribution, Bible work, or lay preaching, or a combination of two or all three, to the matter of bringing individuals to take their stand for Christ. We might offer briefly a few suggestions:

1. Be often in prayer for the individual or persons for whom you are working.
2. Enlist the prayers of others.
3. Make frequent visits to those with whom personal work is being carried on.
4. Bring them appropriate heart-appealing literature to strengthen faith and decision.
5. If cooperation of a minister or a Bible worker can be secured, such help often gives just the special lift and encouragement needed.
6. Place the *Review and Herald* (*El Centinela* or *Mensajero*—Spanish) in the hands of people who are "on the brink" of decision.
7. Suggest the establishment of the family altar.
8. Introduce the Sabbath school lessons.

December 9, 1939

Reaping the Harvest

This week's topic is so closely associated with that of last week that we feel constrained to repeat that the test of a soul winner's effort are the fruits and not the seed sowing or planting.

If faithful cultivation has been engaged in, a harvest is bound to result, provided faithful efforts are put forth to gather in the grain and the fruit. Attention has often been called to the Ingathering follow-up work, but we desire to stress this matter again. We believe that a carefully planned effort to make the most of contacts of interest made in the Ingathering work will bring encouraging returns in new members.

Wherever "Present Truth," "Signs of the Times," "El Centinela," books or tracts have been distributed during recent weeks and months, opportunities should be sought for Bible studies with a view to bringing interested people to a decision.

December 15, 1939

Personal Testimonies and Experiences

What brings greater satisfaction and peace into the soul than speaking a word for Christ, either as to His wonderful goodness and keeping power, or in regard to our missionary endeavors in His name? To some who are timid and find it difficult to speak before a group of people, it is a great struggle to arise and give their personal testimony for Jesus. But what a joy and satisfaction it does bring into the heart when this timidity and fear has been conquered, and we arise to speak what is in our hearts and what we have been able to accomplish for the Lord.

However, in addition to the joy that comes in relating our experiences, there is even a greater factor, and that is the inspiration and encouragement we give to someone else who may not have had the experience as yet of engaging in personal missionary work. One never knows what good may be accomplished or what a blessing and inspiration it may be to some other soul when a helpful testimony or experience is given.

There is a little lad about three years of age in one of our city churches who deeply moves the hearts of every one present as he stands on the bench beside his mother in prayer meeting and offers this sweet little testimony in a clear, childish voice: "I love Jesus with all my heart." Surely, even a child shall lead them. So let us be as faithful as this little child in making known our love for Jesus and our endeavors for Him, remembering always the double blessing that comes—to ourselves and to others.

December 23, 1939

The Secret of Success—Prayer

Prayer is a simple thing, yet it is a mighty force. Through prayer marvelous things have been accomplished. It opened the Red Sea for Israel. It made the sun stand still, it brought fire from heaven on Elijah's altar, it healed the sick and raised the dead in days gone by. Prayer has the same possibilities today as in days of yore.

Prayer is Heaven's and the Christian's wireless. No enemy can interrupt the line. Prison bars may surround an individual, the lion's den may be his resting place, still the prayer line to heaven is open. Not only for our own personal strength and comfort do we need to pray, but missionary work done without prayer will not accomplish its purpose. Soul-winning activities carried on in behalf of others, when accompanied by earnest, sincere, unceasing prayer, will bring encouraging fruitage. Prayer is the

real secret of true success in our endeavors for advancing the Kingdom of God.

"The simple prayer indited by the Holy Spirit will ascend through the gates ajar. . . . These prayers, mingled with the incense of the perfection of Christ, will ascend as fragrance to the Father, and answers will come."—*Testimonies*, Vol. VI, p. 467.

Keep the prayer lamp burning, for in it is the light of life. Make your home and your church a temple of prayer.

December 30, 1939

A Year of Opportunity and Blessings

The new year brings to us two great challenges:

1. *A challenge to consecration.* To us a new year is given, a year that we can use either for God or for self, a year of privilege, a year of opportunity, a year to seek and to impart blessings. "What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" (Matthew 16:26). God's challenge is to consecration, dedication of life with its talents to the unfinished task.

2. *A challenge to service.* Take my yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:29, 30). Service is possibly an overworked word, but it is not an overworked ideal. Service for Christ implies service with Christ. Greater service for and with the Master during 1940 should be our watchword.

The days of opportunity for service are fast slipping by. The time to arise, to awake, to shine, is here, indeed. The Autumn Council of the General Conference sounded this keynote:

"We believe that the time left us in which to finish our work is exceedingly short. Surely the consummation of all things is at hand. Millions who are about to perish are still unwarned, and yet we are told that 'we hold in our hands the bread of life for a famished world.' The time is at hand for a mighty advance in soul winning.

"We appeal for a deeper consecration and a more thorough organization and training of our church members, including the youth, to engage in soul-winning work so that our church membership may be aroused and pressed into this mighty effort to finish the work while the day of opportunity lasts, for soon, very soon, 'The night cometh when no man can work.'" *Fall Council, 1938.*

It is much easier to be critical than to be correct.—*Disraeli.*