

Sabbath School Lessons, 1st Quarter, 2016

'He is able': Lessons on God's power

General Introduction

'We want clear views of what Jesus is to us. We want to have distinct views of the victories gained in our behalf. He spoiled principalities and powers and made a show of them openly. He broke the fetters of the tomb and came forth to take again His life that He laid down for us. He ascended on high, having led captivity captive and received gifts for men. All this suffering He endured for us. He will be our helper and He will be our refuge in every time of need. He should be revealed in our Christian experience as all-sufficient, a present Saviour.

Only look and live. We dishonour God when we do not go forth from the dark cellar of doubts unto the upper chamber of hope and faith. When the Light shineth in all its brightness, let us take hold on Jesus Christ by the mighty hand of faith. No longer cultivate your doubts by expressing them and pouring them into other minds, and thus becoming an agent of Satan to sow the seeds of doubt. Talk faith, live faith, cultivate love to God; evidence to the world all that Jesus is to you. Magnify His holy name. Tell of His goodness; talk of His mercy, and tell of His power.' *Our High Calling*, page 20.

'The mightiest power is vouchsafed to us that we may stand firm. Looking unto Jesus, it is our privilege to say, boldly and yet humbly, The Lord is my helper; I shall not be moved from my steadfastness. My life is bound up with the life of Christ. Because He lives, I shall live also.

Close the door of the heart to distrust, and throw it open to the heavenly Guest. Put away all fretting and complaining, for this is the snare of the devil. Let us make a pledge before God and the heavenly angels that we will not dishonour our Maker by cherishing darkness and unbelief, by speaking words of discouragement and mistrust. Let every word we utter, every line we write, be fraught with encouragement and unwavering faith. If we live faith, we shall talk faith. Think not that Jesus is the Saviour of your brother only. He is your personal Saviour. If you entertain this precious thought, you will beat back the clouds of despondency and gloom, and make melody to God in your soul. It is our privilege to triumph in God. It is our privilege to lead others to see that their only hope is in God, and to flee to Him for refuge.

"Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind." Stay your soul upon God. We are saved by faith in Christ. To those who realise this, it is, day by day, a source of infinite comfort.

Every act of consecration to God brings us joy; for as we appreciate the light He has given us, more and greater light will come. We must banish the spirit of complaining, and open the heart to the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness. There is peace in perfect submission. Peace follows grace. They work in perfect harmony, and are multiplied in progression. When the hand of faith takes hold of the hand of Christ, the expression of the heart is:--

'Being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.' Philippians 1:11.

'When He shall come to be glorified in His saints and to be admired in all them that believe.....that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you and ye in Him according to the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.' 2 Thessalonians 1:10 & 12.

'That ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light.' 1 Peter 2:9.

God's joy as He sees His plan fulfilled.

'But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him and with His stripes we are healed. . . . He shall see the travail of His soul and shall be satisfied.' Isaiah 53:5 & 11.

'The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; He will save; He will rejoice over thee with joy; He will rest in His love; He will joy over thee with singing.' Zephaniah 3:17.

'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, to the only wise God our Saviour be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.' Jude 1:24-25.

As you read these verses, do they fill you with a love for God, with a desire to be what He wants you to be, to do what He wants you to do, so that you can bring Him this great joy? Would you like to be there to hear God Himself singing that song of joy over your salvation which is described in Zephaniah 3:17?

Jesus says to you: 'If ye love Me, keep My Commandments.'

John 14:15. **He longs to be able to say: 'Here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.'** Revelation 14:12. One day there will be people doing just that, for we are told: **'Blessed are they that do His Commandments that they may have right to the Tree of Life and may enter in through the gates into the City.'** Revelation 22:14.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations; that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen, ye love; in whom though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.” 1 Peter 1:3-9.

Open the windows of the soul heavenward, and let the rays of the Sun of righteousness in. Do not complain. Do not look on the dark side. Let the peace of God reign in your soul. Then you will have strength to bear all suffering, and you will rejoice that you have grace to endure. Praise the Lord; talk of His goodness; tell of His power.’

Bible Echo, September 24, 1900.

Lesson 1: December 27-January 2

‘In Thine hand is there not power and might?’

MEMORY VERSE: ‘And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth.’ Matthew 28:18.

STUDY HELP: *Counsels on Stewardship*, page 17.

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Job 26:7-14.

LESSON AIM: To consider the extent of the power of God.

Introduction

‘The power of God is manifested in the beating of the heart, in the action of the lungs, and in the living currents that circulate through the thousand different channels of the body. We are indebted to Him for every moment of existence, and for all the comforts of life. The powers and abilities that elevate man above the lower creation are the endowment of the Creator. He loads us with His benefits. We are indebted to Him for the food we eat, the water we drink, the clothes we wear, the air we breathe. Without His special providence, the air would be filled with pestilence and poison. He is a bountiful benefactor and preserver. The sun which shines upon the earth, and glorifies all nature, the weird, solemn radiance of the moon, the glories of the firmament, spangled with brilliant stars, the showers that refresh the land, and cause vegetation to flourish, the precious things of nature in all their varied richness, the lofty

Why God wants to save us from our sins.

‘Let God be true, but every man a liar. As it is written: That Thou mightest be justified in Thy sayings and mightest overcome when Thou art judged.’ Romans 3:4

The following verses show you how much He loves us, the plan He has always had for us, how we can, in our lives here and now, clear His Name against the accusations of Satan and his followers, and the joy that God will have when His people in their lives reveal His character of selfless love and He can bestow upon them eternal life.

God’s love for us.

‘But God commendeth His love for us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.’ Romans 5:8.

‘For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.’ John 3:16.

God’s plan and purpose for us.

‘That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.’ Philippians 2:15.

‘That they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.’ Titus 2:10.

‘That the life of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.’ 2 Corinthians 4:11.

‘For we are made a spectacle unto the world and to angels and to men.’ 1 Corinthians 4:9.

How God Himself can be blessed by our Christlike lives.

‘That we should be to the praise of His glory.’ Ephesians 1:12.

‘That we should be holy and without blame before Him in love....to the praise of the glory of His grace wherein He hath made us accepted in the Beloved.’ Ephesians 1:4 & 6.

out that faith that works by love, and purifies the soul.’ *Review & Herald*, October 18, 1898.

‘The just shall live by his faith’

11. How are those whom Christ has justified freely by His grace to live? **Habakkuk 2:4, last part.**

NOTE: ‘There is a work that every one of us must do if we would be saved in the eternal world. But while we must on our part do what God has given us to do, we must realise that, having done all, we should come far short of salvation, did not the Lord on His part do that which finite, sinful man cannot do for himself. The religious life is wholly dependent upon the blending of both human and divine forces. Man is to work out his own salvation, but he cannot do this without divine aid; and although Christ has paid an infinite price to save the souls of men from everlasting ruin, He will not do that part of the work which was left for man to perform. We are to live by faith. We are not to be controlled by impulse and feeling, but the principles of God’s law must govern our lives. While we look to Jesus as the source of all power, we shall not fail to receive help in every time of need, “for it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.”’ *Review & Herald*, October 30, 1888.

12. What is faith? Consider **Matthew 8:5-13.**

NOTE: ‘Faith is the expecting the word of God to do what it says, and the depending upon that word to do what it says.’ A. T. Jones: *Review & Herald*, December 27, 1898.

‘One day a centurion came to Jesus, and said to Him: “Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that Thou shouldest come under my roof; but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. . . . When Jesus heard it, He marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.” Matthew 8:6-10. There is what Jesus pronounces faith. When we find what that is, we have found faith. To know what that is, is to know what faith is. There can be no sort of doubt about this; for Christ is “the Author. . . of faith,” and He says that that which the centurion manifested was “faith;” yes, even “great faith.” Where, then, in this is the faith? The centurion wanted a certain thing done. He wanted the Lord to do it. But when the Lord said, “I will come” and do it, the centurion checked him, saying, “Speak the word only,” and it shall be done. Now, what did the centurion expect would do the work? “The word ONLY.” Upon what did he depend for the healing of his servant? Upon “the word ONLY.” And the Lord Jesus says that that is faith.’ A. T. Jones: *Review & Herald*, December 6, 1898.

trees, the shrubs and plants, the waving grain, the blue sky, the green earth, the changes of day and night, the renewing seasons, all speak to man of his Creator’s love. He has linked us to Himself by all these tokens in heaven and in earth. He watches over us with more tenderness than does a mother over an afflicted child. “Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him.”’ *Review & Herald*, September 18, 1888.

‘All power is given unto Me’

1. How much power is in the hands of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ? **Matthew 28:18.**

NOTE: ‘In the hymn recorded by Nehemiah, the Levites sang, “Thou, even Thou, art Lord alone; Thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and Thou preservest them all.” Nehemiah 9:6. As regards this earth, Scripture declares the work of creation to have been completed. “The works were finished from the foundation of the world.” Hebrews 4:3. But the power of God is still exercised in upholding the objects of His creation. It is not because the mechanism once set in motion continues to act by its own inherent energy that the pulse beats, and breath follows breath. Every breath, every pulsation of the heart, is an evidence of the care of Him in whom we live and move and have our being. From the smallest insect to man, every living creature is daily dependent upon His providence.’ *Education*, pages 130-131.

2. How did the Creator express the scope of His power to Job? **Job 38:4-11. (Read chapters 38-41.)**

NOTE: ‘It was the Maker of all things who ordained the wonderful adaptation of means to end, of supply to need. It was He who in the material world provided that every desire implanted should be met. It was He who created the human soul, with its capacity for knowing and for loving. And He is not in Himself such as to leave the demands of the soul unsatisfied. No intangible principle, no impersonal essence or mere abstraction, can satisfy the needs and longings of human beings in this life of struggle with sin and sorrow and pain. It is not enough to believe in law and force, in things that have no pity, and never hear the cry for help. We need to know of an almighty arm that will hold us up, of an infinite Friend that pities us. We need to clasp a hand that is warm, to trust in a heart full of tenderness. And even so God has in His word revealed Himself. He who studies most deeply into the mysteries of nature will realise most fully his own ignorance and weakness. He will realise that there are depths and heights which he cannot reach, secrets which he cannot penetrate, vast fields of truth lying before him unentered. He will be ready to say, with Newton, “I seem to myself to have been like a child on the seashore finding pebbles and shells, while the great ocean of truth lay undiscovered before me.” The deepest students of science are constrained to recognise in nature the working of infinite power.’ *Education*, pages 133-134.

‘God hath showed it unto them’

3. What evidence of God’s power is obvious to all? Romans 1:19-20.

NOTE: ‘God is the foundation of everything. All true science is in harmony with His works; all true education leads to obedience to His government. Science opens new wonders to our view; she soars high, and explores new depths; but she brings nothing from her research that conflicts with divine revelation. Ignorance may seek to support false views of God by appeals to science, but the book of nature and the written word shed light upon each other. We are thus led to adore the Creator and to have an intelligent trust in His word. No finite mind can fully comprehend the existence, the power, the wisdom, or the works of the Infinite One. Says the sacred writer: “Canst thou by searching find out God? Canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection? It is as high as heaven; what canst thou do? deeper than hell; what canst thou know? The measure thereof is longer than the earth, and broader than the sea.” Job 11:7-9. The mightiest intellects of earth cannot comprehend God. Men may be ever searching, ever learning, and still there is an infinity beyond. Yet the works of creation testify of God’s power and greatness. “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth His handiwork.” Psalm 19:1. Those who take the written word as their counsellor will find in science an aid to understand God. “The invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead.” Romans 1:20.’ *Patriarchs & Prophets*, pages 115-116.

4. Who is the Creator of all things? John 1:1-3, 14. Compare Colossians 1:13-16; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 3:9; Hebrews 1:2.

NOTE: ‘It [the Sabbath] belongs to Christ. Since He made all things, He made the Sabbath. By Him it was set apart as a memorial of the work of creation. It points to Him as both the Creator and the Sanctifier. It declares that He who created all things in heaven and in earth, and by whom all things hold together is the head of the church, and that by His power we are reconciled to God. For, speaking of Israel, He said, “I gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them,” make them holy. Then the Sabbath is a sign of Christ’s power to make us holy. And it is given to all whom Christ makes holy. As a sign of His sanctifying power, the Sabbath is given to all who through Christ become a part of the Israel of God. To all who receive the Sabbath as a sign of Christ’s creative and redeeming power, it will be a delight. Seeing Christ in it, they delight themselves in Him. The Sabbath points them to the works of creation as an evidence of His mighty power in redemption. While it calls to mind the lost peace of Eden, it tells of peace restored through the Saviour. And every object in nature repeats His invitation, “Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28. The Sabbath is a golden clasp that unites God and His people.’ *Maranatha*, page 244.

man. For it is written: “Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above): or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead). But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart; that is, the word of faith, which we preach.” Romans 10:6-8. “Think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.” Romans 12:3. Thus God has put faith into the mouth and into the heart of every man.’ A. T. Jones: *Review & Herald*, April 24, 1894.

‘Abraham believed God’

9. What examples of faith in action does the Bible show us? Genesis 22:2-3; Job 13:15, first part; Daniel 3:17-18; Matthew 14:28.

NOTE: ‘Faith is dependence on the word of God only. So long as there is any dependence on himself, so long as there is any conceivable ground of hope for any dependence upon anything in or about himself, there can be no faith; so long there is no place for faith, since faith is dependence on the word only. But when every conceivable ground of hope of any dependence on anything in or about himself, is gone, and is acknowledged to be gone; when everything that can be seen is against any hope of justification, then it is that, throwing himself on the promise of God, upon the word only, hoping against hope, faith enters; and by faith he finds justification full and free, all ungodly though he be. For forever it stands written, “To him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.” “Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ.” “Whom God hath set forth. . . to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past.” That is what it is to exercise faith. Are you exercising faith? For understanding how to exercise faith: this is the science of the gospel.’ A. T. Jones: *Review & Herald*, February 7, 1899.

10. What are we warned about the importance of faith? Hebrews 11:6. Consider Romans 14:23, last part.

NOTE: ‘How to exercise faith should be made very plain. To every promise of God there are conditions. If we are willing to do His will, all His strength is ours. Whatever gift He promises, is in the promise itself. “The seed is the word of God.” Luke 8:11. As surely as the oak is in the acorn, so surely is the gift of God in His promise. If we receive the promise, we have the gift.’ *Education*, page 253.

‘How to exercise faith. This is the science of the gospel. The Scripture declares, “Without faith it is impossible to please God.” The knowledge of what the Scripture means when urging upon us the necessity of cultivating faith, is more essential than any other knowledge that can be acquired. We suffer much trouble and grief because of our unbelief, and our ignorance of how to exercise faith. We must break through the clouds of unbelief. We cannot have a healthy Christian experience, we cannot obey the gospel unto salvation, until the science of faith is better understood, and until more faith is exercised. There can be no perfection of Christian character with-

6. What sorts of prayers will not be answered? James 4:3.

NOTE: 'Precious are the privileges accorded him who abides in Christ. The mind of Christ dwells in His faithful followers; their desires are in accordance with His will; their petitions are indicted by His Spirit. They obtain answers to their prayers; for they ask for such blessings as He delights to bestow. But there are thousands of prayers daily offered that God does not answer. There are faithless prayers. "He that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." Hebrews 11:6. There are selfish prayers, proceeding from a heart that is cherishing idols. There are petulant, fretful prayers, murmuring because of the burdens and cares of life, instead of humbly seeking grace to lighten them. Those who offer such petitions are not abiding in Christ. They have not submitted their will to the will of God. They do not comply with the condition of the promise, and it is not fulfilled to them.' *Our High Calling*, page 147.

'Faith as a grain of mustard seed'

7. How much faith do we need for prayer to be answered? Matthew 17:20; Luke 17:6.

NOTE: "'If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed," said Jesus, "ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove." Though the grain of mustard seed is so small, it contains that same mysterious life principle which produces growth in the loftiest tree. When the mustard seed is cast into the ground, the tiny germ lays hold of every element that God has provided for its nutriment, and it speedily develops a sturdy growth. If you have faith like this, you will lay hold upon God's word, and upon all the helpful agencies He has appointed. Thus your faith will strengthen, and will bring to your aid the power of heaven. The obstacles that are piled by Satan across your path, though apparently as insurmountable as the eternal hills, shall disappear before the demand of faith. "Nothing shall be impossible unto you.'" *Desire of Ages*, page 431.

8. How do we acquire faith? Romans 12:3; Ephesians 2:8. Consider Hebrews 12:2.

NOTE: 'Faith is for us to exercise. Therefore it is written: "Choose you this day whom ye will serve." "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." And God has given the faith too. For did we not read above that "by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God"? And is it not written in another place, "Looking unto Jesus the author and the finisher of our faith"? And yet again: "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"? Jesus Christ is the Author of faith; the word of God is the channel through which it comes; and God gave both Jesus and the word, or rather, in giving Jesus He gave the word, and in giving the word He gave Jesus, so that in every sense, faith is the gift of God. And He has given faith to every

5. How does the Bible reveal that the power that created all things also sustains them? Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 1:17.

NOTE: 'The power of God is still exercised in upholding the objects of His creation. Every breath, every pulsation of the heart, is an evidence of the care of Him in whom we live and move and have our being. Not by its own inherent energy does the earth produce its bounties, and year by year continue its motion around the sun. An unseen hand guides the planets in their circuit of the heavens. The God of heaven is constantly at work. It is by His power that vegetation is caused to flourish, that every leaf appears and every flower blooms. Every drop of rain or flake of snow, every spire of grass, every leaf and flower and shrub, testifies of God. These little things so common around us teach the lesson that nothing is beneath the notice of the infinite God, nothing is too small for His attention. Many teach that matter possesses vital power, and that the operations of nature are conducted in harmony with fixed laws, with which God Himself cannot interfere. This is false science, and is not sustained by the Word of God. Nature is the servant of her Creator. God does not annul His laws, or work contrary to them; but He is continually using them as His instruments. God's handiwork in nature is not God Himself in nature. While nature is an expression of God's thought, it is not nature but the God of nature that is to be exalted. There is in nature the continual working of the Father and the Son. Christ says, "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work." John 5:17. The hand that sustains the worlds in space, the hand that holds in their orderly arrangement and tireless activity all things throughout the universe of God, is the hand that was nailed to the cross for us.' *The Faith I Live By*, page 28.

'Have I no power to deliver?'

6. How are we shown the power of God to deliver His people? Daniel 3:15-17, 26-28; Exodus 14:21-23, 27-28.

NOTE: 'The appointed day came, and at the sound of entrancing music the vast company "fell down and worshipped the golden image." But the three Hebrew youth, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (we have no record of Daniel's being present), did not dishonour the God of heaven by paying homage to this idol. Their action was reported to the king. Angered, he called them before him and by threats endeavoured to induce them to unite with the multitude in worshipping the image. Courteously yet firmly they declared their allegiance to the God of heaven and their faith in His power to deliver them in the hour of trial.' *Christ Triumphant*, page 177.

