

‘The faith of Jesus’

Lessons for 4th Quarter, 2010

General Introduction

‘Understanding 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 without that faith that works by love, and purifies the soul.’ *Review & Herald*, October 18, 1898.

‘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 study 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 Him.” 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 of 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 salvation is foretold in the most forcible language.

‘Had the Bible been received as the voice of God to man, as the Book of books, as the one infallible rule of faith and practice, we should not have seen the law of Heaven made void, and the swelling tide of iniquity devouring our land.

‘As men wander away from the truth into scepticism, everything becomes uncertain and unreal. No thorough conviction takes hold of the soul. No faith is exercised in the Scripture as the revelation of God to man. There is nothing authoritative in its commands, nothing terrifying in its warnings, nothing inspiring in its promises. To the sceptic it is meaningless and contradictory.

‘There are many among us who are not cultivating faith. They have a vacillating experience. They are “like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.” Sometimes they seem strong in faith; then a blast of unbelief sweeps over them, and they are filled with gloom and doubt. They make no decided effort to recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, but are taken captive by him at his will. There are others, who, when assailed by temptations of unbelief, flee to the Word of God and to earnest prayer, and they are not left to the power of the enemy.

‘If men could realise the blighting influence of doubt upon their minds, if they could but see into the future, they would realise the imperative need of cultivating firm trust in God and implicit confidence in His promises. They would not sow one grain of unbelief; for every single grain blossoms and bears fruit.’

Review & Herald, September 22, 1910.

Lesson 1: September 26-October 2

‘By the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth’

MEMORY VERSE: ‘By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.’ Psalm 33:6.

STUDY HELP: *Acts of the Apostles*, pages 482-483.

LESSON SCRIPTURES: Genesis 1.

LESSON AIM: To study the connection between faith and God’s Word.

Introduction

‘The greater part of the very first chapter of the Bible is instruction in faith. That chapter has in itself no fewer than six distinct statements that definitely inculcate faith; with the essential connective of the first verse, there are seven. The inculcation of faith is the teaching that the word of God accomplishes the thing which is spoken of in that word.’ A. T. Jones, *Lessons on Faith*, page 17.

‘He spake, and it was done’

1. **How did God perform the work of creation? Psalm 33:9.**

NOTE: 'When God, by speaking the word, had created the worlds, for this one He said, "Let there be light." Now how much time passed between the words: "Let there be light," and the time when light came? . . . There was not a second between the time when God said: "Let there be light," and the existence of the light . . . Then the man who allows that any time passed between God's speaking and the appearing of the thing is an evolutionist. If he makes it countless ages upon countless ages, he is simply more of an evolutionist than the one who thinks it took a day; he is the same thing, but more of it. . . Creation is immediate, or else it is not creation. So touching again the creation at the beginning, when God speaks, there is in His word the creative energy to produce the thing which that word pronounces. That is creation; and that word of God is the same yesterday, and today, and forever; it abides and abides forever; it has everlasting life in it. The word of God is a living thing. The life that is in it is the life of God, eternal life. Therefore it is the word of eternal life, as the Lord Jesus said; and in the nature of things it abides and remains forever. Forever it is the word of God; forever it has creative energy in it.' A. T. Jones, *Lessons on Faith*, pages 54-56.

2. What is needed to understand the origin of the universe? Hebrews 11:3.

NOTE: 'No amount of reasoning or explanation can tell the whys and wherefores of the creation of the world. It is to be understood by faith in the great creative power. By faith we must believe in the mighty creative power of God through Jesus Christ. "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear" ("are now present to the eye"). This is a matter that can be stated, but mere reasoning will never convince one of the truth of the statement. Reasoning we must have. It is one of the masterly talents entrusted to the human agent, and is of great advantage at every step we advance from earth to heaven.' *Southern Watchman*, April 24, 1902.

'They willingly are ignorant'

3. What warning are we given concerning the attitude of sceptics in the last days? 2 Peter 3:3-6.

NOTE: 'Without Bible history, geology can prove nothing. Relics found in the earth do give evidence of a state of things differing in many respects from the present. But the time of their existence, and how long a period these things have been in the earth, are only to be understood by Bible history. It may be innocent to conjecture beyond Bible history, if our suppositions do not contradict the facts found in the sacred Scriptures. But when men leave the word of God in regard to the history of creation, and seek to account for God's creative works upon natural principles, they are upon a boundless ocean of uncertainty. Just how God accomplished the work of creation in six literal days He has never revealed to mortals. His creative works are just as incomprehensible as His existence.' *Spiritual Gifts, volume 3*, page 93.

