

**STUDIES FOR
YOUTH INSPIRATION WEEK
MAY 18-24, 2014**



**His Power—
The Christian's Power**

"As many as received Him, to them gave He power...."
John 1:12.

INTRODUCTION AND THEME STATEMENT

“But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God,...”
John 1:12.

“It was a wonderful thing for God to create man, to make mind. The glory of God is to be revealed in the creation of man in God’s image and in his redemption. One soul is of more value than a world.... The Lord Jesus Christ is the Author of our being, and He is also the Author of our redemption, and everyone who will enter the kingdom of God will develop a character that is the counterpart of the character of God.” –*God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 246.

“God’s power is a central theme of scripture. In the Old Testament record we find that boundless power manifested in the stories of creation and the flood, the plagues of Egypt, the crossing of the Red Sea and the river Jordan; in short, the entire history of Israel. The demonstrations of spiritual power are no less impressive than the physical. We read about the transformed lives of Enoch, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Aaron, Daniel, and many others who knew and experienced in their lives the mighty power of God.

“The New Testament knows no decline of God’s power, still revealed in the great acts of creation and redemption. The sick are healed, graves are opened, storms are stilled, and, significantly, lives continue to be transformed. The profligate become pure, and the sinful become sanctified. The persecutor Saul becomes the apostle-evangelist Paul; the vacillating Peter becomes the steadfast martyr; the fiery son of thunder, John, becomes the leading example and exponent of Christian kindness and love. Power–immeasurable, almighty, all-enabling power–continues to be a central theme.” –Ralph Larson, *Tell of His Power*, 1989, p. 2.

This Youth Inspiration Week is an opportunity not just to study about Jesus’ power but to experience it and to make the commitment that will prepare the young people’s hearts and minds to receive the promise, “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My spirit upon all flesh;...” Joel 2:28.

In addition to printing and providing copies of these study booklets to the young people in their group, the youth leaders are encouraged to lead by example and training so the young people will be empowered to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. We also request each local church, field, and union to support the General Conference Youth Department with regular offerings.

CREATIVE AND REDEMPTIVE POWER

Study 1 lists a few examples of the many significant historical events in the Bible showing God's incredible power to create and save. (Texts are given for reference only.) For each example, from what you remember about the story, choose one aspect that you see as particularly impressive about God's physical power as well as one thing that you find special about His spiritual power. Share and discuss your thoughts.

CREATION (Genesis 1) _____

THE FLOOD (Genesis 6-8) _____

GOD'S INTERVENTION AT THE TOWER OF BABEL (Genesis 11:1-9)

CROSSING OF THE RED SEA IN THE EXODUS (Exodus 14) _____

JESUS' BIRTH (Matthew 1:18-25) _____

THE SAVIOUR'S FEEDING THE 4,000 MEN PLUS WOMEN AND CHILDREN (Matthew 15:32-38) _____

CHRIST'S CALMING THE SEA (Mark 4:36-41) _____

HIS CRUCIFIXION, RESURRECTION, AND ASCENSION (Matthew 27:35-28:8; Acts 1:9)

THE CONVERSION OF SAUL (Acts 9:1-22) _____

Consider and discuss the following simple but deep concept in connection with God's power:

COMPARISON OF PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL SEEDS

“Every seed brings forth fruit after its kind. Sow the seed under right conditions, and it will develop its own life in the plant. Receive into the soul by faith the incorruptible seed of the word, and it will bring forth a character and a life after the similitude of the character and the life of God.” -*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 38.

GROWTH TO MATURITY

Keep Study 1 in view as we focus in each of the following studies on the different aspects of how Jesus gives the Christian His power.

The growth of a plant provides wonderful lessons about the power that God gives every young person who chooses to connect with Him.

LIFE

What has God put in every seed? How does this relate to everyone's physical and spiritual life? John 12:24; Romans 6:3, 4; 1 Corinthians 15:36-38.

“All the powers of our being, every means of our existence and happiness, all the blessings of the warm sunshine and the refreshing showers, causing vegetation to flourish, every comfort and every blessing of this life, comes from God.” —*Signs of the Times*, December 12, 1878.