'Heaven is very near those who suffer for righteousness' sake. Christ identifies His interests with the interests of His faithful people; He suffers in the person of His saints; and whoever touches His chosen ones, touches Him. The power that is near to deliver from physical harm or distress, is also near to save from the greater evil, making it possible for the servant of God to maintain his integrity under all circumstances.' *Christian Service*, page 166.

7. What examples of God's power to deliver are we shown in New Testament times? Acts 12:6-7; Acts 14:19-20; Acts 16:25-26.

NOTE: 'Their way was toilsome; they encountered hardships and privations, and were beset with dangers on every side. In the towns and cities through which they passed, and along the lonely highways, they were surrounded by dangers seen and unseen. But Paul and Barnabas had learned to trust God's power to deliver. Their hearts were filled with fervent love for perishing souls. As faithful shepherds in search of the lost sheep, they gave no thought to their own ease and convenience. Forgetful of self, they faltered not when weary, hungry, and cold. They had in view but one object, the salvation of those who had wandered far from the fold.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 169.

'The LORD preserveth the faithful'

8. In what other way was the power of God manifested? Nehemiah 9:21, Psalm 105:37.

NOTE: 'God had preserved them from many and great evils, which if He had permitted to come upon them, they would have suffered that which they could call hardships. But God had prepared the way before them. There was no sickness among them. Their feet had not swollen in all their journeys, neither had their clothes waxed old. God had given them angels' food, and purest water out of the flinty rock. And with all these tokens of His love, if they complained, He would send His judgements upon them for their ingratitude, and make them to realise His past merciful care for them, of which they had been unmindful.' *Spirit of Prophecy, volume 1*, page 315.

9. What other instance of God's power to preserve are recorded? 1 Kings 17:14-16. Compare 2 Kings 4:1-6.

NOTE: 'God's gifts increase as they are imparted. We see this illustrated in the case of the poor widow whom the prophet Elisha, by a miracle, relieved from debt. She had only one jar of oil; but the prophet told her to borrow vessels of her neighbours, and the oil poured from that one jar continued to flow till all the vessels were filled. The supply ceased only when no more vessels were brought to receive it. So it will be now. So long as we let the gifts of God flow into channels of good, the Lord will supply the flow.' *Reflecting Christ*, page 269.

'Christ did not seek to attract men to Him by gratifying the desire for luxury. The simple fare He provided was an assurance not only of His power but of His love, of His tender care for them in the common needs of life. And while He fed them with the barley loaves, He gave them also to eat of the bread of life. Here is our example. Our fare may be plain and even scanty. Our lot may be shut in with poverty. Our resources may be no greater than were those of the disciples with the five loaves and the two fishes. Yet as we come in contact with those in need, Christ bids us: "Give ye them to eat." We are to impart of that which we have; and as we give, Christ will see that our lack is supplied.' *Testimonies, volume 6*, page 345.

ness, cast themselves upon the mercy of their compassionate Saviour. Look not to self, but to Christ. He who healed the sick and cast out demons when He walked among men is the same mighty Redeemer today. Faith comes by the word of God. Then grasp His promise, "Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out." John 6:37. Cast yourself at His feet with the cry, "Lord, I believe; help Thou mine unbelief." You can never perish while you do this, never.' *Desire of Ages*, page 429.

'Believing, ye shall receive'

3. What amazing promise did Jesus make concerning faith and prayer? Matthew 21:22.

NOTE: 'Prayer and faith are closely allied, and they need to be studied together. In the prayer of faith there is a divine science; it is a science that everyone who would make his lifework a success must understand. Christ says, "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark 11:24. He makes it plain that our asking must be according to God's will; we must ask for the things that He has promised, and whatever we receive must be used in doing His will. The conditions met, the promise is unequivocal.' *Education*, page 257.

4. What sort of thing has God promised to His people? 1 John 1:9; Luke 11:13; Romans 8:29; James 1:5; Isaiah 40:29.

NOTE: 'For the pardon of sin, for the Holy Spirit, for a Christlike temper, for wisdom and strength to do His work, for any gift He has promised, we may ask; then we are to believe that we receive, and return thanks to God that we have received.' *Education*, page 258.

'Ask in faith'

5. What warning does James give concerning faithless prayers? James 1:6-7.

NOTE: 'God is behind every promise, and we cannot dishonour Him more than by questioning and hesitating, by asking and not believing, and then by talking doubt. If you do not immediately receive what you have asked for, will you go on in sullenness and unbelief? Believe; believe that God will do just what He has promised. Keep your prayers ascending, and watch, work, and wait. Fight the good fight of faith. Say to your heart, "God has invited me to come. He has heard my prayer. He has pledged His word that He will receive me, and He will fulfil His promise. I can trust God; for He so loved me that He gave His only-begotten Son to die for me. The Son of God is my Redeemer." "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?"' *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, page 299.

STUDY HELP: *The Upward Look*, page 279.

LESSON SCRIPTURES: Hebrews 11:1-40.

LESSON AIM: To consider how important faith is in laying hold on the power of God.

Introduction

‘To all people there is given faith to begin with: and all they need to do is to cultivate faith. Nobody can have more faith than is already given him, without cultivating the faith that is already given. And there is nothing known to man that will grow so fast as faith; when it is cultivated, “faith groweth exceedingly.” Faith is the expecting that the word of God itself will accomplish what that Word says; and the depending upon “the Word only” to accomplish what the Word says. To cultivate dependence on the Word of God, “the Word only,” itself to do what the Word says, is to cultivate faith. Faith is “the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8); and that it is given to everybody is plainly stated in the Scriptures: “God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.” Romans 12:3. This measure of faith which “God hath dealt to every man” is the capital with which God endows and starts “every man that cometh into the world;” and every man is expected to trade upon this capital, cultivate it, to the salvation of his soul.’ A. T. Jones: *Review & Herald*, January 10, 1899.

‘All things are possible to him that believeth.’

1. What is promised to those who believe in the power of God? Mark 9:23.

NOTE: ‘Jesus said: “If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.” All things are possible with God, and by faith we may lay hold on His power. But faith is not sight; faith is not feeling; faith is not reality. “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” To abide in faith is to put aside feeling and selfish desires, to walk humbly with the Lord, to appropriate His promises, and apply them to all occasions, believing that God will work out His own plans and purposes in your heart and life by the sanctification of your character; it is to rely entirely, to trust implicitly, upon the faithfulness of God. If this course is followed, others will see the special fruits of the Spirit manifested in the life and character.’ *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, page 341.

2. How did Christ respond to a faltering confession of faith? Mark 9:24-27.

NOTE: “‘If Thou canst do anything, have compassion on us, and help us.’ How many a sin-burdened soul has echoed that prayer. And to all, the pitying Saviour’s answer is, “If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.” It is faith that connects us with heaven, and brings us strength for coping with the powers of darkness. In Christ, God has provided means for subduing every sinful trait, and resisting every temptation, however strong. But many feel that they lack faith, and therefore they remain away from Christ. Let these souls, in their helpless unworthi-

‘I am the LORD that healeth thee’

10. In what special way is the power of God manifested? Matthew 4:23; Luke 9:11.

NOTE: ‘Our Lord Jesus Christ came to this world as the unwearied servant of man’s necessity. He “took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses,” that He might minister to every need of humanity. Matthew 8:17. The burden of disease and wretchedness and sin He came to remove. It was His mission to bring to men complete restoration; He came to give them health and peace and perfection of character. Varied were the circumstances and needs of those who besought His aid, and none who came to Him went away unhelped. From Him flowed a stream of healing power, and in body and mind and soul men were made whole.’ *A Call to Stand Apart*, page 59.

11. In view of this, what should be our prayer? Psalm 103:1-5.

NOTE: ‘The Lord desires us to make mention of His goodness and tell of His power. He is honoured by the expression of praise and thanksgiving. He says, “Whoso offereth praise glorifieth Me.” Psalm 50:23. The people of Israel, as they journeyed through the wilderness, praised God in sacred song. The commandments and promises of the Lord were set to music, and all along the journey these were sung by the pilgrim travellers. And in Canaan as they met at their sacred feasts God’s wonderful works were to be recounted, and grateful thanksgiving was to be offered to His name. God desired that the whole life of His people should be a life of praise. Thus His way was to be made “known upon earth,” His “saving health among all nations.” Psalm 67:2.’ *Christ’s Object Lessons*, page 298.

‘I will destroy them’

12. What other manifestation of God’s power must we never forget? Genesis 6:13; Genesis 19:24.

NOTE: ‘The flames that consumed the cities of the plain shed their warning light down even to our time. We are taught the fearful and solemn lesson that while God’s mercy bears long with the transgressor, there is a limit beyond which men may not go on in sin. When that limit is reached, then the offers of mercy are withdrawn, and the ministration of judgment begins. The Redeemer of the world declares that there are greater sins than that for which Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed. Those who hear the gospel invitation calling sinners to repentance, and heed it not, are more guilty before God than were the dwellers in the vale of Siddim. And still greater sin is theirs who profess to know God and to keep His commandments, yet who deny Christ in their character and their daily life. In the light of the Saviour’s warning, the fate of Sodom is a solemn admonition to all who are trifling with Heaven-sent light and privileges. The judgments of God are soon to be poured out upon the earth. “Escape for thy life” is the warning from the angels of God. Other voices are heard saying: “Do not become excited; there is no cause for special alarm.” Those who are at ease in Zion cry “Peace and safety,” while heaven declares that swift destruction is

about to come upon the transgressor. The young, the frivolous, the pleasure-loving, consider these warnings as idle tales and turn from them with a jest. Parents are inclined to think their children about right in the matter, and all sleep on at ease. Thus it was at the destruction of the old world and when Sodom and Gomorrah were consumed by fire. On the night prior to their destruction the cities of the plain rioted in pleasure. Lot was derided for his fears and warnings. But it was these scoffers that perished in the flames. That very night the door of mercy was forever closed to the wicked, careless inhabitants of Sodom. The same voice that warned Lot to leave Sodom bids us, "Come out from among them, and be ye separate, . . . and touch not the unclean" (2 Corinthians 6:17). Those who obey this warning will find a refuge.' *Conflict & Courage*, page 53.

13. Does God wish to employ His power to destroy people? Ezekiel 33:11.

NOTE: 'God does not desire the destruction of any. "As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die?" Ezekiel 33:11. Throughout the period of probationary time His Spirit is entreating men to accept the gift of life. It is only those who reject His pleading that will be left to perish. God has declared that sin must be destroyed as an evil ruinous to the universe. Those who cling to sin will perish in its destruction.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 123.

Lesson 2: January 3-9

'Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us'

MEMORY VERSE: 'And call upon Me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me.' Psalm 50:15.

STUDY HELP: *The Upward Look*, page 218.

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Exodus 15:1-11.

LESSON AIM: To consider God's power to deliver His people.

Introduction

'Many know very little of God's dealings with His people, but the most hopeless part of their experience is that they do not try to understand His dealings in these precious hours of probation. It is their privilege to know that His afflictions come for the object of purifying them from all evil. The Lord permits trials to come in order that we may look to Him as the source of our strength, and be cleansed from earthliness, from selfishness, from harshness, from sharp unchristlike traits of character. He suffers the deep waters of affliction to go over our souls in order that we may know Him and Jesus Christ whom He hath sent, in order that we may have deep heart-longings

carnal nature is the nature we get by birth, and this nature we must retain, no matter what our station and occupation among men, until we allow the Lord to transform our hearts by the power of His grace. And therefore every person in whom this natural, or carnal, heart exists is at enmity with every precept of the Divine law. He is not only at enmity with the command which says, "Thou shalt not covet," as very respectable persons can be, but he is also not in harmony with those commands which say, "Thou shalt not kill," and "Thou shalt not commit adultery." He may not feel the enmity stirring him up to commit some shocking deed; but nevertheless, it is there.' E. J. Waggoner: *Present Truth*, December 27, 1894.

12. When God creates new hearts in us, who lives in us to guide us? Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 3:16-19.

NOTE: 'God accepts those who crucify self, and makes them vessels unto honour. They are in His hands as clay in the hands of the potter, and He works His will through them. Such men and women receive spiritual power. Christ lives in them, and the power of His Spirit attends their efforts. They realise that they are to live in this world the life that Jesus lived, a life free from all selfishness; and He enables them to bear witness for Him that draws souls to the cross of Calvary.' *Signs of the Times*, April 9, 1902.

13. How vital is it for us to experience this change in our hearts? John 3:3, 5.

NOTE: 'It is one thing to assent in a general way to the agency of the Holy Spirit, and another thing to accept His work as a reprover calling to repentance. Many feel a sense of estrangement from God, a realisation of their bondage to self and sin; they make efforts for reform; but they do not crucify self. They do not give themselves entirely into the hands of Christ, seeking for divine power to do His will. They are not willing to be moulded after the divine similitude. In a general way they acknowledge their imperfections, but they do not give up their particular sins. With each wrong act the old selfish nature is gaining strength. The only hope for these souls is to realise in themselves the truth of Christ's words to Nicodemus, "Ye must be born again." "Except a man be born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:7, 3, margin.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 48.

Lesson 13: March 20-26

'Believe ye that I am able to do this?'

MEMORY VERSE: 'And when He was come into the house, the blind men came to Him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto Him, Yea, Lord.' Matthew 9:28.

this error thousands have stumbled to ruin, not understanding the expression, “Ye must be born again.” Satan leads people to think that because they have felt a rapture of feeling they are converted. But their experience does not change. Their actions are the same as before. Their lives show no good fruit. They pray often and long, and are constantly referring to the feelings they had at such and such a time. But they do not live the new life. They are deceived. Their experience goes no deeper than feeling. They build upon the sand, and when adverse winds come, their house is swept away. Many poor souls are groping in darkness, looking for the feelings which others say they have had in their experience. They overlook the fact that the believer in Christ must work out his own salvation with fear and trembling. The convicted sinner has something to do. He must repent and show true faith. When Jesus speaks of the new heart, He means the mind, the life, the whole being. To have a change of heart is to withdraw the affections from the world, and fasten them upon Christ. To have a new heart is to have a new mind, new purposes, new motives. What is the sign of a new heart? A changed life. There is a daily, hourly dying to selfishness and pride.’ *Messengers to Young People*, pages 71-72.

10. What prayer of David should be our prayer too? Psalm 51:10.

NOTE: ‘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.’ *The Faith I Live By*, page 129.

‘Except a man be born again’

11. Why can Jesus not live in our hearts until they are changed? Romans 8:7.

NOTE: ‘We turn to the book of Jeremiah and read, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked.” Jeremiah 17:9. Whose heart is it? Ah, there are no particular persons specified in the statement; its application is general; it means your heart and mine. Neither does it say the heart may become deceitful and desperately wicked, but is so. There is no getting around it; the Lord says our hearts are deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. No matter about our respectability and standing in society; if the human heart rules within us, we are desperately wicked. And it is only because our hearts are so deceitful that we do not realise the fact. Yes; there is murder there; there is adultery, there is theft, there is blasphemy, there is that dreadful crime which shocked us as we read it in the paper, and which sent a man to the gallows; there is everything of which lawless men are guilty, and which is contrary to the ten commandments. The Lord says so; for He says, “The carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.” Romans 8:7. To how much of the law of God is the carnal mind not subject? Can it be subject to part of that law, and not subject to the remaining part? Certainly that could not be. The heart must either be subject to the law in its entirety, or not subject to it; and the carnal heart, as the text declares, “is not subject to the law of God.” This

to be cleansed from defilement, and to come forth from the trial purer, holier, and happier. We enter the furnace of trial with our souls darkened with selfishness, and if patient under the crucial test, we shall come forth reflecting the divine character. The Lord is able to deliver the godly out of temptation.’ *Manuscript Releases, volume 2*, page 269.

‘I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out’

1. How did God introduce Himself to the Israelites in giving the Ten Commandments? Exodus 20:2.

NOTE: ‘Jehovah revealed Himself, not alone in the awful majesty of the judge and lawgiver, but as the compassionate guardian of His people: “I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.” He whom they had already known as their guide and deliverer, who had brought them forth from Egypt, making a way for them through the sea, and overthrowing Pharaoh and his hosts, who had thus shown Himself to be above all the gods of Egypt, He it was who now spoke His law.’ *Christ Triumphant*, page 114.

2. How was His power to deliver manifested? Psalm 78:42-52.

NOTE: ‘In bringing forth Israel from Egypt, the Lord again manifested His power and His mercy. His wonderful works in their deliverance from bondage and His dealings with them in their travels through the wilderness were not for their benefit alone. These were to be as an object lesson to the surrounding nations. The Lord revealed Himself as a God above all human authority and greatness. The signs and wonders He wrought on behalf of His people showed His power over nature and over the greatest of those who worshiped nature. God went through the proud land of Egypt as He will go through the earth in the last days. With fire and tempest, earthquake and death, the great I AM redeemed His people. He took them out of the land of bondage. He led them through the “great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought.” Deuteronomy 8:15. He brought them forth water out of “the rock of flint,” and fed them with “the corn of heaven.” Psalm 78:24. “For,” said Moses, “the Lord’s portion is His people; Jacob is the lot of His inheritance. He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; He led him about, He instructed him, He kept him as the apple of His eye. As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: so the Lord alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him.” Deuteronomy 32:9-12. Thus He brought them unto Himself, that they might dwell as under the shadow of the Most High.’ *Christ’s Object Lessons*, page 286.

‘The LORD raised up judges, which delivered them’

3. What did the Lord do for His people when oppression came upon them? Judges 2:16, 18.

NOTE: 'He did not utterly forsake His people. There was ever a remnant who were true to Jehovah; and from time to time the Lord raised up faithful and valiant men to put down idolatry and to deliver the Israelites from their enemies. But when the deliverer was dead, and the people were released from his authority, they would gradually return to their idols. And thus the story of backsliding and chastisement, of confession and deliverance, was repeated again and again.' *Patriarchs & Prophets*, page 545.

4. How did Samuel warn the people to make themselves ready for God to deliver them? 1 Samuel 7:3.

NOTE: 'Those who sincerely repent and turn to the Lord, will find in Him a personal Saviour. He is able to save to the uttermost all that come unto God by Him. He will save you from yourself, from every defilement, from all your foolishness. You are to believe in Him, to "trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe." When you love Jesus, you will not grieve Him by indulging sin in yourself; for you will realise that He came not to save you in your sins, but from your sins. John says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.'" *Review & Herald*, April 5, 1892.

5. What confession did the Israelites make before asking for deliverance, according to Samuel? 1 Samuel 12:10.

NOTE: 'In order to receive help from Christ, we must realise our need. We must have a true knowledge of ourselves. It is only he who knows himself to be a sinner that Christ can save. Only as we see our utter helplessness and renounce all self-trust, shall we lay hold on divine power. It is not only at the beginning of the Christian life that this renunciation of self is to be made. At every advance step heavenward it is to be renewed. All our good works are dependent on a power outside of ourselves; therefore there needs to be a continual reaching out of the heart after God, a constant, earnest confession of sin and humbling of the soul before Him. Perils surround us; and we are safe only as we feel our weakness and cling with the grasp of faith to our mighty Deliverer.' *Ministry of Healing*, page 455.

'Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us'

6. What challenge did King Nebuchadnezzar make against the God of Israel? Daniel 3:14-15. Compare Exodus 5:2.

NOTE: 'The king had acknowledged the power of God, saying to Daniel, "Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, . . . and a revealer of secrets." For a time afterward, Nebuchadnezzar was influenced by the fear of God; but his heart was not yet cleansed from worldly ambition and a desire for self-exaltation. The prosperity attending his reign filled him with pride. In time he ceased to honour God, and resumed his idol worship with increased zeal and bigotry. The words, "Thou art this head of gold," had made a deep impression upon the ruler's mind. Verse 38. The

principle, and to violate his conscience in doing that which he knows to be wrong.' *Signs of the Times*, December 18, 1893.

6. Is it inevitable that we will sin when we are tempted? What has God promised? 1 Corinthians 10:13.

NOTE: 'Our heavenly Father measures and weighs every trial before He permits it to come upon the believer. He considers the circumstances and the strength of the one who is to stand under the proving and test of God, and He never permits the temptations to be greater than the capacity of resistance. If the soul is overborne, the person overpowered, this can never be charged to God, but the one tempted was not vigilant and prayerful and did not appropriate by faith the provisions God had abundantly in store for him. Christ never failed a believer in his hour of combat. The believer must claim the promise and meet the foe in the name of the Lord.' *Our High Calling*, page 323.

'Able to keep you from falling'

7. Is the Lord really able to help us in times of temptation? Hebrews 2:18

NOTE: 'Jesus said, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." He walked once a man on earth, His divinity clothed with humanity, a suffering, tempted man, beset with Satan's devices. He was tempted in all points like as we are, and He knows how to succour those that are tempted. Now He is at the right hand of God. He is in heaven as our advocate, to make intercession for us. We must always take comfort and hope as we think of this. He is thinking of those who are subject to temptations in this world. He thinks of us individually, and knows our every necessity. When tempted, just say, He cares for me, He makes intercession for me, He loves me, He has died for me. I will give myself unreservedly to Him.' *Lift Him Up*, page 184.

8. Is Jesus able to prevent us from falling into sin? Jude 1:24-25.

NOTE: 'When you are ready to co-operate with Him who can keep you from falling, your resolutions will be of some value. Christ, the chief Healer, will make you whole. He works mightily with everyone who is in earnest. He will give strength and victory. All the mean and wicked traits of character can be taken away by the One who has purchased you as His property.' *In Heavenly Places*, page 19.

'A new heart'

9. What will the Lord do to our sin-hardened hearts? Hebrews 8:10. Compare Jeremiah 31:33; Ezekiel 36:26-27.

NOTE: 'Many who speak to others of the need of a new heart do not themselves know what is meant by these words. . . . They do not know what it means. They look for a special change to take place in their feelings. This they term conversion. Over

earth.” Matthew 28:18. This unlimited power it is your privilege and mine to claim.’ *Our High Calling*, page 108.

‘All have sinned’

3. Since the gospel is the good news, what is the bad news? Romans 3:23; Romans 5:12.

NOTE: ‘The holy law of God is both brief and comprehensive; for it is easily understood and remembered; and yet it is an expression of the will of God. Its comprehensiveness is summed up in the following words: “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. . . . Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” “This do, and thou shalt live.” “Ye shall therefore keep My statutes, and My judgements: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the Lord.” If the transgressor is to be treated according to the letter of this covenant, then there is no hope for the fallen race; for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. The fallen race of Adam can behold nothing else in the letter of this covenant than the ministration of death; and death will be the reward of everyone who is seeking vainly to fashion a righteousness of his own that will fulfil the claims of the law. By His word God has bound Himself to execute the penalty of the law on all transgressors. Again and again men commit sin, and yet they do not seem to believe that they must suffer the penalty for breaking the law.’ *Signs of the Times*, Sept. 5, 1892.

4. What is sin? 1 John 3:4. Think about Genesis 2:16-17.

NOTE: ‘The only definition we find in the Bible for sin is that “sin is the transgression of the law” (1 John 3:4). The Word of God declares, “All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). “There is none that doeth good, no, not one” (Romans 3:12). Many are deceived concerning the condition of their hearts. They do not realise that the natural heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. They wrap themselves about with their own righteousness, and are satisfied in reaching their own human standard of character; but how fatally they fail when they do not reach the divine standard, and of themselves they cannot meet the requirements of God.’ *Selected Messages, book 1*, page 320.

‘God is faithful’

5. How do people come to sin? James 1:14.

NOTE: ‘When an impure thought is welcomed, an unholy desire cherished, a rebellious purpose formed, the purity of the soul is stained and its innocence is ruined, temptations prevail, and hell triumphs. “Every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin; and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.” A man is tempted to sin when some attractive object or indulgence is presented to him, and he is drawn to overstep

wise men of his realm, taking advantage of this and of his return to idolatry, proposed that he make an image similar to the one seen in his dream, and set it up where all might behold the head of gold, which had been interpreted as representing his kingdom. Pleased with the flattering suggestion, he determined to carry it out, and to go even farther. Instead of reproducing the image as he had seen it, he would excel the original. His image should not deteriorate in value from the head to the feet, but should be entirely of gold, symbolic throughout of Babylon as an eternal, indestructible, all-powerful kingdom, which should break in pieces all other kingdoms and stand forever.’ *Prophets & Kings*, pages 503-504.

7. How did the three Hebrew youths express their confidence in God’s power to deliver His people? Daniel 3:16-17.

NOTE: ‘Such will be the experience of God’s people in their final struggle with the powers of evil. God will test their faith, their perseverance, their confidence in His power to deliver them. Satan will endeavour to terrify them with the thought that their cases are hopeless; that their sins have been too great to receive pardon. They will have a deep sense of their shortcomings, and as they review their lives their hopes will sink. But remembering the greatness of God’s mercy, and their own sincere repentance, they will plead His promises made through Christ to helpless, repenting sinners. Their faith will not fail because their prayers are not immediately answered. They will lay hold of the strength of God, as Jacob laid hold of the Angel, and the language of their souls will be, “I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me.”’ *Conflict & Courage*, page 68.

‘All things work together for good . . .’

8. How did Joseph reveal to his brothers the workings of God’s providence in bringing deliverance? Genesis 45:4-8.

NOTE: ‘Wonderful is the work which God designs to accomplish through His servants, that His name may be glorified. God made Joseph a fountain of life to the Egyptian nation. Through Joseph the life of that whole people was preserved. Through Daniel God saved the life of all the wise men of Babylon. And these deliverances were as object lessons; they illustrated to the people the spiritual blessings offered them through connection with the God whom Joseph and Daniel worshiped. So through His people today God desires to bring blessings to the world. Every worker in whose heart Christ abides, everyone who will show forth His love to the world, is a worker together with God for the blessing of humanity. As he receives from the Saviour grace to impart to others, from his whole being flows forth the tide of spiritual life.’ *Testimonies, volume 6*, page 227.

9. What precious assurance may we have in times of trial and perplexity? Romans 8:28.

NOTE: ‘The fact that we are called upon to endure trial shows that the Lord Jesus

sees in us something precious which He desires to develop. If He saw in us nothing whereby He might glorify His name, He would not spend time in refining us. He does not cast worthless stones into His furnace. It is valuable ore that He refines. God never leads His children otherwise than they would choose to be led, if they could see the end from the beginning and discern the glory of the purpose which they are fulfilling as co-workers with Him. All that has perplexed us in the providences of God will in the world to come be made plain. The things hard to be understood will then find explanation. The mysteries of grace will unfold before us. Where our finite minds discovered only confusion and broken promises, we shall see the most perfect and beautiful harmony. We shall know that infinite love ordered the experiences that seemed most trying.’ *The Faith I Live By*, page 64.

‘He is able’

10. What precious assurance of deliverance is particularly appropriate to all who follow Christ? 2 Peter 2:9, first part.

NOTE: The recent popular Bible versions nearly always change ‘temptations’ to ‘trials’ in their rendering of this verse. This is because of the popular teaching that overcoming sin is impossible in this life

‘Temptation is not sin, and is no indication that God is displeased with us. The Lord suffers us to be tempted, but He measures every temptation, and apportions it according to our power to resist and overcome evil. It is in time of trial and temptation that we are enabled to measure the degree of our faith and trust in God, and to estimate the stability of our Christian character. If we are easily jostled and overcome, we should be alarmed; for our strength is small. Let us consider the words of comfort that have been left on record for our instruction: “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.” God has apportioned the temptation in proportion to the strength he can supply, and he never permits us to be tempted beyond our ability to resist or to endure. “The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptation.” “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him.” Through prayer and the word of God we shall be enabled to overcome temptation.’ *Signs of the Times*, December 18, 1893.

11. What prayer may be ours in times when we seek deliverance from temptation? Jude 1:24-25.

NOTE: ‘Christ was obedient to every requirement of the law. By His perfect obedience He has made it possible for every human being to obey God’s commandments. 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

Lesson 12: March 13-19 ‘The power of God unto salvation’

MEMORY VERSE: ‘For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.’ Romans 1:16.

STUDY HELP: *Our High Calling*, page 101.

LESSON SCRIPTURES: Romans 8:1-14.

LESSON AIM: To consider how the good news of the power of God unto salvation.

Introduction

‘What is the gospel of Christ? It is God’s free salvation to every soul in the wide world. It is the power of God to lift a man up from deadness in trespasses and sins, and make him a partaker of that salvation, to hold him in the way of that salvation, and to work out the righteousness of God through him.’ A. T. Jones: *Review & Herald*, August 14, 1900.

‘The gospel of Christ’

1. What did Paul say the gospel (or good news) is? Romans 1:16.

NOTE: ‘Jesus Christ has power and grace to deliver men from this law of sin and death, and to clothe them with the power to do the good, not only which they already know, but all additional good that may be made known by the Spirit of God. Professed philosophers, eminent teachers, and would-be saviours, in large numbers, have set forth systems of morality and rules of life; but they not only failed to bestow the power to perform, but they themselves failed to perform the duties which they enjoined. The excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, the Lord, is in that He not only set forth the grandest system of right known to the universe, but He imparts the power to perform it. Therefore no man need ever be ashamed of “the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth.” And the power of God, working in him who is of faith, enables him “both to will and to do” of God’s good pleasure.’ A. T. Jones: *The American Sentinel*, March 26, 1891.

2. How much power does Christ possess? Matthew 28:18.

NOTE: ‘He [Christ] declares, “All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth.” This unlimited power it is our privilege to claim.’ *Reflecting Christ*, page 214.
‘What saith the Divine Teacher? “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” Matthew 5:48. Would Christ tantalise us by requiring of us an impossibility? Never, never! What an honour He confers upon us, in urging us to be holy in our sphere, as the Father is holy in His sphere! And through His power we are able to do this; for He declares, “All power is given unto Me in heaven and in

NOTE: 'The Gospel of Jesus Christ is in the world to-day to bring men back to the beginning; and when the Gospel shall have finished its work, and every soul susceptible to the influences of the Spirit of God has yielded to that influence, then will the end come, and the new earth and the new heavens will be here as in the beginning; and the beginning will always continue unto the end; and there will never be any end, because the end will be the beginning. Always fresh, always new, will the earth be; always now will the body be. The power by which Jesus is able to subdue all things to Himself, the power by which the heavens and the earth shall be made new, is the power by which He takes this sin-cursed body, and works His will in it; finally, by that same power, quickening it, and making it immortal.' E. J. Waggoner: *Present Truth*, May 9, 1901.

12. How does Paul describe the change that will take place when Christ returns? 1 Corinthians 15:35, 42-44, 52-54.

NOTE: 'Blessed rest for the weary righteous! Time, be it long or short, is but a moment to them. They sleep; they are awakened by the trump of God to a glorious immortality. "For the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible. . . . So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory." 1 Corinthians 15:52-54. As they are called forth from their deep slumber they begin to think just where they ceased. The last sensation was the pang of death; the last thought, that they were falling beneath the power of the grave. When they arise from the tomb, their first glad thought will be echoed in the triumphal shout: "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" Verse 55.' *Darkness Before Dawn*, page 17.

"If any man's work abide, . . . he shall receive a reward." Glorious will be the reward bestowed when the faithful workers are gathered about the throne of God and the Lamb. When John in his mortal state beheld the glory of God, he fell as one dead; he was not able to endure the sight. But when mortal shall have put on immortality, the ransomed ones are like Jesus, for they see Him as He is. They stand before the throne, signifying that they are accepted. All their sins are blotted out, all their transgressions borne away. Now they can look upon the undimmed glory from the throne of God. They have been partakers with Christ of His sufferings, they have been workers together with Him in the plan of redemption, and they are partakers with Him in the joy of beholding souls saved through their instrumentality to praise God through all eternity.' *Testimonies, volume 5*, page 467.

garment of His righteousness. Then as the Lord looks upon us He sees, not the fig-leaf garment, not the nakedness and deformity of sin, but His own robe of righteousness, which is perfect obedience to the law of Jehovah. Through the plan of redemption, God has provided means for subduing every sinful trait, and resisting every temptation, however strong. The strongest temptation is no excuse for sin. However great the pressure brought to bear upon the soul, transgression is our own act. It is not in the power of earth or hell to compel any one to sin. The will must consent, the heart must yield, or passion cannot overbear reason, nor iniquity triumph over righteousness. If you will stand under the bloodstained banner of Prince Emmanuel, faithfully doing His service, you need never yield to temptation; for One stands by your side who is able to keep you from falling. We need not retain one sinful propensity. As we partake of the divine nature, hereditary and cultivated tendencies to wrong are cut away from the character, and we are made a living power for good. Ever learning of the divine Teacher, daily partaking of His nature, we co-operate with God in overcoming Satan's temptations. God works, and man works, that man may be one with Christ as Christ is one with God. Then we sit together with Christ in heavenly places. The mind rests with peace and assurance in Jesus.' *Maranatha*, page 225.

'Whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered'

12. What precious assurance will God's endtime people have in their hour of greatest trial? Daniel 12:1.

NOTE: 'As the members of the body of Christ approach the period of their last conflict, "the time of Jacob's trouble," they will grow up into Christ, and will partake largely of His spirit. As the Third Message swells to a loud cry, and as great power and glory attend the closing work, the faithful people of God will partake of that glory. It is the Latter Rain which revives and strengthens them to pass through the time of trouble. Their faces will shine with the glory of that light which attends the third angel. I saw that God will in a wonderful manner preserve His people through the time of trouble. As Jesus poured out His soul in agony in the garden, they will earnestly cry and agonise day and night for deliverance. The decree will go forth that they must disregard the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, and honour the first day, or lose their lives; but they will not yield, and trample under their feet the Sabbath of the Lord, and honour an institution of papacy. Satan's host and wicked men will surround them, and exult over them, because there will seem to be no way of escape for them. But in the midst of their revelry and triumph, there is heard peal upon peal of the loudest thunder. The heavens have gathered blackness, and are only illuminated by the blazing light and terrible glory from heaven, as God utters His voice from His holy habitation. The foundations of the earth shake; buildings totter and fall with a terrible crash. The sea boils like a pot, and the whole earth is in terrible commotion. The captivity of the righteous is turned, and with sweet and solemn whisperings they say to each other, "We are delivered. It is the voice of God." With solemn awe they listen to the words of the voice.' *Ye Shall Receive Power*, page 342.

13. How did Joel prophesy of this endtime deliverance? Joel 2:32.

NOTE: 'In the time of trouble, we all fled from the cities and villages, but were pursued by the wicked, who entered the houses of the saints with the sword. They raised the sword to kill us, but it broke, and fell, as powerless as a straw. Then we all cried day and night for deliverance, and the cry came up before God. The sun came up, and the moon stood still. The streams ceased to flow. Dark heavy clouds came up, and clashed against each other. But there was one clear place of settled glory, from whence came the voice of God like many waters, which shook the heavens, and the earth. The sky opened and shut, and was in commotion. The mountains shook like a reed in the wind, and cast out ragged rocks all around. The sea boiled like a pot, and cast out stones upon the land. And as God spoke the day and hour of Jesus' coming, and delivered the everlasting covenant to His people, He spoke one sentence, and then paused, while the words were rolling through the earth! The Israel of God stood with their eyes fixed upwards, listening to the words as they came from the mouth of Jehovah, and rolled through the earth like peals of loudest thunder! It was awfully solemn. At the end of every sentence, the saints shouted, Glory! Hallelujah! Their countenances were lighted up with the glory of God; and they shone with the glory as Moses' face did when he came down from Sinai. The wicked could not look on them, for the glory. And when the never ending blessing was pronounced on those who had honoured God, in keeping His Sabbath holy, there was a mighty shout of victory over the beast, and over his image.' *A Word to the Little Flock*, page 19.

Lesson 3: January 10-16

'Those that walk in pride He is able to abase

MEMORY VERSE: 'For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.' Luke 14:11.

STUDY HELP: *Manuscript Releases*, volume 13, pages 66-67.

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Daniel 4.

LESSON AIM: To consider God's power to abase the proud.

Introduction

'It is your work . . . to humble yourself and not wait for God to humble you. God's hand at times bears heavily upon men to humble them and bring them into a proper position before Him; but how much better it is to keep the heart daily humbled before God. We can abase ourselves, or we can build ourselves up in pride and wait till God abases us.' *Testimonies*, volume 4, page 378.

NOTE: 'Heaven is very near those who suffer for righteousness' sake. Christ identifies His interests with the interests of His faithful people; He suffers in the person of His saints; and whoever touches His chosen ones, touches Him. The power that is near to deliver from physical harm or distress, is also near to save from the greater evil, making it possible for the servant of God to maintain his integrity under all circumstances.' *Christian Service*, page 166.

'I am the Resurrection and the Life'

9. How had Jesus demonstrated the power of God over death? John 11:24-25, 43-44. Note John 11:39-40.

NOTE: 'Had Christ been in the sickroom, Lazarus would not have died; for Satan would have had no power over him. Death could not have aimed his dart at Lazarus in the presence of the Life-giver. Therefore Christ remained away. He suffered the enemy to exercise his power, that He might drive him back, a conquered foe. He permitted Lazarus to pass under the dominion of death; and the suffering sisters saw their brother laid in the grave. Christ knew that, as they looked on the dead face of their brother, their faith in their Redeemer would be severely tried. But He knew that because of the struggle through which they were now passing their faith would shine forth with far greater power. He suffered every pang of sorrow that they endured. He loved them no less because He tarried; but He knew that for them, for Lazarus, for Himself, and for His disciples, a victory was to be gained. "For your sakes," "to the intent ye may believe." To all who are reaching out to feel the guiding hand of God, the moment of greatest discouragement is the time when divine help is nearest. They will look back with thankfulness upon the darkest part of their way. "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly," 2 Peter 2:9. From every temptation and every trial He will bring them forth with firmer faith and a richer experience.' *Desire of Ages*, page 528.