4. What leaves those who deny the account of God's creation without excuse? Romans 1:20.

NOTE: 'Man will be left without excuse. God has given sufficient evidence upon which to base faith if he wish to believe. In the last days the earth will be almost destitute of true faith. Upon the merest pretence, the Word of God will be considered unreliable, while human reasoning will be received, though it be in opposition to plain Scripture facts. Men will endeavour to explain from natural causes the work of creation, which God has never revealed. But human science cannot search out the secrets of the God of heaven, and explain the stupendous works of creation, which were a miracle of Almighty power, any sooner than it can show how God came into existence.' *Lift Him Up*, page 59.

'Speak the word only'

5. How did Jesus manifest the power of God's word? Luke 4:38-39.

NOTE: 'The life of Christ that gives life to the world is in His word. It was by His word that Jesus healed disease and cast out demons; by His word He stilled the sea, and raised the dead; and the people bore witness that His word was with power. He spoke the word of God, as He had spoken through all the prophets and teachers of the Old Testament. The whole Bible is a manifestation of Christ, and the Saviour desired to fix the faith of His followers on the word. When His visible presence should be withdrawn, the word must be their source of power. Like their Master, they were to live by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.' *Matthew 4:4.* *Desire of Ages*, page 390.

6. How did a Roman centurion demonstrate his faith in the power of Christ's word? Matthew 8:5-10.

NOTE: 'That centurion had been around where Jesus was, had seen Him talking, had heard His words and had seen the effect of them, until he himself said, Whatever that Man speaks is so; when He says a thing, it is done. Now I am going to have the advantage of it. So he went to Jesus, and said what is written. Jesus knew perfectly well that the man had his mind upon the power of His word to do that thing; and He replied, Very well, I will come and heal your servant. O no, my Lord, you do not need to come . . . he said, "Speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed." Jesus replied, "As thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed." When that word went forth, "So be it done unto thee," how long before the man was healed? Twenty years? No. Didn't he have to go through many ups and downs before he was certainly healed? No, no! When the word was spoken, the word did the thing which was spoken; and it did it at once.' A. T. Jones, *Lessons on Faith*, pages 57.

'Lazarus, come forth'

7. What supreme example of the power of the word is recorded for us? John 11:43-44.

NOTE: 'By the raising of Lazarus, many were led to believe in Jesus. It was God's plan that Lazarus should die and be laid in the tomb before the Saviour should arrive. The raising of Lazarus was Christ's crowning miracle, and because of it many glorified God.' *Daughters of God*, page 60.

'That mighty miracle was the crowning evidence offered by God to men that He had sent His Son into the world for their salvation. It was a demonstration of divine power sufficient to convince every mind that was under the control of reason and enlightened conscience. Many who witnessed the resurrection of Lazarus were led to believe on Jesus.' *Desire of Ages*, page 537.

8. What important question did Jesus ask Martha before He raised her brother to life, and what was her answer? John 11:25-27.

NOTE: 'Still seeking to give a true direction to her faith, Jesus declared, "I am the resurrection, and the life." In Christ is life, original, unborrowed, underived. "He that hath the Son hath life." 1 John 5:12. The divinity of Christ is the believer's assurance of eternal life. "He that believeth in Me," said Jesus, "though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. Believest thou this?" Christ here looks forward to the time of His second coming. Then the righteous dead shall be raised incorruptible, and the living righteous shall be translated to heaven without seeing death. The miracle which Christ was about to perform, in raising Lazarus from the dead, would represent the resurrection of all the righteous dead. By His word and His works He declared Himself the Author of the resurrection. He who Himself was soon to die upon the cross stood with the keys of death, a conqueror of the grave, and asserted His right and power to give eternal life. To the Saviour's words, "Believest thou?" Martha responded, "Yea, Lord: I believe that Thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world." She did not comprehend in all their significance the words spoken by Christ, but she confessed her faith in His divinity, and her confidence that He was able to perform whatever it pleased Him to do.' *Desire of Ages*, page 530.

9. What example of faith did Jesus leave us in this miracle? John 11:41.

NOTE: Notice that Jesus gave thanks to His Father for hearing His prayer **before** Lazarus was raised. These thanks were not an expression of gratitude at seeing His prayer answered, but an expression of faith that His prayer had been answered.