GROWTH

Explain how the description of a plant's growth in Mark 4:28 applies to spiritual life. How long does growth last? _____

How does growth take place? **Underline some answers in the following paragraph:** “We still have the privilege of coming to the Source of light and power. We still may grow up unto the full stature of men and women in Christ Jesus. But in order to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus, you must meditate upon His love, you must talk of His power and extol His grace.” —*Review and Herald*, February 11, 1890.

PURPOSE

Each plant—in fact, each living thing—has more than one purpose. In some ways those purposes are similar from one plant to another, and in other ways they are different. Choose a plant or tree, and explain how it carries out its purpose within its limitations. Apply this to yourself and your friends.

As a plant uses the resources available to it to grow and be fruitful, so the Christian is given resources. Use the following paragraphs to explain how God-given resources provide each person with strength and power.

“The germination of the seed represents the beginning of spiritual life, and the development of the plant is a beautiful figure of Christian growth. As in nature, so in grace; there can be no life without growth. The plant must either grow or die. As its growth is silent and imperceptible, but continuous, so is the development of the Christian life. 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.

“The plant grows by receiving that which God has provided to sustain its life. It sends down its roots into the earth. It drinks in the sunshine, the dew, and the rain. It receives the life-giving properties from the air. So the Christian is to grow by cooperating with the divine agencies. Feeling our helplessness, we are to improve all the opportunities granted us to gain a fuller experience.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 65-67.

Now make a list of the divine agencies with which you are familiar (where power comes from):

INSPIRATION

What is inspiration? Where does it come from? How does it work? Look for answers to these questions in the following paragraphs:

“Who but the Holy Spirit presents before the mind the moral standard of righteousness and convinces of sin, and produces godly sorrow which worketh repentance that needeth not to be repented of, and inspires the exercise of faith in Him who alone can save from all sin.

“Who but the Holy Spirit can work with human minds to transform character by withdrawing the affections from those things which are temporal, perishable, and imbues the soul with earnest desire by presenting the immortal

inheritance, the eternal substance which is imperishable, and recreates, refines, and sanctifies the human agents that they may become members of the royal family, children of the heavenly King.” –*Selected Messages*, book 3, pp. 137, 138.

COMPLETENESS

A common idea is to think of completeness–maturity–as the achievement of a final state of Christian perfection in which no further learning is needed. But maturity occurs in a plant–especially in a tree or grapevine–as soon as it bears fruit, which is its primary purpose. This maturity is then maintained for many years. See also *Education*, p. 105.

How does this relate to the human experience as well as to Jesus’ words in John 15:1-8?

MATURITY IN ETERNITY

“It is God who has given to the youth life, and every physical and mental endowment they possess. He has bestowed upon them capabilities for wise improvement, that they may be entrusted with a work which will be as enduring as eternity. In return for His great gifts he claims a due cultivation and exercise of their intellectual and moral faculties. He did not give them these faculties merely for their amusement, or to be abused in working against His will and His providence. They are to use every faculty in advancing the knowledge of truth and holiness in the world. He claims their gratitude, their veneration, their love, for His continued kindness and infinite mercies.” –*The Youth’s Instructor*, April 22, 1897.

“The law of God is simple, and easily understood. If the children of men would, to the best of their ability, obey this law, they would gain strength of mind and power of discernment to comprehend still more of God’s purposes and plans. And this advancement would be continued, not only during the present life, but during eternal ages; for however far he may advance in the knowledge of God’s wisdom and power, there is always an infinity beyond.” –*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 39.

HIS HOLINESS—OUR HOLINESS

“The life of the Christian is not barren; he has his fruit unto holiness, and the end is everlasting life.” —*Review and Herald*, May 26, 1885.

Read the following Bible verses about holiness, and write down the meaning of each in your own words. Discuss these verses and identify which ones are actually promises of God’s power and desire to make people holy.

Leviticus 20:7, 8 _____

Matthew 5:48 _____

Exodus 20:11 _____

Leviticus 11:45 _____

Deuteronomy 7:6; 14:2 _____

Ezekiel 36:26-28 _____

Revelation 20:6 _____

Highlight and discuss the most important thoughts you find in the following quotations:

“Only through faith in Christ can the heart be made holy.” -*The Youth’s Instructor*, March 26, 1903.