10. What greater demonstration of the power of God over death are we shown? Ephesians 4:8. See marginal reading. Compare Matthew 27:50-53.

NOTE: 'Christ hath conquered death, and led captivity captive. Men had looked upon death as a terrible thing; they had looked to the future with foreboding; but the resurrection of Christ from the dead changed the aspect of death. Christ has passed through the tomb; and when He arose from the dead, He led a multitude of captives from the grave, and they appeared unto many. His resurrection demonstrated His power over death. The dead in Christ shall rise again to a glorious immortality. He will come again, and receive His followers unto Himself, that where He is, they may be also.' *Review & Herald*, July 16, 1889.

'Fashioned like unto His glorious body'

11. What change will the power of God make in the bodies of those who believe in Him? Philippians 3:21.

‘Crucified with Christ’

5. How is the power of God to subdue self shown? Galatians 2:20.

NOTE: ‘We hear this Apostle saying in another place, “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. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.” Galatians 2:20, 21. I cannot conceive that a man could use such language as this, who was living day by day in sin. If a man is crucified with Christ, he must be dead to sin, and such an one the Apostle has already told us is “freed from sin.” No man can say, I am fully persuaded, “I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me,” who knows himself to be living in sin. Nor can one who lives in sin say, “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.” Paul says, I do not frustrate the grace of God. I do not expect to work out a righteousness by my own unaided efforts to obey the law. I rely on the faithfulness of Christ who loves me, to keep me.’ Charles Fitch: *Views on Sanctification*, page 11.

6. How does Peter express God’s power to keep His people saved? 1 Peter 1:5.

NOTE: ‘God has called His people to glory and virtue, and these will be manifest in the lives of all who are truly connected with Him. Having become partakers of the heavenly gift, they are to go on unto perfection, being “kept by the power of God through faith.” 1 Peter 1:5. It is the glory of God to give His virtue to His children. He desires to see men and women reaching the highest standard; and when by faith they lay hold of the power of Christ, when they plead His unfailing promises, and claim them as their own, when with an importunity that will not be denied they seek for the power of the Holy Spirit, they will be made complete in Him.’ *Acts of the Apostles*, page 530.

‘Deliver us from evil for Thine is . . . the power’

7. How is the power of God to subdue our iniquities shown? Micah 7:18-19.

NOTE: ‘Only Christ can cleanse the soul temple. But He will not force an entrance. He comes not into the heart as to the temple of old; but He says, “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him.” Revelation 3:20. He will come, not for one day merely; for He says, “I will dwell in them, and walk in them; . . . and they shall be My people.” “He will subdue our iniquities; and Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.” 2 Corinthians 6:16; Micah 7:19. His presence will cleanse and sanctify the soul, so that it may be a holy temple unto the Lord, and “an habitation of God through the Spirit.” Ephesians 2:21, 22.’ *Desire of Ages*, page 161.

8. What prayer should be ours? Matthew 6:13.

‘Those that walk in pride He is able to abase’

1. How did Nebuchadnezzar acknowledge God’s power to abase the proud? Daniel 4:37.

NOTE: ‘The once proud monarch had become a humble child of God; the tyrannical, overbearing ruler, a wise and compassionate king. He who had defied and blasphemed the God of heaven, now acknowledged the power of the Most High and earnestly sought to promote the fear of Jehovah and the happiness of his subjects. Under the rebuke of Him who is King of kings and Lord of lords, Nebuchadnezzar had learned at last the lesson which all rulers need to learn, that true greatness consists in true goodness. He acknowledged Jehovah as the living God, saying, “I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and His ways judgment: and those that walk in pride He is able to abase.”’ *Prophets & Kings*, page 521.

2. How did Nebuchadnezzar express his pride and how did God abase him? Daniel 4:30-33.

NOTE: ‘Nebuchadnezzar, walking in his palace and thinking with pride of his power as a ruler and of his success as a builder, exclaimed, “Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?” While the proud boast was yet on the king’s lips, a voice from heaven announced that God’s appointed time of judgment had come. Upon his ears fell the mandate of Jehovah: “O King Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee. And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will.” In a moment the reason that God had given him was taken away; the judgment that the king thought perfect, the wisdom on which he prided himself, was removed, and the once mighty ruler was a maniac. His hand could no longer sway the sceptre. The messages of warning had been unheeded; now, stripped of the power his Creator had given him, and driven from men, Nebuchadnezzar “did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles’ feathers, and his nails like birds’ claws.” For seven years Nebuchadnezzar was an astonishment to all his subjects; for seven years he was humbled before all the world.’ *Prophets & Kings*, page 519-520.

‘Therefore I took them away’

3. What other example does Scripture give of God’s power to abase the proud? Ezekiel 16:49-50.

NOTE: ‘The fearful doom of Sodom stands forth as a warning for all time, and especially for those who live in the last days. The destruction of Sodom was a symbol of the destruction that will come upon the finally impenitent, when tempests of fire

come from above, and fountains of flame break forth from the crust of the earth. The fate of this ancient city should be a warning to all who live for self, and who corrupt their ways before God. The sin of Sodom is the sin of many cities now in existence, that have not been destroyed as was Sodom. Ezekiel says, "Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before Me; therefore I took them away as I saw good." *Signs of the Times*, October 16, 1893.

4. Why was Belshazzar delivered into the hands of the Medes and Persians? Daniel 5:18-23, first part.

NOTE: 'The prophet first reminded Belshazzar of matters with which he was familiar, but which had not taught him the lesson of humility that might have saved him. He spoke of Nebuchadnezzar's sin and fall, and of the Lord's dealings with him, the dominion and glory bestowed upon him, the divine judgment for his pride, and his subsequent acknowledgment of the power and mercy of the God of Israel; and then in bold and emphatic words he rebuked Belshazzar for his great wickedness. He held the king's sin up before him, showing him the lessons he might have learned but did not. Belshazzar had not read aright the experience of his grandfather, nor heeded the warning of events so significant to himself. The opportunity of knowing and obeying the true God had been given him, but had not been taken to heart, and he was about to reap the consequence of his rebellion.' *Prophets & Kings*, page 529.

'Pride goeth before destruction'

5. What warnings are given to the proud of God's power to abase them? 2 Samuel 22:28, last part; Proverbs 16:18.

NOTE: 'Whenever pride and ambition are indulged, the life is marred; for pride, feeling no need, closes the heart against the infinite blessings of Heaven. Pride of heart is a fearful trait of character. "Pride goeth before destruction." This is true in the family, the church, and the nation. God's people should be subject one to another. They should counsel with each other, that the lack of one be supplied by the sufficiency of the other. God hates pride, and all the proud and all that do wickedly shall be stubble, and the day that cometh shall burn them up. "Learn of me," said Christ; "for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matthew 11:29.' *The Faith I Live By*, page 68.

6. What was the sin of Lucifer and how did God deal with it? Isaiah 14:12-15.

NOTE: 'None are too high to fall. Sin originated with Satan, who was next to Christ. Lucifer became the destroyer of those whom heaven had committed to his guardianship. Satan has a church in our world today. In his church are all the disaffected ones and the disloyal. All who harbour pride, ambition, vain-glory, or selfishness, will be found wanting when weighed in the balance of the Lord.' *Australasian Union Conference Record*, October 1, 1906.

power over the elements of nature. He had stilled the angry waters, He had walked upon the white crest billows; He had raised the dead to life. Now He declared that "all power" was given unto Him.' *Signs of the Times*, August 5, 1903.

'Power over unclean spirits'

3. How did Christ reveal the power of God to subdue the power of Satan? Mark 5:15. Read verses 1-14.

NOTE: 'In the early morning the Saviour and His companions came to shore, and the light of the rising sun touched sea and land as with the benediction of peace. But no sooner had they stepped upon the beach than their eyes were greeted by a sight more terrible than the fury of the tempest. From some hiding place among the tombs, two madmen rushed upon them as if to tear them in pieces. Hanging about these men were parts of chains which they had broken in escaping from confinement. Their flesh was torn and bleeding where they had cut themselves with sharp stones. Their eyes glared out from their long and matted hair, the very likeness of humanity seemed to have been blotted out by the demons that possessed them, and they looked more like wild beasts than like men. The disciples and their companions fled in terror; but presently they noticed that Jesus was not with them, and they turned to look for Him. He was standing where they had left Him. He who had stilled the tempest, who had before met Satan and conquered him, did not flee before these demons. When the men, gnashing their teeth, and foaming at the mouth, approached Him, Jesus raised that hand which had beckoned the waves to rest, and the men could come no nearer. They stood raging but helpless before Him. With authority He bade the unclean spirits come out of them.' *Desire of Ages*, page 337.

4. In what other instance did Christ reveal the power of God to subdue evil? Luke 4:28-30.

NOTE: 'The words of Jesus to His hearers in the synagogue struck at the root of their self-righteousness, pressing home upon them the bitter truth that they had departed from God and forfeited their claim to be His people. Every word cut like a knife as their real condition was set before them. They now scorned the faith with which Jesus had at first inspired them. They would not admit that He who had sprung from poverty and lowliness was other than a common man. Their unbelief bred malice. Satan controlled them, and in wrath they cried out against the Saviour. They had turned from Him whose mission it was to heal and restore; now they manifested the attributes of the destroyer. . . . The assembly broke up, and laying hands upon Jesus, they thrust Him from the synagogue, and out of the city. All seemed eager for His destruction. They hurried Him to the brow of a precipice, intending to cast Him down headlong. Shouts and maledictions filled the air. Some were casting stones at Him, when suddenly He disappeared from among them. The heavenly messengers who had been by His side in the synagogue were with Him in the midst of that maddened throng. They shut Him in from His enemies, and conducted Him to a place of safety.' *Desire of Ages*, pages 239-240.

LESSON AIM: To consider how God's power is able to subdue everything, especially those things which prevent our salvation.

Introduction

'The work of delivering God's people from the bondage of sin is the same as the final deliverance. When the Lord comes the second time He "shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able to subdue all things unto Himself." The power by which our bodies will be changed, the power of the resurrection, is the power by which our sins are subdued, and we are delivered from their control. It is by the same power that was displayed in the deliverance of Israel from Egypt. "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Whoever wishes to know how great that power is, has only to look at the deliverance of Israel from Egypt, and the dividing of the Red Sea, to see a practical example of it. That is the power that will accompany the preaching of the complete Gospel until the coming of the Lord Jesus.' E. J. Waggoner: *The Everlasting Covenant*, page 210.

'Even the winds and the sea obey Him!'

1. What manifestation of power did Christ reveal to subdue the elements of nature? Matthew 8:26-27.

NOTE: 'He lifts His hand, so often employed in deeds of mercy, and says to the angry sea, "Peace, be still." The storm ceases. The billows sink to rest. The clouds roll away, and the stars shine forth. The boat rests upon a quiet sea. Then turning to His disciples, Jesus asks sorrowfully, "Why are ye fearful? have ye not yet faith?" Mark 4:40, R.V. A hush fell upon the disciples. Even Peter did not attempt to express the awe that filled his heart. The boats that had set out to accompany Jesus had been in the same peril with that of the disciples. Terror and despair had seized their occupants; but the command of Jesus brought quiet to the scene of tumult. The fury of the storm had driven the boats into close proximity, and all on board beheld the miracle. In the calm that followed, fear was forgotten. The people whispered among themselves, "What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"' *Desire of Ages*, page 335.

2. How did God explain His power over nature to Job? Job 38:8-11.

NOTE: Jesus 'came and spoke to [the disciples], saying, "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth." The disciples had worshiped Him before He spoke, but these words, falling from lips that had been closed in death, thrilled them with peculiar power. He was now the risen Saviour. Many of them had seen Him exercise His power in healing the sick and controlling Satanic agencies. They believed that He possessed power to set up His kingdom in Jerusalem, power to quell all opposition,

'Hezekiah humbled himself'

7. What lesson may we learn from the experience of Hezekiah? 2 Chronicles 32:25-26.

NOTE: 'Pride and vanity took possession of Hezekiah's heart, and in self-exaltation he laid open to covetous eyes the treasures with which God had enriched His people. The king "showed them the house of his precious things, the silver, and the gold, and the spices, and the precious ointment, and all the house of his armour, and all that was found in his treasures: there was nothing in his house, nor in all his dominion, that Hezekiah showed them not." Isaiah 39:2. Not to glorify God did he do this, but to exalt himself in the eyes of the foreign princes. He did not stop to consider that these men were representatives of a powerful nation that had not the fear nor the love of God in their hearts, and that it was imprudent to make them his confidants concerning the temporal riches of the nation. The visit of the ambassadors to Hezekiah was a test of his gratitude and devotion. . . . But he magnified himself above the Lord of hosts. He "rendered not again according to the benefit done unto him; for his heart was lifted up." 2 Chronicles 32:25. How disastrous the results which were to follow! To Isaiah it was revealed that the returning ambassadors were carrying with them a report of the riches they had seen, and that the king of Babylon and his counsellors would plan to enrich their own country with the treasures of Jerusalem. Hezekiah had grievously sinned; "therefore there was wrath upon him, and upon Judah and Jerusalem." Verse 25. . . . Filled with remorse, "Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, both he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the Lord came not upon them in the days of Hezekiah." 2 Chronicles 32:26. But the evil seed had been sown and in time was to spring up and yield a harvest of desolation and woe.' *Prophets & Kings*, pages 344-347.

8. What warning did Christ give to those who were proud? Matthew 23:12.

NOTE: 'Christ gave His disciples a most important lesson in regard to who should be His disciples. "In the kingdom that I am about to set up," He said, "strife for the supremacy shall have no place. All ye are brethren. All My servants there shall be equal. The only greatness recognised there will be the greatness of humility and devotion to the service of others. He that humbleth himself shall be exalted, and he that exalteth himself shall be abased. He who seeks to serve others by self-denial and self sacrifice will be given the attributes of character that commend themselves to God, and develop wisdom, true patience, forbearance, kindness, compassion. This gives him the chiefest place in the kingdom of God.'" *This Day With God*, page 356. 'Just as soon as the men in positions of trust realise their inability to do God's work, and submit to God's wisdom, the Lord can work with them. He will supply all our necessities if we will empty the soul of self. And when God works, give His name the glory. Do not receive praise from men. When self is abased, God can work. Israel exalted herself, and the Lord abased her.' *Bible Training School*, October 1, 1910

‘Ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven’

9. What principle is foremost in the kingdom of heaven? Matthew 18:1-4.

NOTE: ‘They [the disciples] looked to the securing of worldly recognition and honour, to the obtaining of the kingdom of this world. The working out of these desires in the life of Judas, helped the disciples to understand the antagonism between the principle of self-aggrandisement and Christ’s principle of humility and self-sacrifice, the principle of the spiritual kingdom. In the fate of Judas they saw the end to which self-serving tends.’ *Education*, page 93.

10. What kind of person will inherit the earth? Matthew 5:5.

NOTE: ‘Jesus places meekness among the first qualifications for His kingdom. In His own life and character the divine beauty of this precious grace is revealed. Human nature is ever struggling for expression, ready for contest; but he who learns of Christ is emptied of self, of pride, of love of supremacy, and there is silence in the soul. Self is yielded to the disposal of the Holy Spirit. Then we are not anxious to have the highest place. We feel that our highest place is at the feet of our Saviour. Lowliness of heart, that meekness which is the fruit of abiding in Christ, is the true secret of blessing. “He will beautify the meek with salvation.” It was through the desire for self-exaltation that sin entered into the world, and our first parents lost the dominion over this fair earth, their kingdom. It is through self-abnegation that Christ redeems that which was lost. And He says we are to overcome as He did. Through humility and self-surrender we may become heirs with Him, when the “meek shall inherit the earth.”’ *Sons and Daughters of God*, page 304.

‘I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease’

11. How will God use His power to those who are proud? Isaiah 13:11, last part.

NOTE: ‘The lesson that the Lord would have all humanity learn from the experience of the king of Babylon is that all who walk in pride He is able to abase. By stern discipline Nebuchadnezzar had to learn the lesson that God, not man, is Ruler, that His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. So man today must learn that God is supreme. When men gain success in the work of the Lord, it is because God has given them this success, not for their own glory, but for God’s glory. He who seeks to steal a ray of light from the glory of the Lord will find that he will be punished for his presumption.’ *Publishing Ministry*, page 139.

12. What will be God’s final act towards those who are proud? Malachi 4:1.

NOTE: ‘I saw that God hates pride, and that all the proud and all that do wickedly shall be stubble, and the day that cometh shall burn them up. I saw that the third angel’s message must yet work like leaven upon many hearts that profess to believe it, and purge away their pride, selfishness, covetousness, and love of the world. Jesus is

are not to be anxious about food and raiment, and to be distrustful of God. The Lord has His thoughts of love toward us, and will care for the future. It is God’s will that we are to be anxious to know and to do His requirements at all hazards; but we are to trust God implicitly not only for the little things, the temporal things of life, but for the redemption of our souls. Having faith, and confidence, and trust in God, we have everything, and God will never betray our confidence. He is ever loving, and patiently bears with our weaknesses and infirmities, and is ever willing to forgive our perversities. Then let us walk meekly, trustingly, and humbly before Him. Commit your way to Him. Cast all your care upon Him; for He careth for you.’ *Review & Herald*, March 21, 1893.

‘The just shall live by his faith’

11. How is the follower of Christ to live? Habakkuk 2:4, last part.

NOTE: ‘Faith, saving faith, is to be taught. The definition of this faith in Jesus Christ may be described in few words: It is the act of the soul by which the whole man is given over to the guardianship and control of Jesus Christ. He abides in Christ and Christ abides in the soul by faith as supreme. The believer commits his soul and body to God and with assurance may say, Christ is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day. All who will do this will be saved unto life eternal. There will be an assurance that the soul is washed in the blood of Christ and clothed with His righteousness and precious in the sight of Jesus. Our thoughts and our hopes are on the second advent of our Lord. That is the day when the Judge of all the earth will reward the trust of His people.’ *Mind, Character & Personality, volume 2*, page 531.

12. What confident testimony did the Psalmist bear? Psalm 94:18. Compare 2 Timothy 1:12.

NOTE: ‘Says one, “I am afraid that I will fall.” You need not be afraid. Paul says, “I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day.” 2 Timothy 1:12. What have I committed unto Him? My life, and He is able to keep it.’ E. J. Waggoner: *General Conference Daily Bulletin*, March 20, 1891.

Lesson 11: March 6-12

‘Able to subdue all things unto Himself’

MEMORY VERSE: ‘Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself.’ Philippians 3:21.

STUDY HELP: *The Upward Look*, page 97.

LESSON SCRIPTURES: Philippians 3:7-21.