'True faith lays hold of and claims the promised blessing before it is realised and felt. We must send up our petitions in faith within the second veil and let our faith take hold of the promised blessing and claim it as ours. We are then to believe that we receive the blessing, because our faith has hold of it, and according to the Word it is ours. "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark 11:24. Here is faith, naked faith, to believe that we receive the blessing, even before we realise it.' *Early Writings*, page 72.

'The word did not profit them'

10. What may prevent the word of God from profiting us? Hebrews 4:2.

NOTE: 'We need to realise the necessity of exercising that faith which is acceptable to God, the faith which works by love and purifies the soul. Without faith it is impossible to hear the Word in such a way as to profit by the hearing, even though it be presented in a most impressive manner. Unless we mix faith with our hearing of the Word, unless we receive the truths we hear as a message from heaven, to be carefully studied, to be eaten by the soul and assimilated into the spiritual life, we lose the impression of the Spirit of God. We do not understand by experience what it means to find rest by receiving the divine assurances of the Word. The importance of studying the Word cannot be overestimated. Its promises are large, and full of richness. In no case should we fail of securing the heavenly treasure. Christ is our only security. We cannot trust to human reasoning. The world is full of men and women who cherish deceptive theories, and it is dangerous to listen to them.' *The Upward Look*, page 75.

11. What made it harder for Jesus to work miracles of healing? Matthew 13:58.

NOTE: 'The power of love was in all Christ's healing, and only by partaking of that love, through faith, can we be instruments for His work. If we neglect to link ourselves in divine connection with Christ, the current of life-giving energy cannot flow in rich streams from us to the people. There were places where the Saviour Himself could not do many mighty works because of their unbelief. So now unbelief separates the church from her divine Helper. Her hold upon eternal realities is weak. By her lack of faith, God is disappointed and robbed of His glory.' *Counsels on Health*, page 31.

'By every word'

12. How are we shown the crucial importance of faith? Hebrews 11:6.

NOTE: 'We should not present our petitions to God to prove whether He will fulfil His word, but because He will fulfil it; not to prove that He loves us, but because He loves us. "Without faith it is impossible to please Him: for 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.' *Desire of Ages*, page 125.

13. What vital truth concerning faith and God's word must we lay hold on? Matthew 4:4.

NOTE: 'The Word of God is to be our spiritual food. The life of Christ that gives life to the world is in His word. It was by His word that Jesus healed disease and cast out demons; by His word He stilled the sea, and raised the dead. As our physical life is sustained by food, so our spiritual life is sustained by the Word of God. And every soul is to receive life from God's Word for himself. As we eat for ourselves in order to receive nourishment, so we must receive the Word for ourselves.' *The Faith I Live By*, page 20.

Lesson 2: October 3-9

'Justified by faith'

MEMORY VERSE: 'Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.' Romans 5:1.

STUDY HELP: *Christ Triumphant*, page 150.

LESSON SCRIPTURES: Romans 3:23-31.

LESSON AIM: To study the relationship between faith and justification.

Introduction

'As penitent sinners, contrite before God, discern Christ's atonement in their behalf, and accept this atonement as their only hope in this life and the future life, their sins are pardoned. This is justification by faith. Every believing soul is to conform his or her will entirely to God's will, and keep in a state of repentance and contrition, exercising faith in the atoning merits of the Redeemer, and advancing from strength to strength, from glory to glory. Pardon and justification are one and the same thing.' *Christ Triumphant*, page 150.

'All have sinned'

1. What is the problem that afflicts the entire human race? Romans 3:23. Compare Psalm 14:2-3, Romans 3:10.

NOTE: 'A terrible doom awaits the sinner, and therefore it is necessary that we know what sin is, in order that we may escape from its power. John says, "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law; for sin is the transgression of the law." Here we have the true definition of sin; it is "the transgression of the law." How often the sinner is urged to leave his sins, and come to Jesus; but has the messenger who would lead him to Christ clearly pointed out the way? Has he clearly pointed out the fact that "sin is the transgression of the law," and that he must repent, and forsake the breaking of God's commandments? Christ will come to consume the false prophet, to sweep away the hosts of apostasy, to take vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of God; and it is of the highest importance to each one of us that we know the conditions by which we shall escape the sinner's doom. It is of the greatest moment that we understand the nature of our fall and the consequences of transgression. Man's conscience has become hardened by sin, and his understanding darkened by transgression, and his judgment has become confused as to what is sin. He has become benumbed by the influence of iniquity, and it is essential that his conscience be aroused to understand that sin is the transgression of God's holy law. He who does not obey the commandments of God is a sinner in the sight of God. "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God," *Signs of the Times*, June 20, 1895.