“As God is holy in His sphere, so fallen man, through faith in Christ, is to be holy in his sphere....”

“The life of him in whose heart Christ abides, will reveal practical godliness. The character will be purified, elevated, ennobled, and glorified. Pure doctrine will blend with works of righteousness; heavenly precepts will mingle with holy practices.” -*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 559, 560.

“Holiness is the gift of God through Christ. Those who receive the Saviour become sons of God. They are His spiritual children, born again, renewed in righteousness and true holiness. Their minds are changed. With clearer vision they behold eternal realities. They are adopted into God’s family, and they become conformed to His likeness, changed by His Spirit from glory to glory.” -*God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 120.

“It is a knowledge of Christ as the Sin-bearer, as the propitiation for our iniquities, that enables us to live a life of holiness.” -*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 264.

PRACTICALLY SPEAKING ...

Sometimes what we read about holiness in the Scriptures and inspired writings can appear theoretical—far removed from practical life and not actually achievable, despite God’s words to mankind, “Be holy, for I am holy.” Leviticus 11:45. But Jesus walked on earth with men and was holy—without sin, the spotless Lamb of God. He was raised in a normal family, He mingled freely with common people, He ate at their tables, He conversed with them, and He came close to them. The record of His earthly life is available for us to see what holiness is.

Furthermore, the Old Testament relates how Jesus led the children of Israel. The stories of stellar characters such as Joseph, Samuel, Daniel, and others are often very detailed. Their characters were holy, for they linked themselves with God and depended on Him, their interests and motives being to witness of God’s character and salvation and thus draw men to Him.

When one uses a concordance to search for the verses in the Bible containing the word “holy,” he finds people as well as certain objects and places described as holy, including the ground or land, assemblies, days, houses,

garments, sacrifices, offerings, crowns, bread, altars, services, cloths, ointment, oil, incense, and the sanctuary with all its furnishings and vessels. In addition, various chapters and passages, especially in the book of Leviticus, provide details about what is holy and what is common (“profane”) and what to do with things that, and people who, have been defiled, or polluted.

According to God’s instructions, everything associated with worship and religious services was handled in a special way that included reverence, exactness, excellence (no blemishes), cleanliness, and order, as well as beauty. Also, all of the areas where Israel camped were kept clean, neat, and orderly, with waste and decay handled and disposed of promptly and thoroughly. There was no pollution anywhere. This was, of course, to minimize the spread of pathogens causing disease; but there was more to it than that. “God is a God of order.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 376. All who have His Spirit within them (and who ask for that Spirit to be given to them) will be holy in every sense of the word. They will love cleanliness, order, neatness, and beauty in themselves and others, in the environment, in their homes, in their churches, and in the whole world. The lesson is in nature itself, which, when untouched by man, is free from disease, pollution, and mess. Even when something dies, it quickly disintegrates and returns to dust. Orderliness and beauty are part of nature, even in this world cursed by sin.

Holiness encompasses who one is—in body, mind, and spirit—the way he thinks, speaks, and acts. Its purpose is to reflect God’s character and kingdom (government), and it is for the benefit of ourselves and everyone else. Consider what a blessing it is when we manage our affairs and treat other people in a pure, excellent, beautiful way, with care, love and respect. It is possible for us to do this. The power of Jesus Christ through His shed blood and His ministry is what makes a person and everything around him holy in every way, and the Holy Spirit teaches His children about this every day!

Discuss why holiness is such a huge blessing. Then, share your ideas concerning ways in which holiness comes from Jesus to you and is reflected to those around you. (Hint: Think about your schooling, your job, your responsibilities, your activities, and your influence.)

STRENGTH AND COURAGE

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.” Ephesians 6:10.

STRENGTH FOR WHAT?

Read the Bible verses below and note some things for which strength from Christ is needed.