‘Commit the keeping of their souls’

7. What counsel did Peter give to those who have to suffer for righteousness’ sake? 1 Peter 4:19.

NOTE: ‘Cultivate restfulness, and commit the keeping of your souls unto God as unto a faithful Creator. He will keep that which is committed to His trust. He is not pleased to have us cover His altar with our tears and complaints. You have enough to praise God for already . . . Let the peace of God rule in your hearts, and be ye thankful. Let the Lord have room to work. Do not block His way. He can and will work if we will let Him.’ *Testimonies, volume 9*, page 136.

8. How may we fail to commit the keeping of our souls to God? Matthew 13:22; Luke 10:40-41. Contrast Isaiah 26:3.

NOTE: ‘Some who come to God by repentance and confession, and even believe that their sins are forgiven, still fail of claiming, as they should, the promises of God. They do not see that Jesus is an ever-present Saviour; and they are not ready to commit the keeping of their souls to Him, relying upon Him to perfect the work of grace begun in their hearts. While they think they are committing themselves to God, there is a great deal of self-dependence. There are conscientious souls that trust partly to God and partly to themselves. They do not look to God, to be kept by His power, but depend upon watchfulness against temptation and the performance of certain duties for acceptance with Him. There are no victories in this kind of faith. Such persons toil to no purpose; their souls are in continual bondage, and they find no rest until their burdens are laid at the feet of Jesus.’ *Counsels for the Church*, page 49.

‘Lo, we have left all’

9. What assurance did Jesus to those who had left all to follow Him? Mark 10:28-30.

NOTE: ‘Matthew “left all, rose up, and followed Him.” There was no hesitation, no questioning, no thought of the lucrative business to be exchanged for poverty and hardship. It was enough for him that he was to be with Jesus, that he might listen to His words, and unite with Him in His work. So it was with the disciples previously called. When Jesus bade Peter and his companions follow Him, immediately they left their boats and nets. Some of these disciples had friends dependent on them for support; but when they received the Saviour’s invitation, they did not hesitate, and inquire, How shall I live, and sustain my family? They were obedient to the call; and when afterward Jesus asked them, “When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye anything?” they could answer, “Nothing.” Luke 22:35.’ *A Call to Stand Apart*, page 16.

10. What choice must every follower of Christ make? Matthew 6:24-25.

NOTE: ‘No man can serve two masters. “Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” We are but living, human agents, dependent upon God for every breath we draw, and we

coming; and will He find a people conformed to the world? And will He acknowledge these as His people that He has purified unto Himself? Oh, no. None but the pure and holy will He acknowledge as His. Those who have been purified and made white through suffering, and have kept themselves separate, unspotted from the world, He will own as His.’ *Testimonies, volume 1*, pages 132-133.

Lesson 4: January 17-23 He ‘is able to build you up’

MEMORY VERSE: ‘And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.’ Acts 20:32.

STUDY HELP: *Counsels for the Church*, pages 50-52.

LESSON SCRIPTURE: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24.

LESSON AIM: To consider God’s power to build up His people in sanctification.

Introduction

‘The precious faith inspired of God imparts strength and nobility of character. As His goodness, His mercy, and His love are dwelt upon, clearer and still clearer will be the perception of truth; higher, holier the desire for purity of heart and clearness of thought. The soul dwelling in the atmosphere of holy thought is transformed by intercourse with God through the study of His Word. Truth is so large, so far reaching, so deep, so broad, that self is lost sight of. The heart is softened and subdued into humility, kindness, and love. The natural powers are enlarged because of holy obedience. From the study of the words of life, students may come forth with minds expanded, elevated, ennobled. Being pure-minded, they will become strong-minded. Every intellectual faculty will be quickened. They may so educate and discipline themselves that all within the sphere of their influence may see what man can be, and what he can do, when connected with the God of wisdom and power. The truth of God never degrades the receiver. The influence of the truth upon him who accepts it will tend constantly to his elevation.’ *My Life Today*, page 262.

‘The word of His grace’

1. What has God given to His people to build them up spiritually? Acts 20:32. Compare John 6:63.

NOTE: ‘His truth, His word, must be brought with divine power into our human hearts, and we must purify our hearts by obeying the truth. We must renounce all the hidden things of dishonesty, all craftiness and Satanic wiles. We must be where we

shall be enabled to discern the snares of him who lieth in wait to deceive. Sin must be sensed in its true, hateful character, and expelled from the soul. . . . Food is the substance of which we partake, that our bodies may be strengthened and built up. In like manner we are to feed upon that which will build up our spiritual nature. Jesus said, "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." Our bodies are composed of that upon which we feed; so our spiritual life will be composed of that upon which we feed. If we feed on Christ, by thinking of Him, by obeying His words, we are built up in Him, and grow in grace and in the knowledge of the truth unto the full stature of men and women in Christ Jesus.' *Signs of the Times*, December 25, 1893.

2. Who is the One whose power will build us up in our spiritual life? John 1:12.

NOTE: 'The only-begotten Son of God came to this world to redeem the fallen race. He has given us evidence of His great power. He will enable those who receive Him to build up characters free from all the tendencies that Satan reveals. We can resist the enemy and all his forces. The battle will be won, the victory gained, by him who chooses Christ as his leader, determined to do right because it is right. Our divine Lord is equal to any emergency. With Him nothing is impossible. He has shown His great love for us by living a life of self-denial and sacrifice and by dying a death of agony. Come to Christ just as you are. Cast yourself wholly on His mercy. There is no difficulty within or without that cannot be surmounted in His strength.' *In Heavenly Places*, page 17.

'The Lord . . . who healeth all thy diseases'

3. How is the power of God's word to build us up spiritually illustrated in our daily lives? Psalm 103:2-3.

NOTE: 'The Saviour in His miracles revealed the power that is continually at work on man's behalf, to sustain and to heal him. Through the agencies of nature, God is working, day by day, hour by hour, moment by moment, to keep us alive, to build up and restore us. When any part of the body sustains injury, a healing process is at once begun; nature's agencies are set at work to restore soundness. But the power working through these agencies is the power of God. All life-giving power is from Him. When one recovers from disease, it is God who restores him. Sickness, suffering, and death are work of an antagonistic power. Satan is the destroyer; God is the restorer.' *The Faith I Live By*, page 165.

4. How did Christ link physical healing with spiritual healing? Matthew 9:2-7.

NOTE: 'Medical missionary work is in no case to be divorced from the gospel ministry. The Lord has specified that the two shall be as closely connected as the arm is with the body. Without this union neither part of the work is complete. The medical missionary work is the gospel in illustration.' *Counsels on Health*, page 524.

things are naked and open to the sight of Him with whom we have to do. But He will receive all who come to Him with contrite hearts and a true purpose to forsake every wrong. In all our business transactions, in every word and deed, we are to maintain a pure purpose and a clear conscience. We are to commit our works to God and then leave them in His hands. Our work is to be done in the strictest integrity. Nothing is to be cherished that we cannot carry into the heavenly courts. As we labour, let us ask God's help, realising that this is the only thing that can keep our work free from selfishness. Look upward with intense sincerity, for you need constant draughts of the refreshing air of heaven. We need to live in constant communion with our heavenly Father. Perform your duties as if in the sight of a holy God.' *That I May Know Him*, page 290.

'Take no thought of the harvest,

But only of proper sowing.' T. S. Eliot: from *Choruses from 'The Rock'*.

'Committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously'

5. What example did Christ show when falsely accused? 1 Peter 2:23.

NOTE: 'Jesus, when reviled, abused, and insulted, did not retaliate. "Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again." When the cruelty of man caused Him to suffer painful stripes and wounds, He threatened not, but committed Himself to Him who judgeth righteously. The apostle Paul exhorted his Philippian brethren: "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men." Is the servant greater than his master? Christ has given us His life as a pattern, and we dishonour Him when we become jealous of every slight, and are ready to resent every injury, supposed or real. It is not an evidence of a noble mind to be prepared to defend self, to preserve our own dignity. We would better suffer wrongfully a hundred times than wound the soul by a spirit of retaliation, or by giving vent to wrath. There is strength to be obtained of God. He can help. He can give grace and heavenly wisdom. If you ask in faith, you will receive; but you must watch unto prayer. Watch, pray, work, should be your watchword.' *Testimonies, volume 2*, page 426.

6. In contrast, how did Paul behave when he was badly treated? Acts 23:1-3.

NOTE: 'It is wise to seek humility and meekness, and carefully to avoid raising a combative spirit, which will close hearts and ears to the truth. Hold your mouth as with a bridle when the wicked are before you. When tempted to say sarcastic things, refrain. Censure no one; condemn no one. Let the life argue for Jesus, and the lips be opened with wisdom to defend the truth. The consistent life, the long forbearance, the spirit unruffled under provocation, is always the most conclusive argument and the most solemn appeal. We are often brought into positions that are trying, where human nature longs to break forth, but in such cases, be still, do not retaliate.' *Gospel Workers, 1892 ed.*, page 467.

‘Commit thy way unto the LORD’

1. What does God ask us to commit to Him? Psalm 37:5-7.

NOTE: ‘We are to commit our way to the Lord, testing it by His searching laws. “Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass” (Psalm 37:5). We cannot commit our way to God if we are working out deeds of injustice. “If I regard iniquity in my heart,” the psalmist declares, “the Lord will not hear me” (Psalm 66:18). When we commit our way to the Lord, we are to search the heart through and through, casting out all evil, that Christ may fill it with His righteousness. We are to seek the Lord in prayer, putting at the beginning of our petitions repentance for sin.’ *That I May Know Him*, page 290.

2. What examples are we given of those who did not commit their way to the Lord? Genesis 15:1-4; Genesis 16:1-2; Genesis 25:22-23; Genesis 27:1-10.

NOTE: ‘Abraham had accepted without question the promise of a son, but he did not wait for God to fulfil His word in His own time and way. A delay was permitted, to test his faith in the power of God; but he failed to endure the trial. Thinking it impossible that a child should be given her in her old age, Sarah suggested, as a plan by which the divine purpose might be fulfilled, that one of her handmaidens should be taken by Abraham as a secondary wife. . . . Abraham’s marriage with Hagar resulted in evil, not only to his own household, but to future generations.’ *Patriarchs & Prophets*, page 145.

‘Isaac loved Esau better than Jacob. And when he thought that he was about to die he requested Esau to prepare him meat, that he might bless him before he died. Rebekah heard the words of Isaac, and she remembered the words of the Lord, “The elder shall serve the younger,” and she knew that Esau had lightly regarded his birthright and sold it to Jacob. Rebekah was acquainted with Isaac’s partiality for Esau, and was satisfied that reasoning would not change his purpose. Instead of trusting in God, the Disposer of events, she manifested her lack of faith by persuading Jacob to deceive his father.’ *Conflict & Courage*, page 62.

‘Commit thy works unto the LORD’

3. What else are we to commit unto the LORD and why? Proverbs 16:2-3.

NOTE: ‘Let us feel thankful that we have the privilege of committing our works to God. We are to remember that we are not pieces of inanimate mechanism, but intelligent beings, able to choose the right and refuse the wrong, with a clear conscience and a pure purpose. We are to aim at consistency in all our works.’ *That I May Know Him*, page 290.

4. What example is given of committing our works to God? 1 Corinthians 3:6.

NOTE: ‘God’s law is the test of our actions. His eye sees every act, searches every chamber of the mind, detecting all lurking self-deception and all hypocrisy. All

‘This is the will of God, even your sanctification’

5. What is another word for this building us up spiritually? 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4.

NOTE: ‘Do not make it appear that there is no difference between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not. Build yourselves up by increased purity of faith and Christlikeness of character, increasing in the knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ, who is our righteousness and our sanctification. Let us show that we are a people who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus Christ. Let the truth abide in the heart. Christ declared, “I sanctify Myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth” (John 17:19). Keep yourselves in the love of God by hearkening diligently to His commandments, looking for His keeping power, His mercy, expecting salvation through His grace.’ *Manuscript Releases, volume 10*, page 6.

6. How are we shown that this work of building up the character in sanctification is a joint work with Christ? Philippians 2:12-13.

NOTE: ‘The men and women who feel at ease in Zion might better become anxious about themselves, and inquire, What am I doing in the Lord’s vineyard? Why am I not learning in Christ’s school His meekness and lowliness of heart? Why have I no burdens to bear in His service? Why am I not a decided and earnest Christian, employing all my powers in labouring for the salvation of souls who are perishing all around me? Saith not the Word, “We are labourers together with God; ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building”? Shall I not, with my Saviour’s help, build a character for time and eternity, and promote godliness in myself, and in others the sanctification of the truth?’ *Southern Watchman*, July 17, 1906.

‘The power that worketh in us’

7. What is the extent of Christ’s power to build us up? Ephesians 3:20. Read verses 14-21.

NOTE: ‘If you make God your strength, you may, under the most discouraging circumstances, attain a height and breadth of Christian perfection which you hardly think it possible to reach. Your thoughts may be elevated, you may have noble aspirations, clear perceptions of truth, and purposes of action which shall raise you above all sordid motives.’ *Maranatha*, page 226.

8. What is Christ’s aim in His power working in us? 1 Thessalonians 5:23.

NOTE: ‘Our Saviour claims all there is of us; He asks our first and holiest thoughts, our purest and most intense affection. If we are indeed partakers of the divine nature, His praise will be continually in our hearts and upon our lips. Our only safety is to surrender our all to Him and to be constantly growing in grace and in the knowledge of the truth. The sanctification set forth in the Sacred Scriptures has to do with the

entire being, spirit, soul, and body. Here is the true idea of entire consecration. Paul prays that the church at Thessalonica may enjoy this great blessing. “The very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” 1 Thessalonians 5:23.’ *Counsels for the Church*, page 50.

9. What is our guarantee that this will be accomplished? 1 Thessalonians 5:24.

NOTE: ‘The Christian life is constantly an onward march. Jesus sits as a refiner and purifier of His people; and when His image is perfectly reflected in them, they are perfect and holy, and prepared for translation. A great work is required of the Christian. We are exhorted to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. Here we see where the great labour rests. There is a constant work for the Christian. Every branch in the parent vine must derive life and strength from that vine, in order to yield fruit. Let none deceive themselves with the belief that God will pardon and bless them while they are trampling upon one of His requirements. The wilful commission of a known sin silences the witnessing voice of the Spirit and separates the soul from God. Whatever may be the ecstasies of religious feeling, Jesus cannot abide in the heart that disregards the divine law. God will honour those only who honour Him. When Paul wrote, “The very God of peace sanctify you wholly” 1 Thessalonians 5:23, he did not exhort his brethren to aim at a standard which it was impossible for them to reach; he did not pray that they might have blessings which it was not the will of God to give. He knew that all who would be fitted to meet Christ in peace must possess a pure and holy character. Read 1 Corinthians 9:25-27; 6:19, 20.’ *Counsels for the Church*, page 51.

‘To make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery’

10. What is Christ’s purpose in building up or sanctifying His people? Ephesians 3:9-11.

NOTE: ‘The Lord is waiting to manifest through His people His grace and power. But He requires that those who engage in His service shall keep their minds ever directed to Him. Every day they should have time for reading the Word of God and for prayer. Individually we are to walk and talk with God; then the sacred influence of the gospel of Christ in all its preciousness will appear in our lives. There is an eloquence far more powerful than the eloquence of words in the quiet, consistent life of a pure, true Christian. What a man is has more influence than what he says. The officers who were sent to Jesus came back with the report that never man spoke as He spoke. But the reason for this was that never man lived as He lived. Had His life been other than it was, He could not have spoken as He did. His words bore with them a convincing power, because they came from a heart pure and holy, full of love and sympathy, benevolence and truth. It is our own character and experience that determine our influence upon others. In order to convince others of the power of Christ’s

He renounces his former pleasures. He has a new mind, new affections, new interest, new will; his sorrows, and desires, and love are all new. Heaven, which once possessed no charms, is now viewed in its riches and glory; and he contemplates it as his future home, where he shall see, love, and praise the One who hath redeemed him by His precious blood. The works of holiness, which appeared wearisome, are now his delight. The Word of God, which was dull and uninteresting, is now chosen as his study, the man of his counsel. It is as a letter written to him from God, bearing the inscription of the Eternal. His thoughts, his words, and his deeds are brought to this rule and tested. He trembles at the commands and threatenings which it contains, while he firmly grasps its promises and strengthens his soul by appropriating them to himself. When the transforming grace of Christ is upon the heart, a righteous indignation will take possession of the soul because the sinner has so long neglected the great salvation that God has provided for him. He will then surrender himself, body, soul, and spirit, to God and will withdraw from companionship with Satan, through the grace given him of God. All need to understand the process of conversion. The fruit is seen in the changed life.’ *The Faith I Live By*, page 139.

Lesson 10: February 28-March 5

‘Able to keep that which I have committed unto Him’

MEMORY VERSE: ‘For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day.’ 2 Timothy 1:12.

STUDY HELP: *God’s Amazing Grace*, page 281.

LESSON SCRIPTURES: 2 Timothy 1:12.

LESSON AIM: To consider how God’s power will keep what we have committed to His care.

Introduction

‘The risen Christ is the holder of the keys of death and of Hades, having gained them through His own death and resurrection. I have surrendered all to him, and He is the Lord of my life. If it be His will, I will rejoice to be among those who will greet Him with exceeding joy when He comes with the clouds; but if not, I shall sleep in confidence of the resurrection, “for I know Him whom I have believed, and I am persuaded that He is able to guard that which I have committed unto Him against that day.” 2 Timothy 1:12. “Thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 15:57.’ W. W. Prescott: *The Saviour of the World*, page 69.

NOTE: “‘Before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.’ Isaiah 65:24. Since He has made such gracious promises, why do we not trust God? Why do we not take Him at His word? We must have increased faith. We must pray with our heart in our petitions, believing that God hears, and answers even while we pray.’ *Review & Herald*, May 27, 1884.

10. What precious promise of guidance has God given for times of perplexity? Isaiah 30:21.

NOTE: ‘You are never alone. You are never in a place where you have no one to have interest in you. Our heavenly Father has given His Son to die for you. The cross of Calvary testified that He takes a deep interest in your welfare . . . If you ask the help of God, you will not ask in vain. The Lord is at work in many ways to win your hearty confidence. In nothing does He take more delight than to have you unburden, come to Him for light and strength, and He has promised that you shall find rest to your soul. If you will find heart and voice to pray, He will be sure to hear, and an arm will be reached down to save you. There is a God that hears prayer, and when all other resources fail, He is your refuge, a very present help in time of trouble. If you go to God with a humble, believing heart to seek for guidance in your perplexity, then it is your privilege to rest your case with Him. Heaven and earth may pass before the promise would fail. Then take God at His word.’ *This Day With God*, page 184.

‘Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it’

11. How completely is Christ able to save us? Hebrews 7:25.

NOTE: ‘Christ is able to save to the uttermost all who come to Him in faith. He will cleanse them from all defilement if they will let Him. But if they cling to their sins, they cannot possibly be saved; for Christ’s righteousness covers no sin unrepented of. God has declared that those who receive Christ as their Redeemer, accepting Him as the One who takes away all sin, will receive pardon for their transgressions. These are the terms of our election. Man’s salvation depends upon his receiving Christ by faith. Those who will not receive Him lose eternal life because they refused to avail themselves of the only means provided by the Father and the Son for the salvation of a perishing world.’ *SDA Bible Commentary, volume 7*, page 931.