2. What is the consequence of our having sinned? Romans 6:23, first part. Compare Romans 5:12.

NOTE: "'The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.'" Romans 6:23. While life is the inheritance of the righteous, death is the portion of the wicked. Moses declared to Israel: "I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil." Deuteronomy 30:15. The death referred to in these scriptures is not that pronounced upon Adam, for all mankind suffer the penalty of his transgression. It is "the second death" that is placed in contrast with everlasting life.' *Great Controversy*, page 544.

'Justified by His blood'

3. What provision did God make so that sinners might escape the penalty of their sins? Romans 5:8-9.

NOTE: "'All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.'" But Christ gave His life to save the sinner from the death sentence. He died that we might live. To those who receive Him He gives power that enables them to separate from that which, unless they return to their loyalty, will place them where they must be condemned and punished. Christ is the sinner's only hope. By His death he brought salvation within the reach of all. Through His grace all may become loyal subjects of God's kingdom. Only by His sacrifice could salvation be brought within man's reach.' *Review & Herald*, March 15, 1906.

4. What will the blood of Christ do for the sinner? 1 John 1:7, last part.

NOTE: 'We may have flattered ourselves, as did Nicodemus, that our life has been upright, that our moral character is correct, and think that we need not humble the heart before God, like the common sinner: but when the light from Christ shines into our souls, we shall see how impure we are; we shall discern the selfishness of motive, the enmity against God, that has defiled every act of life. Then we shall know that our own righteousness is indeed as filthy rags, and that the blood of Christ alone can cleanse us from the defilement of sin, and renew our hearts in His own likeness.' *Conflict & Courage*, page 292.

'If we confess'

5. How may the sinner avail himself of the cleansing power of Christ's blood? 1 John 1:9.

NOTE: 'Confession of sin, whether public or private, should be heartfelt and freely expressed. It is not to be urged from the sinner. It is not to be made in a flippant and careless way, or forced from those who have no realising sense of the abhorrent

character of sin. The confession that is the outpouring of the inmost soul finds its way to the God of infinite pity. The psalmist says, "The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit." Psalm 34:18. True confession is always of a specific character, and acknowledges particular sins. They may be of such a nature as to be brought before God only; they may be wrongs that should be confessed to individuals who have suffered injury through them; or they may be of a public character, and should then be as publicly confessed. But all confession should be definite and to the point, acknowledging the very sins of which you are guilty.' *Steps to Christ*, pages 37-38.

6. What is required of the sinner if he is to receive mercy? Isaiah 55:7.

NOTE: 'Repentance includes sorrow for sin, and a turning away from it. We shall not renounce sin unless we see its sinfulness; until we turn away from it in heart, there will be no real change in the life.' *Conflict & Courage*, page 63.

7. In what promise must the repentant sinner place his faith? Psalm 32:5.

NOTE: 'David was pardoned of his transgression because he humbled his heart before God in repentance and contrition of soul, and believed that God's promise to forgive would be fulfilled. He confessed his sin, repented, and was reconverted. In the rapture of the assurance of forgiveness, he exclaimed, "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile." Psalm 32:1, 2. The blessing comes because of pardon; pardon comes through faith that the sin, confessed and repented of, is borne by the great Sin Bearer. Thus from Christ come all our blessings. His death is an atoning sacrifice for our sins. He is the great Medium through whom we receive the mercy and favour of God.' *Our High Calling*, page 83.

'I thank thee, that I am not as other men are'

8. How did Jesus teach the importance of seeking justification (forgiveness) from God? Luke 18:9-14.

NOTE: "In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:14). This is the great practical truth which must be stamped upon the soul. It is of the greatest importance that all should comprehend the greatness and power of the truth to those who receive it.' *That I May Know Him*, page 340.

9. What two groups did Paul contrast in teaching about justification (forgiveness)? Romans 2:13.

NOTE: "Not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified." God will not treat men according to the position they occupy, according to their possessions, or their colour, but according to the character they have formed. Thus will be decided the case of each one. The punishment of those who have had abundant opportunity to know the truth, but who in blindness and unbelief have contended against God and His messengers, will be proportionate to the light they have rejected. God greatly favoured them, giving them peculiar advantages and gifts, that they might let their light shine forth to others. But in their perversity they led others astray. God will judge them for the good they might have done, but did not. He will call them to account for their misused opportunities. They turned from God's way to their own way, and they will be judged according to their works. By walking contrary to the principles of the truth, they greatly dishonoured God. They became fools in His sight by turning His truth into a lie. As they have been distinguished by the mercies bestowed on them, so they will be distinguished by the severity of their punishment.' *Review & Herald*, June 25, 1901.