Ephesians 6:11, 12; Revelation 12:10 _____

Philippians 1:27-29 _____

Hebrews 12:4 _____

Hebrews 12:14 _____

Psalms 18:2, 3 _____

Isaiah 25:4 _____

Psalms 25:4, 5 _____

RECEIVING SUPERNATURAL STRENGTH

In the following quotations, seek for and highlight the different answers to the question, “When can Jesus give me divine strength?” Share and discuss your findings.

“Christ will give strength to all who seek it.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 510.

“We have little idea of the strength that would be ours if we would connect with the Source of all strength. We fall into sin again and again, and think it must always be so.... Through the power He has given us, we may resist the world, the flesh, and the devil. Then let us not talk of our weakness and inefficiency, but of Christ and His strength.” –*God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 262.

“If they will honor God by obeying His commandments, they will be exalted by Him. He will give them strength and victory.” –*Review and Herald*, September 24, 1903.

“Go to God, and often plead with Him for strength. It will be given.” –*The Youth’s Instructor*, May 1, 1859.

“I beg of you, dear youth, to link up with Jesus Christ. He died on Calvary’s cross, for you and for me, and in His strength we may overcome.” –*The Youth’s Instructor*, June 9, 1914.

“We are weak, but if we will but believe, God will give us His enduring strength.” –*Review and Herald*, May 12, 1904.

“If your daily study is to glorify God and subdue self, He will make His strength perfect in your weakness, and you may live so that your conscience will not condemn you.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 38.

“Our precious Saviour invites us to join ourselves to Him, to unite our weakness to His strength, our ignorance to His wisdom, our unworthiness to His merits.” –*The Great Controversy*, p. 623.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

Jesus can only give you what you want. (Put in the opposite way, Jesus cannot give you something you do not want.) Think about what this means to you, for “God will not force anyone to accept the provisions He has made. God forces no one to obey. Neither does He place anyone in a position where he will be tempted above that he is able to bear. [1 Corinthians 10:13.]” –*Sermons and Talks*, vol. 1, p. 322.

Now the question to answer is: “What do you want?” How you answer this question will determine your happiness now and your eternal destiny.

TRANSFORMATION—A MIRACLE

DEFINITION

A complete or major change in someone's or something's appearance, form, etc. -Merriam-webster.com

**Why does everyone on earth—without exception—need a transformation?
Find answers in the following Bible verses.**

Romans 5:19, Interlinear. _____

Romans 3:23 _____

Isaiah 64:6 _____

Isaiah 1:5 _____

1 Corinthians 15:22 _____

HOW DOES TRANSFORMATION COME ABOUT?

Romans 6:6-8, 21, 22 _____

Romans 3:24, 25 _____

Romans 12:1, 2 _____

1 Corinthians 3:18; 15:57 _____

THE MIRACLE—A GIFT

“Is not salvation great in its simplicity, and wonderful in its comprehensiveness? Christ takes the sinner from the lowest degradation, and purifies, refines, and ennobles him. By beholding Jesus as He is, the sinner is transformed and elevated to the very summit of dignity, even to a seat with Christ upon His throne.” —*Review and Herald*, November 28, 1912.

The miracle of grace is offered to all. It encompasses a life of valuable purpose now reaching to the eternal kingdom of God. Choosing to receive this amazing gift when one is young is supremely valuable. In the following quotations, read what happens when a person chooses to accept this gift. Then, share and discuss the one thought or concept that is most important to you.

“... The love of Jesus, when cherished in the soul, will become stronger than the masterful passions of the human heart. Every one who is under the influence of the Spirit of God, will become transformed by His grace.” —*Review and Herald*, May 6, 1890.

“He who beholds the Saviour’s matchless love will be elevated in thought, purified in heart, transformed in character. He will go forth to be a light to the world, to reflect in some degree this mysterious love.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 661.

“This genuine faith in Christ will manifest itself in your daily life, in your character and works, and will prove to the world that there is transforming power in the Christian’s religion.” —*Review and Herald*, April 14, 1891.

“When one turns away from human imperfections to behold Jesus, a divine transformation takes place in the character. The Spirit of Christ working upon the heart conforms it to His image.” —*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 250.