12. What was Paul’s prayer for the fullness of salvation? 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24.

NOTE: ‘Conversion is a work that most do not appreciate. It is not a small matter to transform an earthly, sin-loving mind and bring it to understand the unspeakable love of Christ, the charms of His grace, and the excellency of God, so that the soul shall be imbued with divine love and captivated with the heavenly mysteries. When he understands these things, his former life appears disgusting and hateful. He hates sin, and, breaking his heart before God, he embraces Christ as the life and joy of the soul.

grace, we must know its power in our own hearts and lives. The gospel we present for the saving of souls must be the gospel by which our own souls are saved. Only through a living faith in Christ as a personal Saviour is it possible to make our influence felt in a sceptical world. If we would draw sinners out of the swift-running current, our own feet must be firmly set upon the Rock, Christ Jesus.’ *God’s Amazing Grace*, page 276.

11. How does God explain the role that He wishes His people to play? Isaiah 43:12. See verse 10 and Isaiah 44:8.

NOTE: ‘Those who not only hear but do the words of Christ, make manifest in character the operation of the Holy Spirit. The result of the internal operation of the Holy Spirit is demonstrated in the outward conduct. The life of the Christian is hid with Christ in God, and God acknowledges those who are His, declaring, “Ye are My witnesses.” They testify that divine power is influencing their hearts and shaping their conduct. Their works give evidence that the Spirit is moving upon the inward man; those who are associated with them are convinced that they are making Jesus Christ their pattern.’ *In Heavenly Places*, page 22.

‘An inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled’

12. What inheritance awaits all those who are willing to be sanctified wholly? 1 Peter 1:3-4.

NOTE: ‘A fear of making the future inheritance seem too material has led many to spiritualise away the very truths which lead us to look upon it as our home. Christ assured His disciples that He went to prepare mansions for them in the Father’s house. Those who accept the teachings of God’s Word will not be wholly ignorant concerning the heavenly abode. And yet “eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.” Human language is inadequate to describe the reward of the righteous. It will be known only to those who behold it. No finite mind can comprehend the glory of the paradise of God. In the Bible the inheritance of the saved is called a country. There the heavenly Shepherd leads His flock to fountains of living waters. The tree of life yields its fruit every month, and the leaves of the tree are for the service of the nations, There are ever-flowing streams, clear as crystal, and beside them waving trees cast their shadows upon the paths prepared for the ransomed of the Lord. There the wide-spreading plains swell into hills of beauty, and the mountains of God rear their lofty summits. On those peaceful plains, beside those living streams, God’s people, so long pilgrims and wanderers, shall find a home.’ *Review & Herald*, October 22, 1908.

13. What has God done for us so that we may receive that inheritance? Colossians 1:12-14. See also Acts 26:18.

NOTE: ‘Not only has the Son of God been given as a sacrifice for the guilty, as a

Redeemer for the lost, but through Him all things are ours. Those who have faith in Christ, those who are obedient to His instruction, will know by experience the boundlessness of the power that gives us constant witness that we are Christ's, and that Christ is ours. The Saviour has given us the charter of our inheritance, and we stand on vantage ground, because we have chosen Christ as our portion. Those who are obedient to His Word can receive this evidence, the assurance of the truth as it is in Jesus. If we will accustom our minds to dwell upon the facts of faith that have been given us, we may endure the seeing of Him who is invisible. Those who walk with Jesus may rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory. An abiding faith, a constant obedience, is essential to a continuance in His love. We are to live by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Then the truth as it is in Jesus, the truth that is exemplified in His character, will be expressed in our lives, in our spirit, our words, our temper. Truth will be the law of the mind. Christ will be formed within, the hope of glory.' *Reflecting Christ*, page 124.

Lesson 5: January 24-30

'What He had promised, He was able also to perform'

MEMORY VERSE: 'God is not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of man, that He should repent: hath He said, and shall He not do it? or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good?' Numbers 23:19.

STUDY HELP: *Education*, pages 257-258.

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Romans 4.

LESSON AIM: To consider God's power to fulfil His promises.

Introduction

'Repeat His promises: "Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). "Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with Me" (Isaiah 27:5). "Whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive" (Matthew 21:22). Be simple-hearted enough to believe these promises of God. When Satan comes to you, and tells you that because you are unhappy, perplexed, and troubled you are not a child of God, do not become discouraged for one moment, but gird up the loins of your mind. Let your heart repose in God. He has promised that if you come to Him, you shall find rest to your soul; and if you have done this, rest assured that He will fulfil His word in you. Many pass long years in darkness and doubt because they do not feel as they desire. But feeling has nothing to do with faith. That faith which works by love and purifies the soul is not a matter of impulse. It ventures out upon the promises of God, firmly believing that what He has said, He is able also to perform. Our souls may be trained to be-

'Christ says, "The words that I speak unto you, they are Spirit, and they are life." John 6:63. "He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life." John 5:24. In every command and in every promise of the word of God is the power, the very life of God, by which the command may be fulfilled and the promise realised. He who by faith receives the word is receiving the very life and character of God.' *A Call to Stand Apart*, page 19.

'Exceeding great and precious promises'

7. How does Peter explain the power in God's promises? 2 Peter 1:3-4.

NOTE: 'We need to understand better than we do the mission of the angels. It would be well to remember that every true child of God has the co-operation of heavenly beings. Invisible armies of light and power attend the meek and lowly ones who believe and claim the promises of God. Cherubim and seraphim, and angels that excel in strength, stand at God's right hand, "all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation." Hebrews 1:14.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 154.

8. How does Paul describe the salvation that will come to those who claim the promises of God? 2 Corinthians 7:1.

NOTE: 'There are thousands who claim to have the light of truth who take no steps in advance. They have no living experience, notwithstanding they have had every advantage. They do not know what consecration means. Their devotions are formal and hollow, and there is no depth to their piety. The word of God offers spiritual liberty and enlightenment to those who seek for it earnestly. Those who accept the promises of God, and act on them with living faith, will have the light of heaven in their lives. They will drink of the fountain of life, and lead others to the waters that have refreshed their own souls. We must have that faith in God that takes Him at His word. We can have no victory without cloudless confidence; for "without faith it is impossible to please" God. It is faith that connects us with the power of Heaven, and that brings us the strength for coping with the powers of darkness. "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." In order to exercise intelligent faith we should study the word of God. The Bible, and the Bible alone, communicates a correct knowledge of the character of God and His will concerning us. The duty and the destiny of man are defined in its pages. The conditions on which we may hope for eternal life are explicitly stated, and the doom of those who neglect so great a salvation is foretold in the most forcible language.' *Review & Herald*, January 10, 1888.

'All the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen'

9. What precious promise have we been given that God will hear our prayers? Isaiah 65:24. Think about Daniel 9:20-22.

enter in through the gates into the city.” We should study the Word of God carefully that we may come to right decisions, and act accordingly; for then we shall obey the Word and be in harmony with God’s holy law.’ *Faith & Works*, page 95.

‘The holy scriptures’

3. What means has God chosen to help us understand what salvation is? 2 Timothy 3:15.

NOTE: ‘God has provided abundant means for successful warfare against the evil that is in the world. The Bible is the armoury where we may equip for the struggle. Our loins must be girt about with truth. Our breastplate must be righteousness. The shield of faith must be in our hand, the helmet of salvation on our brow; and with the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, we are to cut our way through the obstructions and entanglements of sin.’ *Acts of the Apostles*, page 502.

4. What is the central theme of the Scriptures? John 5:39.

NOTE: ‘The instruction given in the Old Testament Scriptures is as verily the word of Christ as the instruction in the New Testament. Christ was as verily humanity’s Redeemer in the days when the Old Testament was written as He was when He appeared in the form of a man. He gave those of ancient Israel just as favourable an opportunity of working out their own salvation as He did those who listened to His words.’ *Christ Triumphant*, page 188.

‘The Word of God’

5. How are the Scriptures often referred to? Acts 13:44-49.

NOTE: ‘In searching the Scriptures, in feeding upon the words of life, O consider it is the voice of God to the soul. We may be confused sometimes over the voice of our friends; but in the Bible we have the counsel of God upon all important subjects which concern our eternal interests, and in temporal matters we may learn a great deal. Its teaching will be always suited to our peculiar circumstances and calculated to prepare us to endure trial and fit us for our God-given work. The Bible is God’s voice speaking to us, just as surely as if we could hear it with our ears. If we realised this, with what awe we would open God’s Word and with what earnestness we would search its precepts. The reading and contemplation of the Scriptures would be regarded as an audience with the Infinite One. What book can compare with the Bible? An understanding of its teachings is essential for every child and youth, and for those of mature age; for it is the word of God, given to guide the human family to heaven.’ *A Call to Stand Apart*, page 69.

6. How are we shown the power of God’s Word? Hebrews 4:12. Consider Psalm 33:6.

NOTE: ‘The word of God, the truth, is the channel through which the Lord manifests His Spirit and power.’ *Acts of the Apostles*, page 519.

lieve, taught to rely upon the Word of God. That Word declares that “the just shall live by faith” (Romans 1:17), not by feeling.’ *That I May Know Him*, page 245.

‘He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief’

1. What had God promised Abraham and why did it seem impossible that this promise could be fulfilled? Genesis 17:15-17; Genesis 18:10-14. See Romans 4:18-20.

NOTE: ‘If Abraham and Sarah had waited in confiding faith for the fulfilment of the promise that they should have a son, much unhappiness would have been avoided. They believed that it would be just as God had promised, but could not believe that Sarah, in her old age, would have a son. Sarah suggested a plan whereby she thought the promise of God could be fulfilled. She entreated Abraham to take Hagar as his wife. In this they both lacked faith, and a perfect trust in the power of God. By hearkening to the voice of Sarah, and taking Hagar as his wife, Abraham failed to endure the test of his faith in God’s unlimited power, and brought upon himself, and upon Sarah, much unhappiness. The Lord intended to prove the firm faith and reliance of Abraham upon the promises He had made him.’ *Spirit of Prophecy, volume 1*, page 95.

2. How did God show that what He had promised, He was able also to perform? Genesis 21:1-2, 5.

NOTE: ‘When Abraham was nearly one hundred years old, the promise of a son was repeated to him, with the assurance that the future heir should be the child of Sarah. The birth of Isaac, bringing, after a life-long waiting, the fulfilment of their dearest hopes, filled the tents of Abraham and Sarah with gladness.’ *The Truth About Angels*, page 77.

‘In Isaac shall thy seed be called’

3. What was involved in God’s promise to Abraham? Genesis 17:4-6. See also Genesis 21:12.

NOTE: ‘In the renewal of the covenant shortly before the birth of Isaac, God’s purpose for mankind was again made plain. “All the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him” (Genesis 18:18), was the assurance of the Lord concerning the child of promise. And, later, the heavenly visitant once more declared, “In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.” Genesis 22:18. The all-embracing terms of this covenant were familiar to Abraham’s children and to his children’s children. It was in order that the Israelites might be a blessing to the nations, and that God’s name might be made known “throughout all the earth” (Exodus 9:16), that they were delivered from Egyptian bondage. If obedient to His requirements, they were to be placed far in advance of other peoples in wisdom and understanding; but this supremacy was to be reached and maintained only in order that through them the purpose of God for

“all nations of the earth” might be fulfilled.’ *Review & Herald*, June 17, 1915.

4. How did God test Abraham’s faith that what He had promised, He was able also to perform? Genesis 22:2.

NOTE: ‘In the obedience of faith, Abraham had forsaken his native country, had turned away from the graves of his fathers and the home of his kindred. He had wandered as a stranger in the land of his inheritance. He had waited long for the birth of the promised heir. At the command of God he had sent away his son Ishmael. And now, when the child so long desired was entering upon manhood, and the patriarch seemed able to discern the fruition of his hopes, a trial greater than all others was before him. The command was expressed in words that must have wrung with anguish that father’s heart: “Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, . . . and offer him there for a burnt offering.” Isaac was the light of his home, the solace of his old age, above all else the inheritor of the promised blessing. The loss of such a son by accident or disease would have been heartrending to the fond father; it would have bowed down his whitened head with grief; but he was commanded to shed the blood of that son with his own hand. It seemed to him a fearful impossibility. Satan was at hand to suggest that he must be deceived, for the divine law commands, “Thou shalt not kill,” and God would not require what He had once forbidden. Going outside his tent, Abraham looked up to the calm brightness of the unclouded heavens, and recalled the promise made nearly fifty years before, that his seed should be innumerable as the stars. If this promise was to be fulfilled through Isaac, how could he be put to death? Abraham was tempted to believe that he might be under a delusion. In his doubt and anguish he bowed upon the earth, and prayed, as he had never prayed before, for some confirmation of the command if he must perform this terrible duty.’ *Patriarchs & Prophets*, page 148.

5. How did Abraham demonstrate his faith that what God had promised, He was able also to perform? Hebrews 11:17-19.

NOTE: ‘While his son and the young men were sleeping, [Abraham] spent the night in prayer, still hoping that some heavenly messenger might come to say that the trial was enough, that the youth might return unharmed to his mother. But no relief came to his tortured soul. Another long day, another night of humiliation and prayer, while ever the command that was to leave him childless was ringing in his ears. Satan was near to whisper doubts and unbelief, but Abraham resisted his suggestions. As they were about to begin the journey of the third day, the patriarch, looking northward, saw the promised sign, a cloud of glory hovering over Mount Moriah, and he knew that the voice which had spoken to him was from heaven. Even now he did not murmur against God, but strengthened his soul by dwelling upon the evidences of the Lord’s goodness and faithfulness. This son had been unexpectedly given; and had not He who bestowed the precious gift a right to recall His own? Then faith repeated the promise, “In Isaac shall thy seed be called”, a seed numberless as the grains of sand upon the shore. Isaac was the child of a miracle, and could not the power that gave

Introduction

“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.” Often the follower of Christ is brought where he cannot serve God and carry forward his worldly enterprises. Perhaps it appears that obedience to some plain requirement of God will cut off his means of support. Satan would make him believe that he must sacrifice his conscientious convictions. But the only thing in our world upon which we can rely is the word of God. “Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Matthew 6:33. Even in this life it is not for our good to depart from the will of our Father in heaven. When we learn the power of His word, we shall not follow the suggestions of Satan in order to obtain food or to save our lives. Our only questions will be, What is God’s command? and what [is] His promise? Knowing these, we shall obey the one, and trust the other.’ *Desire of Ages*, page 121.

‘To save His people from their sins’

1. What is the salvation which comes through Jesus? Matthew 1:21.

NOTE: ‘Every soul must battle against inclination. Christ came not to save men in their sins, but from their sins. He has made it possible for us to possess a holy character; do not, then, be content with defects and deformities. But while we are to seek earnestly for perfection of character, we must remember that sanctification is not the work of a moment, but of a lifetime. Said Paul, “I die daily” (1 Corinthians 15:31). Day by day the work of overcoming must go forward. Every day we are to resist temptation, and gain the victory over selfishness in all its forms. Day by day we should cherish love and humility, and cultivate in ourselves all those excellencies of character which will please God and fit us for the blessed society of heaven. To all who are seeking to accomplish this work, the promise is very precious, “He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels” (Revelation 3:5).’ *Ye Shall Receive Power*, page 353.

2. How did Paul explain Christ’s mission? 1 Timothy 1:15.

NOTE: ‘Jesus died to save His people from their sins, and redemption in Christ means to cease the transgression of the law of God and to be free from every sin; no heart that is stirred with enmity against the law of God is in harmony with Christ, who suffered on Calvary to vindicate and exalt the law before the universe. Those who make bold assumptions of holiness give proof in this that they do not see themselves in the light of the law; they are not spiritually enlightened, and they do not loathe every species of selfishness and pride. From their sin-stained lips fall the contradictory utterances: “I am holy, I am sinless. Jesus teaches me that if I keep the law I am fallen from grace. The law is a yoke of bondage.” The Lord says, “Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may

be faultfinders. The church at this time should have the faith once delivered to the saints, which will enable them to say boldly: "God is mine helper"; "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." The Lord bids us arise and go forward. Whenever the church at any period have forsaken their sins, and believed and walked in the truth, they have been honoured of God. There is in faith and humble obedience a power that the world cannot withstand. The order of God's providence in relation to His people is progression, continual advancement in the perfection of Christian character, in the way of holiness, rising higher and higher in the clear light and knowledge and love of God, to the very close of time. Oh! why are we ever learning only the first principles of the doctrine of Christ?' *Lift Him Up*, page 338.

12. What promises are given to those who overcome in the battle with temptation and sin? Revelation 3:5, 21.

NOTE: 'Christ is the source of our strength. Let us study His teachings. In giving His only begotten Son to live in our world and to be subject to temptation that He might teach us how to overcome, the Father has made ample provision that we should not be taken captive by the enemy. Meeting the fallen foe, Christ overcame on behalf of humanity. He was tempted in all points like as we are, but He resisted in the strength of divinity, that He might be able to succour us when we are tempted.' *This Day With God*, page 151.

'Many claim that it was impossible for Christ to be overcome by temptation. Then He could not have been placed in Adam's position; He could not have gained the victory that Adam failed to gain. If we have in any sense a more trying conflict than had Christ, then He would not be able to succour us. But our Saviour took humanity, with all its liabilities. He took the nature of man, with the possibility of yielding to temptation. We have nothing to bear which He has not endured.' *Desire of Ages*, page 117.

Lesson 9: February 22-28

'Able to make thee wise unto salvation'

MEMORY VERSE: 'And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.' 2 Timothy 3:15.

STUDY HELP: *Messages to Young People*, pages 260-262.

LESSON SCRIPTURES: Psalm 119:9-16.

LESSON AIM: To consider how the power of God's Word will help us to understand and achieve salvation.

him life restore it? Looking beyond that which was seen, Abraham grasped the divine word, "accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead." Hebrews 11:19.' *Patriarchs & Prophets*, page 151.

'I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken'

6. What promise did God make to Jacob at Bethel? Genesis 28:15.

NOTE: 'In accordance with the custom of commemorating important events, Jacob set up a memorial of God's mercy, that whenever he should pass that way he might tarry at this sacred spot to worship the Lord. And he called the place Bethel, or the "house of God." With deep gratitude he repeated the promise that God's presence would be with him; and then he made the solemn vow, "If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, so that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the Lord be my God: and this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that Thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto Thee." Jacob was not here seeking to make terms with God. The Lord had already promised him prosperity, and this vow was the outflow of a heart filled with gratitude for the assurance of God's love and mercy. Jacob felt that God had claims upon him which he must acknowledge, and that the special tokens of divine favour granted him demanded a return. So does every blessing bestowed upon us call for a response to the Author of all our mercies. The Christian should often review his past life and recall with gratitude the precious deliverances that God has wrought for him, supporting him in trial, opening ways before him when all seemed dark and forbidding, refreshing him when ready to faint. He should recognise all of them as evidences of the watchcare of heavenly angels. In view of these innumerable blessings he should often ask, with subdued and grateful heart, "What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me?" Psalm 116:12.' *Patriarchs & Prophets*, page 187.