'A man is not justified by the works of the law'

10. How did Paul state the impossibility of earning forgiveness? Romans 3:20, Galatians 2:16.

NOTE: 'Paul learned that there was no power in the law to pardon the transgressor of law. "By the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified" (Romans 3:20).' *Selected Messages, book 1*, page 347.

'We have transgressed the law of God, and by the deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified. The best efforts that man in his own strength can make are valueless to meet the holy and just law that he has transgressed.' *Selected Messages, book 1*, page 363.

11. What was wrong with the Jews' attempts to earn God's favour? Romans 10:3.

NOTE: 'No man can of himself understand his errors. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?" Jeremiah 17:9. The lips may express a poverty of soul that the heart does not acknowledge. While speaking to God of poverty of spirit, the heart may be swelling with the conceit of its own superior humility and exalted righteousness. In one way only can a true knowledge of self be obtained. We must behold Christ. It is ignorance of Him that makes men so uplifted in their own righteousness. When we contemplate His purity and excellence, we shall see our own weakness and poverty and defects as they really are. We shall see ourselves lost and hopeless, clad in garments of self-righteousness, like every other sinner. We shall see that if we are ever saved, it will not be through our own goodness, but through God's infinite grace.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 159.

'Not by faith only'

12. What is required on our part for us to be justified? Romans 5:1.

NOTE: 'When men learn they cannot earn righteousness by their own merit of works, and they look with firm and entire reliance upon Jesus Christ as their only hope, there will not be so much of self and so little of Jesus. Souls and bodies are defiled and polluted by sin, the heart is estranged from God, yet many are struggling in their own finite strength to win salvation by

good works. Jesus, they think, will do some of the saving; they must do the rest. They need to see by faith the righteousness of Christ as their only hope for time and for eternity.' *Faith & Works*, page 25.

13. What light does James shed on Paul's words? James 2:24.

NOTE: 'The apostle James saw that dangers would arise in presenting the subject of justification by faith, and he laboured to show that genuine faith cannot exist without corresponding works. The experience of Abraham is presented. "Seest thou," he says, "how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?" James 2:22. Thus genuine faith does a genuine work in the believer. Faith and obedience bring a solid, valuable experience. Faith and works are two oars which we must use equally if we would press our way up the stream against the current of unbelief. The so-called faith that does not work by love and purify the soul will not justify any man.' *The Faith I Live By*, page 115.

'There is danger in regarding justification by faith as placing merit on faith. When you take the righteousness of Christ as a free gift you are justified freely through the redemption of Christ. What is faith? "The substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). It is an assent of the understanding to God's words which binds the heart in willing consecration and service to God, Who gave the understanding, Who moved on the heart, Who first drew the mind to view Christ on the cross of Calvary. Faith is rendering to God the intellectual powers, abandonment of the mind and will to God, and making Christ the only door to enter into the kingdom of heaven.' *Faith & Works*, page 25.

Lesson 3: October 10-16 **'The just shall live by faith'**

MEMORY VERSE: 'Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.' Habakkuk 2:4.

STUDY HELP: *The Faith I Live By*, page 125.

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Psalm 37:3-11.

LESSON AIM: To study the way faith works in the life of the Christian.

Introduction

'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 believe, taught to rely upon the Word of God. That Word declares that "the just shall live by faith" (Romans 1:17), not by feeling. Let us put away everything like distrust and want of faith in Jesus. Let us commence a life of simple, childlike trust, not relying upon feeling, but upon faith. Do not dishonour Jesus by doubting His precious promises. He wants us to believe in Him with unwavering faith.' *Our High Calling*, page 119.

'My heart trusted in Him'

1. How does David describe the life of faith? Psalm 28:7.

NOTE: 'God 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. Your part is to put your will on the side of Christ. When you yield your will to His, He immediately takes possession of you, and works in you to will and to do of His good pleasure. Your nature is brought under the control of His Spirit. Even your thoughts are subject to Him. If you cannot control your impulses, your emotions, as you may desire, you can control the will, and thus an entire change will be wrought in your life. When you yield up your will to Christ, your life is hid with Christ in God. It is allied to the power which is above all principalities and powers. You have a strength from God that holds you fast to His strength; and a new life, even the life of faith, is possible to you.' *God's Amazing Grace*, page 209.