“He came to the world to be a reconstructor of character, and He brought into all His work the perfection which He desired to bring into the character He was transforming by His divine power.” —*Review and Herald*, May 15, 1900.

“The truly converted man has no time to think or talk of the faults of others. His lips are sanctified, and as God’s faithful witness he testifies that the grace of Christ has transformed his heart.” —*Review and Herald*, May 10, 1906.

“When Christianity is truly received, it will always transform the heart and mould the character.” —*Signs of the Times*, May 26, 1890.

AN AMAZING PROMISE

How can the following promise apply not just to Israel in the past but also to young people today? Consider first the society in which you live and then what needs to happen in every young person's life so he or she will be ready to stand for Jesus through earth's final trials and greet the Saviour with joy at His coming.

"For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. 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. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be My people, and I will be your God." Ezekiel 36:25-28.

"If the sinner will partake of the bread of life, he will, regenerated and restored, become a living soul. The bread sent down from heaven will infuse new life into his weakened energies. The Holy Spirit will take of the things of God, and show them to him. And if he will receive them, his character will be cleansed from all selfishness, and refined and purified for heaven....

"Christ says: Open the door of your heart, give Me entrance, and I will make you a child of God, I will transform your weak, sinful nature into the divine image, giving it beauty and perfection." -*That I May Know Him*, p. 106.

HIS VICTORY—THE CHRISTIAN’S VICTORY

“In Him humanity and divinity are combined, and He can accomplish for the human race all that is necessary to enable them to overcome as He overcame, and sit down with Him in His Father’s throne.” —*Review and Herald*, April 23, 1901.

Search the following Bible verses and stories for the meaning of victory. Note the core concept in each verse.

2 Samuel 23:10, 12 _____

1 Chronicles 29:11 _____

Psalms 98:1, 2 _____

Isaiah 25:8 _____

Matthew 12:18-21 _____

1 Corinthians 15:53-57 _____

1 John 5:3, 4 _____

Revelation 15:2 _____

HOW HE OBTAINED THE VICTORY

Study the following two statements to answer this question: What did and does Jesus do and what do I do to gain the victory over the world and death?

“What an event was this when Christ placed Himself in the position of Adam, and endured the test where Adam had failed, and by this act placed man on a vantage ground, in favor with God, where he might overcome on his own account through the merits of Jesus. In His name, through His grace, man may be an overcomer, even as Christ was an overcomer. In Christ divinity and humanity were united, and the only way in which man may be an overcomer is through becoming a partaker of the divine nature.... Divinity and humanity are blended in him who has the spirit of Christ.” - *(The Youth's Instructor, June 30, 1892) Sons and Daughters of God, p. 24.*

“Christ paid an infinite price to redeem the world. He sacrificed His honor, His riches, His glorious home in the royal courts, and endured the fierce assaults of Satan, that man might have strength to overcome as He overcame. The temptations that Satan brings to bear upon the human race are severe; but his test for the Son of God was a hundredfold more severe....

“By His suffering and resistance He made plain to man that perfection of character can be obtained and maintained by humanity....

“The power that came to Christ as a representative of the human race will come to every member of the human family who will make God his strength....

“We may take courage, and believe that we shall overcome every imperfection of character. Our Redeemer has taken our nature, fought our battles, and in His name we shall conquer. Human nature may take hold of the strength of God, and be victorious.” - *The Youth's Instructor, December 28, 1899.*

HUMAN CHARACTERISTICS

Looking at many Bible stories as well as at the society around us, we can see that the great adversary is very successful in drawing men's minds and hearts away from God through self-indulgence. Look at the paragraph at the bottom of this page to answer the following questions: How can you be victorious through Christ, especially in the temptations listed below? How can young people help each other gain the victory over these things?

Appetite _____

Self-centeredness _____

Music/entertainment/amusements _____

Pride _____

Riches _____

Sexuality /pleasure seeking _____

Sports, games _____

Influence of associates _____

Self-righteousness _____

“By the power of God, man is to firmly resist every temptation. The temptations which Christ overcame cover all the temptations that come to man.... If the tempted one will lay hold of the strength of the Conqueror, he, too, will overcome....