7. How was God's promise to Jacob fulfilled? Genesis 33:1-4. Read also Genesis 31:3; Genesis 32:1-2.

NOTE: 'Crossing the Jordan, "Jacob came in peace to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan." Genesis 33:18, R.V. Thus the patriarch's prayer at Bethel, that God would bring him again in peace to his own land, had been granted. For a time he dwelt in the Vale of Shechem. It was here that Abraham, more than a hundred years before, had made his first encampment and erected his first altar in the Land of Promise. Here Jacob "bought the parcel of ground where he had spread his tent, at the hand of the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for a hundred pieces of money. And he erected there an altar, and called it El-elohe-Israel" (verses 19, 20), "God, the God of Israel." Like Abraham, Jacob set up beside his tent an altar unto the Lord, calling the members of his household to the morning and the evening sacrifice. It was here also that he dug the well to which, seventeen centuries later, came Jacob's Son and Saviour, and beside which, resting during the noontide heat, He told His

wondering hearers of that “well of water springing up into everlasting life.” John 4:14.’ *Patriarchs & Prophets*, page 204.

‘Not one thing hath failed’

8. How did Joshua express his faith that what God had promised, He was able to perform? **Joshua 23:14.**

NOTE: ‘Joshua declared to the people that his work among them was done; for he was soon to die. He appealed to themselves as witnesses that God had faithfully fulfilled His promises to them. “And ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof.” He assured them that as the Lord had fulfilled His promises, so would He fulfil His threatenings. If they were disobedient to His requirements, He would destroy them, as He had destroyed their enemies. The Lord has not changed. His character is the same today as in the days of Joshua. He is true, merciful, compassionate, faithful in the performance of his word, both in promises and threatenings.’ *Signs of the Times*, May 19, 1881.

9. What promise did God make concerning the unfaithful spies and those who heeded their words? **Numbers 14:28-34.**

NOTE: ‘In their rebellion the people had exclaimed, “Would God we had died in this wilderness!” Now this prayer was to be granted. The Lord declared: “As ye have spoken in Mine ears, so will I do to you: your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness, and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward. . . . But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised.” And of Caleb He said, “My servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed Me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.” As the spies had spent forty days in their journey, so the hosts of Israel were to wander in the wilderness forty years.’ *Patriarchs & Prophets*, page 391.

10. Was this promise performed as God had said? **Numbers 14:37-38; Numbers 26:64-65.**

NOTE: ‘When Moses made known to the people the divine decision, their rage was changed to mourning. They knew that their punishment was just. The ten unfaithful spies, divinely smitten by the plague, perished before the eyes of all Israel; and in their fate the people read their own doom.’ *Patriarchs & Prophets*, page 391.

‘Before the distribution of the land had been entered upon, Caleb, accompanied by the heads of his tribe, came forward with a special claim. Except Joshua, Caleb was now the oldest man in Israel. Caleb and Joshua were the only ones among the spies who had brought a good report of the Land of Promise, encouraging the people to go up and possess it in the name of the Lord. Caleb now reminded Joshua of the promise

through His merits we may be enabled to resist the temptations of the enemy, and be more than conquerors through Him. He knows how to succour them that are tempted, and to deliver the godly out of temptation. Surely He is “the Way, the Truth, and the Life.”’ *Signs of the Times*, January 6, 1898.

‘To them gave He power’

9. What is promised to those who receive Christ? **John 1:12.**

NOTE: ‘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.’ *Christ’s Object Lessons*, page 314.

10. What does it mean to be a son of God? Consider **John 8:39-42.**

NOTE: ‘Those who are sons of God will represent Christ in character. Their works will be perfumed by the infinite tenderness, compassion, love, and purity of the Son of God. And the more completely mind and body are yielded to the Holy Spirit, the greater will be the fragrance of our offering to Him.’ *God’s Amazing Grace*, page 245.

‘He who believes in Jesus becomes a living channel of light and blessing to confer benefits upon the needy and suffering. He becomes a labourer together with God. The branch bears the same clusters of fruit as the vine. The Christian becomes one with Christ in God, and God loves him as He loves His own Son. When the disciples of Christ become one with Him, as He is one with the Father, they will be a power in the world in revealing God’s mercy, forgiveness, and truth. Those who do the works of Christ are accepted in the Beloved. Union with Christ means the dispensing of His blessings. The bright beams from the Sun of Righteousness shine forth in mercy and love. The fruits of the Spirit are “love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.”’ *Signs of the Times*, September 19, 1895.

‘He that overcometh’

11. How did Paul express his confidence in the power of God? **Philippians 4:13.**

NOTE: ‘Everyone who truly loves God will have the spirit of Christ and a fervent love for his brethren. The more a person’s heart is in communion with God, and the more his affections are centred in Christ, the less will he be disturbed by the roughness and hardships he meets in this life. Those who are growing up to the full stature of men and women in Christ Jesus will become more and more like Christ in character, rising above the disposition to murmur and be discontented. They will despise to

‘Yet without sin’

5. Did Jesus ever commit sin? Hebrews 4:15, last part: 1 Peter 2:22.

NOTE: ‘He could have sinned; He could have fallen, but not for one moment was there in Him an evil propensity. In taking upon Himself man’s nature in its fallen condition, Christ did not in the least participate in its sin. He was subject to the infirmities and weaknesses by which man is encompassed. He was touched with the feeling of our infirmities, and was in all points tempted like as we are. And yet He “knew no sin.” He was the lamb “without blemish and without spot.” Could Satan in the least particular have tempted Christ to sin, he would have bruised the Saviour’s head. As it was, he could only touch His heel. Had the head of Christ been touched, the hope of the human race would have perished. Divine wrath would have come upon Christ as it came upon Adam. Christ and the church would have been without hope.’ *The Faith I Live By*, page 49.

6. How did Paul explain the importance of Christ living a sinless life? 2 Corinthians 5:21.

NOTE: ‘Christ was treated as we deserve, that we might be treated as He deserves. He was condemned for our sins, in which He had no share, that we might be justified by His righteousness, in which we had no share. He suffered the death which was ours, that we might receive the life which was His. “With His stripes we are healed.”’ *Desire of Ages*, page 25.

‘To deliver the godly out of temptations’

7. What essential ability does the Lord have? 2 Peter 2:9, first part.

NOTE: ‘When our Defender came, He was clothed with humanity; for He must be subject to all the temptations wherewith man is beset, that He might understand how to deliver the godly out of temptation. He took His stand at the head of the fallen race, that men and women might be enabled to stand on vantage ground.’ *Lift Him Up*, page 38.

8. How did Peter explain that only Christ has the ability to save His people from their temptations and sins? Acts 4:12.

NOTE: ‘Only by Christ’s aid can we be saved. If by our own efforts we could reach heaven, Christ need not have left the royal courts, to come to a world all seared and marred by the curse, to be a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, to be tempted in all points like as we are, and yet without sin. But we can reach heaven only by the mystic ladder, Jesus Christ; and He came to this earth that we might be enabled to do this. Here the battle between the prince of darkness and the Prince of light was fought, and here Christ conquered on our behalf. Of His own free will He laid down His life, that He might take it again; and today a living Saviour stands in the heavenly courts as our Intercessor, pleading for us, that

then made, as the reward of his faithfulness: “The land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance, and thy children’s forever, because thou hast wholly followed the Lord.” He therefore presented a request that Hebron be given him for a possession. His claim was immediately granted. To none could the conquest of this giant stronghold be more safely entrusted. Caleb’s faith now was just what it was when his testimony had contradicted the evil report of the spies. He had believed God’s promise that He would put His people in possession of Canaan, and in this he had followed the Lord fully. He had endured with his people the long wandering in the wilderness, thus sharing the disappointments and burdens of the guilty; yet he made no complaint of this, but exalted the mercy of God that had preserved him in the wilderness when his brethren were cut off. The brave old warrior was desirous of giving to the people an example that would honour God, and encourage the tribes fully to subdue the land which their fathers had deemed unconquerable. Caleb obtained the inheritance upon which his heart had been set for forty years, and, trusting in God to be with him, he “drove thence the three sons of Anak.” The cowards and rebels had perished in the wilderness, but the righteous spies ate of the grapes of Eshcol. To each was given according to his faith. The unbelieving had seen their fears fulfilled. Notwithstanding God’s promise, they had declared that it was impossible to inherit Canaan, and they did not possess it. But those who trusted in God, looking not so much to the difficulties to be encountered as to the strength of their Almighty Helper, entered the goodly land.’ *Conflict & Courage*, page 123.

‘Where is the promise?’

11. What special promise did Jesus make? John 14:3.

NOTE: ‘Peter kept alive in his heart the hope of Christ’s return, and he assured the church of the certain fulfilment of the Saviour’s promise, “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself.” John 14:3. To the tried and faithful ones the coming might seem long delayed, but the apostle assured them: “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”’ *Acts of the Apostles*, page 536.

12. What attitude to this promise will be common in the last days among professed followers of Christ? 2 Peter 3:3-4.

NOTE: ‘Looking down through the ages to the close of time, Peter was inspired to outline conditions that would exist in the world just prior to the second coming of Christ. “There shall come in the last days scoffers,” he wrote, “walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of His coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.” But

“when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them.” Not all, however, would be ensnared by the enemy’s devices. As the end of all things earthly approached, there would be faithful ones able to discern the signs of the times. While a larger number of professing believers would deny their faith by their works, there would be a remnant who would endure to the end.’ *Review & Herald*, September 26, 1912.

‘We should be awake to discern the signs of the times, and to give warning to the people. There are many in the world who seek to quiet the alarm of the people, who say, “Peace, peace; when there is no peace;” but we should take an opposite course from this. There are many who say to the aroused people, “Do not disturb yourselves, go on in godlessness, go on glorifying yourselves, and living in pleasure. The day of the Lord is not at hand.” Did not Christ have an object in view when He said, “Behold, I come quickly”? Did He not see that His church would need to keep this solemn event in mind? Shall we say with the last-day scoffers, “Where is the promise of His coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation”? I do not mean to be with this class. I mean to arouse men with the message of Christ’s near coming.’ *Signs of the Times*, June 24, 1889.

‘All the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen’

13. When Balaam found himself unable to act against the Lord’s will, what wonderful testimony did he give? Numbers 23:19.

NOTE: ‘Balaam was now conducted to the top of an elevation called Pisgah, where another trial was to be made. He had not given up all hope of the reward, and he was willing to do all in his power to carry out the purposes of the king. On this height were erected, as before, seven altars, whereon were placed the same offerings as at the first. The king and his princes were again left by the sacrifices, while Balaam retired to meet with God. Again the prophet was entrusted with a divine message, which he was powerless to alter or withhold. When he appeared to the anxious, expectant company, the eager question was put to him, “What hath the Lord spoken?” The answer, as before, struck terror to the heart of king and princes: “God is not a man, that He should lie; neither the Son of man, that He should repent; hath He said, and shall He not do it? or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good? Behold, I have received commandment to bless; and He hath blessed; and I cannot reverse it.”’ *Signs of the Times*, December 9, 1880.

14. What confidence in God’s ability to fulfil all that He promised was expressed by Paul? 2 Corinthians 1:20.

NOTE: ‘Christ says, “Without Me ye can do nothing,” and He has provided the Holy Spirit as a present help in every time of need. But many have a feeble religious experience because, instead of seeking the Lord for the efficiency of the Holy Spirit, they make flesh their arm. Let the people of God be educated to turn to God when in trouble and gain strength from the promises that are yea and amen to every trusting soul.

Me” (Isaiah 27:5).’ *Selected Messages, book 3*, page 129.

2. What solemn warning did John give about those who teach that Jesus did not take human flesh? 1 John 4:2-3. Compare 2 John 1:7.

NOTE: ‘It was not a make-believe humanity that Christ took upon Himself. He took human nature and lived human nature.’ *SDA Bible Commentary, volume 5*, page 1124.

‘It would have been an almost infinite humiliation for the Son of God to take man’s nature, even when Adam stood in his innocence in Eden. But Jesus accepted humanity when the race had been weakened by four thousand years of sin. Like every child of Adam He accepted the results of the working of the great law of heredity. What these results were is shown in the history of His earthly ancestors. He came with such a heredity to share our sorrows and temptations, and to give us the example of a sinless life.’ *Desire of Ages*, page 48.

‘Tempted in all points like as we are’

3. Of what are we assured regarding Christ’s experience in human flesh? Hebrews 4:15.

NOTE: ‘It is impossible for man to know the strength of Satan’s temptations to the Son of God. Every temptation that seems so afflicting to man in his daily life, so difficult to resist and overcome, was brought to bear upon the Son of God in as much greater degree as His excellence of character was superior to that of fallen man. Christ was tempted in all points like as we are. As man’s representative He stood the closest test and proving of God. He met the strongest force of Satan. His most wily temptations Christ has tested and conquered in behalf of man. It is impossible for man to be tempted above what he is able to bear while he relies upon Jesus, the infinite Conqueror.’ *Confrontation*, page 31.

4. How is Christ’s experience under temptation described? Hebrews 5:7-8.

NOTE: ‘The temptations to which Christ was subjected were a terrible reality. As a free agent He was placed on probation, with liberty to yield to Satan’s temptations and work at cross-purposes with God. If this were not so, if it had not been possible for Him to fall, He could not have been tempted in all points as the human family is tempted. The temptations of Christ, and His sufferings under them, were proportionate to His exalted, sinless character. But in every time of distress, Christ turned to His Father. He “resisted unto blood” in that hour when the fear of moral failure was as the fear of death. As He bowed in Gethsemane, in His soul agony, drops of blood fell from His pores, and moistened the sods of the earth. He prayed with strong crying and tears, and He was heard in that He feared. God strengthened Him, as He will strengthen all who will humble themselves, and throw themselves, soul, body, and spirit, into the hands of a covenant-keeping God.’ *Selected Messages, book 3*, page 131.

Lesson 8: February 14-20

‘Able to succour them that are tempted’

MEMORY VERSE: ‘For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succour them that are tempted.’ Hebrews 2:18.

STUDY HELP: *This Day With God*, page 151.

LESSON SCRIPTURES: 1 John 2:1-5; 1 John 3:1-10.

LESSON AIM: To consider how God’s power in helping those who are undergoing temptation.

Introduction

‘Many say that Jesus was not like us, that He was not as we are in the world, that He was divine, and that we cannot overcome as He overcame. But Paul writes, “Verily He took not on Him the nature of angels; but He took on Him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved Him to be made like unto His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succour them that are tempted” (Hebrews 2:16-18). “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” (chap. 4:15, 16). Jesus says, “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne” (Revelation 3:21). Jesus encircled the race with His humanity, and united divinity with humanity; thus moral power is brought to man through the merits of Jesus.’ *Selected Messages, book 3*, pages 197-198.

‘In all things . . . made like unto His brethren’

1. **How did Paul emphasise that when Jesus was born, He was made exactly like those He came to redeem? Hebrews 2:17.**

NOTE: ‘A human body and a human mind were His. He was bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh. He was subjected to poverty from His first entrance into the world. He was subject to disappointment and trial in His own home, among His own brethren. He was not surrounded, as in the heavenly courts, with pure and lovely characters. He was compassed with difficulties. He came into our world to maintain a pure, sinless character, and to refute Satan’s lie that it was not possible for human beings to keep the law of God. Christ came to live the law in His human character in just that way in which all may live the law in human nature if they will do as Christ was doing. He had inspired holy men of old to write for the benefit of man: “Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with

The word of the Lord is to us, “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?” The promises of God are full and abundant, and there is no need for anyone to depend upon humanity for strength. To all that call upon Him, God is near to help and succour. And He is greatly dishonoured when, after inviting our confidence, we turn from Him, the only One who will not misunderstand us, the only One who can give unerring counsel, to men who in their human weakness are liable to lead us astray.’ *Testimonies to Ministers*, page 381.

Lesson 6: January 31-February 6

‘He giveth more grace’

MEMORY VERSE: ‘And God is able to make all grace abound toward you.’ 2 Corinthians 9:8.

STUDY HELP: *God’s Amazing Grace*, page 270.

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Romans 5.

LESSON AIM: To consider God’s power to make His grace abound towards us.

Introduction

‘I pray that the Lord will change the hearts of those who, unless they receive more grace, will enter into temptation. I pray that He will soften and subdue every heart. We need to live in close fellowship with God, that we may love one another as Christ has loved us. It is by this that the world is to know that we are His disciples.’ *Testimonies, volume 9*, pages 218-219.

‘The God of all grace’

1. **What has the grace of God already done for all mankind? Ephesians 1:7, first part.**

NOTE: ‘The value of a soul, who can estimate? Would you know its worth, go to Gethsemane, and there watch with Christ through those hours of anguish, when He sweat as it were great drops of blood. Look upon the Saviour uplifted on the cross. Hear that despairing cry, “My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?” Mark 15:34. Look upon the wounded head, the pierced side, the marred feet. Remember

that Christ risked all. For our redemption, heaven itself was imperilled. At the foot of the cross, remembering that for one sinner Christ would have laid down His life, you may estimate the value of a soul.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 196.

'What a price has been paid for us! Behold the cross, and the Victim uplifted upon it. Look at those hands, pierced with the cruel nails. Look at His feet, fastened with spikes to the tree. Christ bore our sins in His own body. That suffering, that agony, is the price of your redemption.' *God's Amazing Grace*, page 172.

'Redemption' means the action of regaining possession of something in exchange for payment.

2. Because Christ has paid the price to redeem this fallen world, what other blessing becomes available to us through God's grace? Romans 3:24. Compare Titus 3:7.

NOTE: 'The grace of Christ is freely to justify the sinner without merit or claim on his part. Justification is a full, complete pardon of sin. The moment a sinner accepts Christ by faith, that moment he is pardoned. The righteousness of Christ is imputed to him, and he is no more to doubt God's forgiving grace.' *The Faith I Live By*, page 107.

'The grace of God that bringeth salvation'

3. What will the grace of God next do for the repentant and justified sinner? Titus 2:11-14. See Ephesians 2:8; Philippians 2:12-13.

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

4. Will God give us all sufficient grace to enable us to overcome temptation and sin? Ephesians 4:7.

NOTE: 'God does not ask us to do in our own strength the work before us. He has provided divine assistance for all the emergencies to which our human resources are unequal. He gives the Holy Spirit to help in every strait, to strengthen our hope and assurance, to illuminate our minds and purify our hearts. There is no limit to the usefulness of the one who, putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart and lives a life wholly consecrated to God. Christ declared that the divine influence of the Spirit was to be with His followers unto the end.' *My Life Today*, page 37.

will live again. The question had been asked, "If a man die, shall he live again?" (Job 14:14). The question was now answered.' *Christ Triumphant*, pages 129-130.