2. What kind of faith does the Bible describe as dead? James 2:16-18.

NOTE: When James talks about 'works', he is not describing what Paul calls 'the works of the law' but those deeds of love and concern which are the outgrowth of the fruit of the Spirit in the Christian's heart.

'Righteousness is right doing, and it is by their deeds that all will be judged. Our characters are revealed by what we do. The works show whether the faith is genuine. It is not enough for us to believe that Jesus is not an impostor, and that the religion of the Bible is no cunningly devised fable. We may believe that the name of Jesus is the only name under heaven whereby man may be saved, and yet we may not through faith make Him our personal Saviour. It is not enough to believe the theory of truth. It is not enough to make a profession of faith in Christ and have our names registered on the church roll. "He that keepeth His commandments dwelleth in Him, and He in him. And hereby we know that He abideth in us, by the Spirit which He hath given us." "Hereby we do know that we know Him if we keep His commandments." 1 John 3:24; 2:3. This is the genuine evidence of conversion. Whatever our profession, it amounts to nothing unless Christ is revealed in works of righteousness.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 312.

'For the obedience of faith'

3. What did Paul say was the reason why the Gospel of Jesus Christ was to be preached to the nations? Romans 16:25-26.

NOTE: '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.

'Christianity is simply living by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. We are to believe in, and live in, Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life. We have faith in God when we believe His Word; we trust and obey God when we keep His commandments; and we love God when we love His law.' *Faith & Works*, page 122.

4. How did Abraham demonstrate the obedience of faith? Hebrews 11:8. Read also verses 17-19.

NOTE: 'Abraham was sorely tested in his old age. The words of the Lord seemed terrible and uncalled-for to the stricken old man, yet he never questioned their justice or hesitated in his obedience. He might have pleaded that he was old and feeble, and could not sacrifice the son who was the joy of his life. He might have reminded the Lord that this command conflicted with the promises that had been given in regard to this son. But the obedience of Abraham was without a murmur or a reproach. His trust in God was implicit.' *Counsels for the Church*, page 270.

'Thine ears shall hear a word'

5. What precious promise of divine guidance may we claim in times of perplexity? Isaiah 30:21. Compare Psalm 32:8.

NOTE: 'As we near the end of time, falsehood will be so mingled with truth, that only those who have the guidance of the Holy Spirit will be able to distinguish truth from error. We need to make every effort to keep the way of the Lord. We must in no case turn from His guidance to put our trust in man. The Lord's angels are appointed to keep strict watch over those who put their faith in the Lord, and these angels are to be our special help in every time of need. Every day we are to come to the Lord with full assurance of faith, and to look to Him for wisdom. Those who are guided by the Word of the Lord will discern with certainty between falsehood and truth, between sin and righteousness.' *God's Amazing Grace*, page 201.

6. What precious promises may we claim in times of trouble and distress? Isaiah 43:2.

NOTE: 'The three Hebrews declared to the whole nation of Babylon their faith in Him whom they worshiped. They relied on God. In the hour of their trial they remembered the promise, "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee." And in a marvellous manner their faith in the living Word had been honoured in the sight of all. The tidings of their wonderful deliverance were carried to many countries by the representatives of the different nations that had been invited by Nebuchadnezzar to the dedication. Through the faithfulness of His children, God was glorified in all the earth.' *Reflecting Christ*, page 370.

7. What confident expression of faith did the Psalmist make? Psalm 46:1-3.

NOTE: 'Come to Christ just as you are, weak, helpless, and ready to die. Cast yourselves wholly on His mercy. There is no difficulty within or without that cannot be conquered in His strength. Some have stormy tempers; but He who calmed the stormy sea of Galilee can say to your heart, if you repent, "Peace, be still." There is no nature that Christ cannot subdue, no temper so stormy that He cannot quell it, if the heart is surrendered to His keeping. No one need despond who commits his soul to Jesus. We have an all-powerful Saviour. Looking to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of your faith, you can say, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof" (Psalm 46:1-3). In the future life we shall understand things that here greatly perplex us. We shall realise how strong an opponent we had, and how angels of God were commissioned to guard us as we followed the counsel of the Word of God. Christ tells us that our sea will not always be smooth. We shall have tribulation. This is a part of our education, necessary to the formation of a strong, symmetrical character.' *The Upward Look*, page 321.

'My God shall supply all your need'

8. What precious counsel did Christ give concerning our worries over our material needs? Matthew 6:31-32.

NOTE: The idiom 'take no thought' meant 'Don't worry' to the writers of the King James Bible. Christ was not advocating a feckless, improvident attitude to life by these words. He was simply telling us that we have no need to worry about things like food and clothing. We should rather rest in our heavenly Father's love.