“God calls upon you to do a work which through His grace you can do.”
-*Signs of the Times*, April 4, 1900.

ETERNAL POWER AND TRIUMPH

Answer the following question from the paragraphs below: What will all who enter God’s holy presence conquer? Apply Isaiah 40:31 here.

“Man may stand conqueror of himself, conqueror of his own inclinations, conqueror of principalities and powers, and of ‘rulers of the darkness of this world,’ and of ‘spiritual wickedness in high places.’” –*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 131.

“The Lord wants His people to stand far above selfish interests. He wants them to conquer the temptations they meet.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, p. 131.

“Unholy habits will clamor for the mastery, but in the name and power of Jesus we may conquer.” –*God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 223.

GOD WILL GLORIFY HIS CHILDREN

God promises to glorify all who accept His power and conquer through His name. Summarize the following Bible verses, which tell of the rewards awaiting every faithful young person:

Jeremiah 30:19 _____

1 Chronicles 29:11-13 _____

Romans 2:10 _____

Psalm 91:14-16 _____

GOD'S POWER AND MAN

In the following verses are references to the power of Jesus in relation to man. After you have read them and noted the primary thought of each, select one that contains an aspect of the Lord's power that you see as especially wonderful. Present your ideas concerning it to the other young people, and lead a discussion about how that aspect applies to us today.

Genesis 32:24-30 _____

Deuteronomy 4:37-40 _____

1 Chronicles 29:11-13 _____

Psalms 111:6-10 _____

Isaiah 40:25-31 _____

Nahum 1:2-7 _____

John 1:12, 13 _____

Romans 1:16, 17 _____

1 Corinthians 2:4, 5 _____

Jude 24, 25 _____

Revelation 5:12, 13 _____

DIRECTING ATTENTION TO ETERNITY

The God of heaven and earth and His Son Jesus Christ are all love and power. They create and redeem. Their majesty and tenderness are infinite throughout the universe. They protect and sustain. Through the Holy Spirit they dwell in the hearts of all who respond to divine grace, mercy, and goodness.

Let your imagination take hold of the great mysteries of life and joy. After reading the following beautiful description of the Saviour and His dangerous, expensive mission, share your thoughts concerning what eternity might be like in His presence and how you see yourself there.

“Providence is going before us, and Infinite Power is working with human effort. Blind indeed must be the eyes that do not see the working of the Lord, and deaf the ears that do not hear the call of the True Shepherd to His sheep.

“Christ longs to extend His sway over every human mind. He longs to stamp His image and character upon every soul. When He was on this earth, He hungered for sympathy and cooperation, that His kingdom might extend and embrace the whole world. This earth is His purchased possession, and He would have men free and pure and holy. ‘For the joy that was set before Him,’ He ‘endured the cross, despising the shame.’ Hebrews 12:2. His earthly pilgrimage was cheered by the thought that He would not have all this travail for naught, but would win man back to loyalty to God. And there are triumphs yet to be accomplished through the blood shed for the world, that will bring everlasting glory to God and to the Lamb. The heathen will be given for His inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for His possession. Christ will see of the travail of His soul, and be satisfied. Isaiah 53:11.” –*Gospel Workers*, p. 28.

*“O come, let us worship and bow down:
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.*

*For He is our God; and we are the people of His pasture,
and the sheep of His hand.”*

Psalm 95:6, 7.

The Teacher Sent from God

“God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” John 3:17. Looking upon men in their suffering and degradation, Christ perceived ground for hope where appeared only despair and ruin. Wherever there existed a sense of need, there He saw opportunity for uplifting. Souls tempted, defeated, feeling themselves lost, ready to perish, He met, not with denunciation, but with blessing.

The beatitudes were His greeting to the whole human family. Looking upon the vast throng gathered to listen to the sermon on the mount, He seemed for the moment to have forgotten that He was not in heaven, and He used the familiar salutation of the world of light. From His lips flowed blessings as the gushing forth of a long-sealed fountain.

Turning from the ambitious, self-satisfied favorites of this world, Christ declared that those were blessed who, however great their need, would receive His light and love. To the poor in spirit, the sorrowing, the persecuted, He stretched out His arms, saying, “Come unto Me,... I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28....