'The riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints'

11. How does Paul speak of the blessings bestowed on them who believe in Christ? Ephesians 1:18-19.

NOTE: 'All the paternal love which has come down from generation to generation through the channel of human hearts, all the springs of tenderness which have opened in the souls of men, are but as a tiny rill to the boundless ocean when compared with the infinite, exhaustless love of God. Tongue cannot utter it; pen cannot portray it. You may meditate upon it every day of your life; you may search the Scriptures diligently in order to understand it; you may summon every power and capability that God has given you, in the endeavour to comprehend the love and compassion of the heavenly Father; and yet there is an infinity beyond. You may study that love for ages; yet you can never fully comprehend the length and the breadth, the depth and the height, of the love of God in giving His Son to die for the world. Eternity itself can never fully reveal it. Yet as we study the Bible and meditate upon the life of Christ and the plan of redemption, these great themes will open to our understanding more and more. And it will be ours to realise the blessing which Paul desired for the Ephesian church when he prayed "that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him; the eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power to usward who believe.'" *Testimonies*, volume 5, page 740.

12. What have we been told about what is in store for those who love God? 1 Corinthians 2:9.

NOTE: 'As your senses delight in the attractive loveliness of the earth, think of the world that is to come, that shall never know the blight of sin and death; where the face of nature will no more wear the shadow of the curse. Let your imagination picture the home of the saved, and remember that it will be more glorious than your brightest imagination can portray. In the varied gifts of God in nature we see but the faintest gleaming of His glory. It is written, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." [1 Corinthians 2:9.]' *Christian Education*, page 55.

‘Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches’

9. What example are we given of one who prized the riches of God’s gifts more than the things this world affords? Hebrews 11:24-27.

NOTE: ‘Moses was fitted to take pre-eminence among the great of the earth, to shine in the courts of its most glorious kingdom, and to sway the sceptre of its power. His intellectual greatness distinguishes him above the great men of all ages. As historian, poet, philosopher, general of armies, and legislator, he stands without a peer. Yet with the world before him, he had the moral strength to refuse the flattering prospects of wealth and greatness and fame. Moses had been instructed in regard to the final reward to be given to the humble and obedient servants of God, and worldly gain sank to its proper insignificance in comparison. The magnificent palace of Pharaoh and the monarch’s throne were held out as an inducement to Moses; but he knew that the sinful pleasures that make men forget God were in its lordly courts. He looked beyond the gorgeous palace, beyond a monarch’s crown, to the high honours that will be bestowed on the saints of the Most High in a kingdom untainted by sin. He saw by faith an imperishable crown that the King of heaven would place on the brow of the overcomer.’ *Conflict & Courage*, page 81.

10. What incredible reward did Moses receive from God? Jude 1:9; Matthew 17:1-3.

NOTE: Moses ‘closed his eyes in death and the angels of God buried him in the mount. And there he slept. But it was not long before Christ came to raise Moses to life. As He stood by the grave and bade him come forth, Satan stood by His side, saying, “I have control over him. I tempted him and he yielded. Even Moses was not able to keep God’s law. He has transgressed and has placed himself on my side of the controversy. He appropriated to himself the glory that belonged to God. He is my property, for by his sin he has placed himself in my dominion and in my power.” Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. Jude 1:9. Satan contended earnestly for the body of Moses. Again he sought to enter into controversy with Christ in regard to the injustice of God’s law, and with deceiving power reiterated his false statements about not being fairly treated. His accusations were such that Christ did not bring against him the record of the cruel work he had done in heaven by deceptive misrepresentation, the falsehoods he had told in Eden that led to Adam’s transgression, and the stirring up of the worst passions of the hosts of Israel to incite them to murmur and rebel until Moses lost command of himself. . . . Christ did not retaliate in answer to Satan. He brought no railing accusation against him, but raised Moses from the dead and took him to heaven. Here for the first time the power of Christ was exercised to break the power of Satan and give life to the dead. Here began His work of making alive that which was dead. Thus He testified that He was indeed the Resurrection and the Life, that He had power to ransom those whom Satan had made his captives, that although people die they

5. What is the measure of Christ? Psalm 23:5, last part; Luke 6:38.

NOTE: ‘He who is “rich unto all that call upon Him,” has said, “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over.” Romans 10:12; Luke 6:38. In this measure He had rewarded the disciple’s service. And every sacrifice that is made in His ministry will be recompensed according to “the exceeding riches of His grace.” Ephesians 3:20; 2:7.’ *Desire of Ages*, page 249.

‘Grace to the humble’

6. To whom especially is God’s grace given? James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5.

NOTE: ‘The prayer of the humble suppliant He presents as His own desire on that soul’s behalf. Every sincere prayer is heard in heaven. It may not be fluently expressed; but if the heart is in it, it will ascend to the sanctuary where Jesus ministers, and He will present it to the Father without one awkward, stammering word, beautiful and fragrant with the incense of His own perfection.’ *Desire of Ages*, page 667. ‘Open your Bibles before God, and pray for divine enlightenment. Your Redeemer is waiting for you to call upon Him in your necessity. . . . You need not try to do anything without the special help of your heavenly Father. He is waiting for you to call, that He may say, “Here I am.” If you will seek, He says He will be found of you; His strength, His grace, and His righteousness will be given to the humble, contrite one who seeks Him with all the heart.’ *Gospel Workers*, 1892 ed., page 238.

7. What comforting assurance was Paul given when his prayers did not seem to be answered? 2 Corinthians 12:9.

NOTE: ‘He whose heart is fixed to serve God will find opportunity to witness for Him. Difficulties will be powerless to hinder him who is determined to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. In the strength gained by prayer and a study of the word, he will seek virtue and forsake vice. Looking to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of the faith, who endured the contradiction of sinners against Himself, the believer will willingly brave contempt and derision. And help and grace sufficient for every circumstance are promised by Him whose word is truth. His everlasting arms encircle the soul that turns to Him for aid. In His care we may rest safely, saying, “What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee.” Psalm 56:3. To all who put their trust in Him, God will fulfil His promise.’ *Acts of the Apostles*, page 467.

‘That ye receive not the grace of God in vain’

8. What warning did Paul give concerning the grace of God? 2 Corinthians 6:1. Think about Hebrews 10:28-29.

NOTE: ‘Many who claim to be Christians are not Christians. God takes none to heaven but those who are first made saints in this world through the grace of Christ, those in whom He can see Christ exemplified. . . . Were it not for Christ’s atoning

sacrifice, there would be nothing in us in which God could delight. All the natural goodness of man is worthless in God's sight. He does not take pleasure in any man who retains his old nature, and is not so renewed in knowledge and grace that he is a new man in Christ. Our education, our talents, our means, are gifts entrusted to us by God, that He may test us. If we use them for self-glorification, God says, "I cannot delight in them; for Christ has died for them in vain." To adorn the doctrine of Christ our Saviour, we must have the mind that was in Christ. Our likes and dislikes, our desire to be first, to favour self to the disadvantage of others, must be overcome. The peace of God must rule in our hearts. Christ must be in us a living, working principle.' *God's Amazing Grace*, page 66.

9. What do some Christians believe about grace? Romans 6:1. Compare Jude 1:4.

NOTE: "There are many who profess to be Christians, while they are living a sinful, immoral life; but their profession will not cover them in the day of God. There is a large class who trample upon God's law, who break its precepts, and teach others to do the same, terming it a "yoke of bondage;" while with words they exalt Jesus, and talk of being saved by grace. These are the ones who are turning the grace of Christ into lasciviousness. All such teaching has a tendency to enfeeble the moral tone of the religious world, and accounts for the miserable, heartless, outward form that is taking the place of the genuine piety that God desires in His people.' *Review & Herald*, July 24, 1888.

10. What will be the result of Christians receiving the grace of God in vain? Hebrews 12:15.

NOTE: "'Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; and make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed. Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled.'" Our duty as brethren, who have been made partakers of the grace of Christ, is here presented before us. We are exhorted to watch, and see where we can build up one another in the most holy faith. We are not to rest contented because we love Jesus. Our duties and opportunities do not end here; for we are to help others on in the way of salvation. If we are not letting our light shine upon the pathway of our brethren and associates, we are depriving them of heaven's enlightenment. God has given us light, and He requires that it should be reflected upon others, that our course of action may aid others to a better life. We are not to live for self alone, exerting a selfish influence; but we are to stand ready always to help those who have been overtaken in a fault, or have fallen into error. When an individual stumbles into darkness, it is the duty of those who are spiritual to restore such an one in the spirit of meekness, considering lest they also be tempted.' *Review & Herald*, August 14, 1888.

to be recognised and rewarded. And in the same tender recognition Christ includes even the feeblest and lowliest of the family of God. "Whosoever shall give to drink," He says, "unto one of these little ones", those who are as children in their faith and their knowledge of Christ, "a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward" (Matthew 10:42).' *Conflict & Courage*, page 207.

'Ye ask amiss'

7. Why is it that some prayers are not answered? Psalm 66:18.

NOTE: "If we neglect to walk in the light given, it becomes darkness to us; and the darkness is proportionate to the light and privileges which we have not improved. Christ says, "If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!" If we walk in the knowledge of the truth, our light will shine to those around us in spirit, in words, in actions; we will be fruitful branches of the living vine. If we know God's requirements and claim to love Him, yet cherish sin, God will not hear us when we ask for His blessing; for He does not minister to sin. There are those whose conscience is hardened by habitual sin. They bear no rich clusters of precious fruit, because they are not branches of the true vine. Their prayers rise no higher than their heads, because they are in their prayers presenting only a form of words, whether offered in the church, in the family, or in secret. They receive no strength, because they ask amiss.' *1888 Materials*, page 143.

8. What other reason may there be for our prayers to go unanswered? James 4:3. See 1 Peter 2:11.

NOTE: "'And whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in My name, I will do it.'" John 14:13-14. A wonderful promise is this, and as sure as it is wonderful, for it is the word of the Lord. Yet there are many who think that they have asked for things in the name of Jesus, and have not received them. That they have asked for things and have not received them is certain. Then the trouble must be that they have not asked in the name of Jesus. And yet they have closed their petitions with the words, "in the name of Jesus." What is the trouble? The answer will be found in a consideration of what it is to ask in the name of Jesus. The mistake that too many make is to suppose that Jesus meant, by the words which we have just read, to put Himself at the service of every man's selfish desires; that He meant that whatever their fancy might light upon, would be given to them if in their asking they would simply use His name. But that this is a mistake, we learn from the words by the apostle James: "Ye lust, and have not, ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain; ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." James iv. 2, 3. Selfishness is sin, and the root of all sin; and Christ is not the minister of sin.' E. J. Waggoner: *Present Truth*, February 23, 1893.

agement. But this of all others is the very time when we should exercise faith. "But," says one, "I do not feel at such times like praying in faith." Well, then, will you allow Satan to gain the victory, simply because you do not feel like resisting him? When he sees that you have the greatest need of divine aid, he will try the hardest to beat you back from God. If he can keep you away from the Source of strength, he knows that you will walk in darkness and sin. There is no sin greater than unbelief. And when there is unbelief in the heart, there is danger that it will be expressed. The lips should be kept in as with bit and bridle, lest by giving expression to this unbelief you not only exert an injurious influence over others, but place yourselves upon the enemy's ground. If we believe in God, we are armed with the righteousness of Christ; we have taken hold of His strength. We want to talk with our Saviour as though He were right by our side. It is our privilege to carry with us the credentials of our faith, love, joy, and peace. When we do this, we shall be able to present the mighty arguments of the cross of Christ. When we learn to walk by faith and not by feeling, we shall have help from God just when we need it, and His peace will come into our hearts. It was this simple life of obedience and trust that Enoch lived. If we learn this lesson of simple trust, ours may be the testimony that he received, that he pleased God. If we commit the keeping of our souls to God in the exercise of living faith, His promises will not fail us; for they have no limit but our faith.' *My Life Today*, page 14.

'My God shall supply all your need'

5. How did Elijah experience God's wonderful providence? 1 Kings 17:1-6.

NOTE: 'The Lord has shown me repeatedly that it is contrary to the Bible to make any provision for our temporal wants in the time of trouble. I saw that if the saints had food laid up by them or in the field in the time of trouble, when sword, famine, and pestilence are in the land, it would be taken from them by violent hands and strangers would reap their fields. Then will be the time for us to trust wholly in God, and He will sustain us. I saw that our bread and water will be sure at that time, and that we shall not lack or suffer hunger; for God is able to spread a table for us in the wilderness. If necessary He would send ravens to feed us, as He did to feed Elijah, or rain manna from heaven, as He did for the Israelites.' *Counsels for the Church*, page 281.

6. How was Elijah able to share this experience with another who was in great need? 1 Kings 17:7-16.

NOTE: 'Read the story of the widow of Sarepta. To this woman in a heathen land God sent His servant in time of famine to ask for food. Wonderful was the hospitality shown to God's prophet by this Phoenician woman, and wonderfully were her faith and generosity rewarded. God has not changed. His power is no less now than in the days of Elijah. To His faithful servants today as well as to His first disciples, Christ's words apply: "He that receiveth you receiveth Me, and he that receiveth Me receiveth Him that sent Me" (Matthew 10:40). No act of kindness shown in His name will fail

'Let your speech be alway with grace'

11. If we have received the grace of God, what effect will this have on our speaking? Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 4:6.

NOTE: 'The right culture and use of the power of speech has to do with every line of Christian work; it enters into the home life, and into all our intercourse with one another. We should accustom ourselves to speak in pleasant tones, to use pure and correct language, and words that are kind and courteous. Sweet, kind words are as dew and gentle showers to the soul. The Scripture says of Christ that grace was poured into His lips that He might "know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary." Psalm 45:2; Isaiah 50:4. And the Lord bids us, "Let your speech be alway with grace" (Colossians 4:6) "that it may minister grace unto the hearers" (Ephesians 4:29).' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 336.

12. How should our reception of God's grace affect our worship? Colossians 3:16.

NOTE: 'Let us cultivate the grace of gratitude. Let the praises of God and of the Lamb be continually upon our lips; let the heart be a well-spring of gratitude that cannot be repressed, Christ in you a well of water springing up unto everlasting life. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him.'" *Review & Herald*, January 2, 1894.

'The throne of grace'

13. What precious assurance may we find when we come to the throne of grace? Hebrews 4:16.

NOTE: 'God's appointments and grants in our behalf are without limit. The throne of grace is itself the highest attraction because occupied by One who permits us to call Him Father. But God did not deem the principle of salvation complete while invested only with His own love. By His appointment He has placed at His altar an Advocate clothed with our nature. As our Intercessor, His office work is to introduce us to God as His sons and daughters. Christ intercedes on behalf of those who have received Him. To them He gives power, by virtue of His own merits, to become members of the royal family, children of the heavenly King. And the Father demonstrates His infinite love for Christ, who paid our ransom with His blood, by receiving and welcoming Christ's friends as His friends. He is satisfied with the atonement made. He is glorified by the incarnation, the life, death, and mediation of His Son. No sooner does the child of God approach the mercy seat than he becomes the client of the great Advocate. At his first utterance of penitence and appeal for pardon Christ espouses his case and makes it His own, presenting the supplication before the Father as His

own request. As Christ intercedes on our behalf, the Father lays open all the treasures of His grace for our appropriation, to be enjoyed and to be communicated to others. "Ask in My name," Christ says; "I do not say that I will pray the Father for you; for the Father Himself loveth you, because you have loved Me. Make use of My name. This will give your prayers efficiency, and the Father will give you the riches of His grace; wherefore, 'ask and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full' (John 16:24)." *God's Amazing Grace*, page 68.

14. What will be the effect on our lives when we receive God's abundant grace? 1 Peter 5:10; 2 Timothy 2:1. Think about 2 Thessalonians 2:16.

NOTE: "The lessons contained in the words of Paul to Timothy are of the greatest importance to us today. He charges him to "be strong", in his own wisdom? No, but "in the grace that is in Christ Jesus." He who would be a follower of Christ is not to rely upon his own capabilities, or to feel confident in himself. Neither is he to be dwarfed in his religious efforts, to shun responsibilities, and remain inefficient in the cause of God. If the Christian feels his weakness, his inability, by putting his trust in God, he will find the grace of Christ sufficient for every emergency." *God's Amazing Grace*, 260.

"Through grace we shall be able to make our calling and election sure, putting on the excellency of Christ in spirit and character. No one will be entitled to the heavenly inheritance who has not been purified, refined, ennobled, and sanctified. Then let us be diligent to make our calling and election sure, that an entrance may be administered unto us abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." *The Messenger*, May 10, 1893.

Lesson 7: February 7-13

'Above all that we ask or think'

MEMORY VERSE: "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." Ephesians 3:20.

STUDY HELP: *God's Amazing Grace*, page 276.

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 3.

LESSON AIM: To consider how God's power will do far more for us than we could ever imagine.

Introduction

"We must not only pray in Christ's name, but by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This explains what is meant when it is said that the Spirit "maketh intercession for us, with groanings which cannot be uttered." Such prayer God delights to answer.

When with earnestness and intensity we breathe a prayer in the name of Christ, there is in that very intensity a pledge from God that He is about to answer our prayer "exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think." The Holy Spirit will be given to those who seek for its power and grace and will help our infirmities when we would have an audience with God. Heaven is open to our petitions, and we are invited to come "boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16). We are to come in faith, believing that we shall obtain the very things we ask of Him." *In Heavenly Places*, page 80.

'How much more'

1. What comparison did Jesus make between earthly parents and our heavenly Father? Matthew 7:9-11.

NOTE: "God regards us as His children. He has redeemed us out of the careless world and has chosen us to become members of the royal family, sons and daughters of the heavenly King. He invites us to trust in Him with a trust deeper and stronger than that of a child in his earthly father. Parents love their children, but the love of God is larger, broader, deeper, than human love can possibly be. It is immeasurable. Then if earthly parents know how to give good gifts to their children, how much more shall our Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?" *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 142.

2. What are some of the gifts that the heavenly Father will give to those who ask Him? Ephesians 4:8, 11-12; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 12:4-7.

NOTE: "Our Lord is rich in grace, mighty in power; He will abundantly bestow these gifts upon all who come to Him in faith." *God's Amazing Grace*, page 219.

"We are assured that the greatest gift that can be given to us will not be withheld. Christ says, "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?" But ask in faith, nothing doubting. It is because of unbelief that so many of our church members are weak. Christ said to Martha at the grave of Lazarus, "If thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God." *Christ Triumphant*, page 54.

'That your joy may be full'

3. What is asked of us in order to receive the Father's gifts? John 16:24.

NOTE: "Why should the sons and daughters of God be reluctant to pray, when prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven's storehouse, where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence?" *Steps to Christ*, page 94.

4. What precious assurance have we been given of our Father's loving providence? Philippians 4:19.

NOTE: "It is difficult to exercise living faith when we are in darkness and discour-