'There is much needless worrying, much trouble of mind, over things that cannot be helped. The Lord would have His children put their trust fully in Him. Our Lord is a just and righteous God; His children should acknowledge His goodness and His justice in the large and small things of life. Those who cherish the spirit of worry and complaint are refusing to recognise His guiding hand. Needless anxiety is a foolish thing, and it hinders us from standing in a true position before God. When the Holy Spirit comes into the soul, there will be no desire to complain and murmur because we do not have everything we want. Rather, we will thank God from a full heart for the blessings that we have.' *In Heavenly Places*, page 113.

9. What confident assertion did Paul make to the believers in Philippi? Philippians 4:19.

NOTE: 'It is difficult to exercise living faith when we are in darkness and discouragement. 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 al-

low 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.' *My Life Today*, page 14.

10. What therefore should we do about our worries? 1 Peter 5:7.

NOTE: 'No class is free from the temptation to worldly care. To the poor, toil and deprivation and the fear of want bring perplexities and burdens. To the rich come fear of loss and a multitude of anxious cares. Many of Christ's followers forget the lesson He has bidden us learn from the flowers of the field. They do not trust to His constant care. Christ cannot carry their burden, because they do not cast it upon Him. Therefore the cares of life, which should drive them to the Saviour for help and comfort, separate them from Him.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 51.

'Access with confidence'

11. If we learn to live by faith, how will this change our attitude towards God? Ephesians 3:12. Compare Hebrews 4:16.

NOTE: 'We have access to God through the merits of the name of Christ, and God invites us to bring to Him our trials and temptations; for He understands them all. He would not have us pour out our woes to human ears. Through the blood of Christ we may come to the throne of grace and find grace to help in time of need. We may come with assurance, saying, "My acceptance is in the Beloved." "For through Him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father." "In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of Him" (Ephesians 2:18; 3:12). As an earthly parent encourages his child to come to him at all times, so the Lord encourages us to lay before Him our wants and perplexities, our gratitude and love. Every promise is sure. Jesus is our Surety and Mediator, and has placed at our command every resource, that we may have a perfect character.' *In Heavenly Places*, page 18.

12. In what precious promise may we find rest, whatever situation life brings to us? Hebrews 13:5.

NOTE: 'We are passing through an enemy's land. Foes are upon every side to hinder our advancement. They hate God and all who follow after Him and bear His name. But those who are our enemies are the Lord's enemies, and although they are strong and artful, yet the Captain of our salvation who leadeth us can vanquish them. As the sun disperses the clouds from its path, so will the Sun of Righteousness remove the obstacles to our progress. We may cheer our souls by looking at the things unseen that will cheer and animate us in our journey. We may indeed say, "Thy presence is our security, our treasure, our glory, our joy." Do we pray that Christ will go where we go and dwell where we dwell? If we can live without Christ in this world, He will live without us in the better world. But if we cling to Him by living faith, saying with Jacob, "I will not let thee go"; if we entreat, "Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy holy spirit from me," the promise is to us "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."' *Christ Triumphant*, page 90.

'I will not fear'

13. What precious promise will the final generation have to trust in during the terrible circumstances of the Time of Trouble? Daniel 12:1.

NOTE: 'In looking to the world we shall see that every refuge must soon fail us, and every good soon pass away. There is no help for us but in God, and in this state of earth's confusion we cannot be composed, strong, or safe, only in the strength of living faith; nor can we be in peace, only as we rest in God, and wait for His salvation. Greater light shines upon us than shone upon our fathers. We cannot be accepted or honoured of God in rendering the same service, or doing the same works, our fathers have done. In order to be accepted and blessed of God as our fathers were, we must imitate their faithfulness and zeal, improve our light as they improved theirs, and do as they would have done if they had lived in our day. We must improve and walk in the light which shines upon us, otherwise our light will become darkness. God requires us to exhibit to the world, in our character and works, that measure of the Spirit, union, and oneness, which are in accordance with the sacred truths we profess, and the spirit of those prophecies that are being fulfilled in these last days. The truth which has reached our understanding, the light that has shone on the soul, will judge and condemn us, if we turn away and refuse to be led by them.' *Testimonies*, volume 1, page 262.

14. Because we are walking with the Lord, what expression of faith are we entitled to make? Hebrews 13:6.

NOTE: 'The greatest want of the world is the want of men, men who will not be bought or sold; men who in their inmost souls are true and honest; men who do not fear to call sin by its right name; men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole; men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall.' *Education*, page 57.