It was not on the cross only that Christ sacrificed Himself for humanity. As “He went about doing good” (Acts 10:38), every day’s experience was an outpouring of His life. In one way only could such a life be sustained. Jesus lived in dependence upon God and communion with Him. To the secret place of the Most High, under the shadow of the Almighty, men now and then repair; they abide for a season, and the result is manifest in noble deeds; then their faith fails, the communion is interrupted, and the life-work marred. But the life of Jesus was a life of constant trust, sustained by continual communion; and His service for heaven and earth was without failure or faltering.

As a man He supplicated the throne of God, till His humanity was charged with a heavenly current that connected humanity with divinity. Receiving life from God, He imparted life to men.

“Never man spake like this man.” John 7:46. This would have been true of Christ had He taught only in the realm of the physical and the intellectu-

al, or in matters of theory and speculation solely. He might have unlocked mysteries that have required centuries of toil and study to penetrate. He might have made suggestions in scientific lines that, till the close of time, would have afforded food for thought and stimulus for invention. But He did not do this. He said nothing to gratify curiosity or to stimulate selfish ambition. He did not deal in abstract theories, but in that which is essential to the development of character; that which will enlarge man's capacity for knowing God, and increase his power to do good. He spoke of those truths that relate to the conduct of life, and that unite man with eternity....

To Christ the present and the future, the near and the far, were one. He had in view the needs of all mankind. Before His mind's eye was outspread every scene of human effort and achievement, of temptation and conflict, of perplexity and peril. All hearts, all homes, all pleasures and joys and aspirations, were known to Him.

He spoke not only for, but to, all mankind. To the little child, in the gladness of life's morning; to the eager, restless heart of youth; to men in the strength of their years, bearing the burden of responsibility and care; to the aged in their weakness and weariness—to all His message was spoken—to every child of humanity, in every land and in every age.

In His teaching were embraced the things of time and the things of eternity—things seen, in their relation to things unseen, the passing incidents of common life and the solemn issues of the life to come.

The things of this life He placed in their true relation, as subordinate to those of eternal interest, but He did not ignore their importance. He taught that heaven and earth are linked together, and that a knowledge of divine truth prepares man better to perform the duties of daily life.

Christ lived, not to gratify Himself, but to do good, to save others from suffering, to help those who most needed help. The bitter cup was apportioned to us to drink. Our sins mingled it. But our dear Saviour took the cup from our lips and drank it Himself, and in its stead He presents to us a cup of mercy, blessing, and salvation. What a sacrifice was this! what love, what wondrous and matchless love!

If Christ be in us the hope of glory, we shall walk even as He walked; we shall imitate His life of sacrifice to save others; we shall welcome a life of devotion, trial, and self-denial for His sake; so shall we share in His eternal joy and bliss. —Ellen G. White, *The Watchman*, February 11, 1908.

“God sends trials to prove who will stand faithful under temptation. He brings us into trying positions to see if we will trust in a power out of and above ourselves. Everyone has undiscovered traits of character that must come to light through trial. God allows those who are self-sufficient to be sorely tempted that they may understand their helplessness. He suffers the deep waters of affliction to go over our souls, in order that we may know Him and Jesus Christ whom He has sent, in order that we may have deep heart longings to be cleansed from defilement, and may come forth from the trial purer, holier, happier. Often we enter the furnace of affliction with our souls darkened with selfishness; but if patient under the crucial test, we shall come forth reflecting the divine character. When His purpose in the affliction is accomplished ‘He shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.’ Psalm 37:6.

“‘Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.’ Mark 14:38. Watch against the stealthy approach of the enemy, watch against old habits and natural inclinations, lest they assert themselves; force them back, and watch. Watch the thoughts, watch the plans, lest they become self-centered. Watch over the souls that Christ has purchased with His own blood. Watch for opportunities to do them good.

“A great crisis is just before us. To meet its trials and temptations and to perform its duties will require persevering faith. But we may triumph gloriously; not one watching, praying, believing soul will be ensnared by the enemy.” –In Heavenly Places, p. 279.