"Wherefore didst thou doubt?" said Christ to the sinking Peter. The same question may be addressed to us. The Lord has pledged Himself to give us strength to enable us to stand. As we search the Scriptures we find ground for confidence, provision for sufficiency. It is our privilege to say boldly, yet humbly, The Lord is my helper, therefore I shall not be moved from my steadfastness. My life is hid with Christ in God. Because He lives, I shall live also. Let us pledge ourselves before God and the angels of heaven that we will not dishonour God by speaking words of discouragement or unbelief. Close the door to distrust and open the door wide to faith. Invite into the soul temple the heavenly Guest.' *That I May Know Him*, page 228.

‘While the blackness and darkness are closing about the world, our lives are only secure as they are hid with Christ in God. Precious Saviour! In Him alone are our hopes of eternal life to be centred. We will then talk faith, talk hope, talk courage, and diffuse light on every side. “Ye are,” saith Christ, “the light of the world. A city set on an hill. Let your light so shine before men, that they may glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:14-16). Faith must pierce the darkest cloud. Simple, earnest trust in God will glorify His name, and in that trust you may be all light in the Lord. Praise the Lord. Praise Him, and glorify God for His matchless love.’ *That I May Know Him*, page 284.

Lesson 4: October 17-23

‘Without faith’

MEMORY VERSE: ‘But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for 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.

STUDY HELP: *The Faith I Live By*, page 90.

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 10:35-11:6.

LESSON AIM: To study the necessity of exercising faith.

Introduction

‘The work of conquering evil is to be done through faith. Those who go into the battlefield will find that they must put on the whole armour of God. The shield of faith will be their defence and will enable them to be more than conquerors. Nothing else will avail but this, faith in the Lord of hosts, and obedience to His orders. Vast armies furnished with every other facility will avail nothing in the last great conflict. Without faith, an angel host could not help. Living faith alone will make them invincible and enable them to stand in the evil day, steadfast, unmovable, holding the beginning of their confidence firm unto the end.’ *God’s Amazing Grace*, page 33.

‘The measure of faith’

1. With what has God endowed every person? Romans 12:3. Compare 1 Corinthians 12:7, Ephesians 4:7.

NOTE: ‘There is not much said in the Scriptures about any necessity of our having faith, while very, very much is said about our cultivating faith. The reason of this is that 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. There is no danger of ever lessening this capital when it is used: as certainly as it is used at all, it will increase, it will grow exceedingly. And as certainly as it grows, the righteousness, the peace, the joy, of the Lord, are assured to the full salvation of the soul.’ A. T. Jones, *Lessons on Faith*, page 21.

2. How are we shown that faith is a gift from God? Ephesians 2:8.

NOTE: ‘Every good impulse or aspiration is the gift of God; faith receives from God the life that alone can produce true growth and efficiency. 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. Faith that enables us to receive God’s gifts is itself a gift, of which some measure is imparted to every human being. It grows as exercised in appropriating the word of God. In order to strengthen faith, we must often bring it in contact with the word.’ *Education*, page 253.

‘Whatsoever is not of faith is sin’

3. How are we warned of the importance of faith in all we do? Romans 14:23, last part.

NOTE: ‘Are there not some of us too much like the man who came to the minister, complaining that he had not been blessed, that he felt no joy; God did not answer his prayers although he had prayed again and again for a blessing. “Well,” said the minister, “let us kneel right down here and tell the Lord just how the matter stands.” After both had prayed, the minister asked him if he felt better. The man answered, “I feel no better than I did before I prayed. I did not expect to be blessed, and I am not blessed.” He had made a mockery of prayer. He did not believe the Lord would answer him, and he received just what his faith had claimed. Is it any wonder that such prayers are not answered? “Whatsoever is not of faith is sin.” Do you consider this, when you offer up your faithless petitions? Do you stop to consider how you are dishonouring God, and impoverishing your own soul? If you could but realise the wrong you are doing, you would cease to make mockery by meaningless devotions. Come to God in faith and humility. Plead with Him till the break of day, if necessary, till your soul is brought into such close

relationship with Jesus, that you can lay your burden at His feet, and say, "I know whom I have believed." The Lord is "able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think." Our cold, faithless hearts may be quickened into sensibility and life, till we can pray in faith, preach in faith, and say, "The life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God." Let us seek for the fullness of the salvation of Christ. Follow in the footsteps of the Son of God, for His promise is, "He that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." *Signs of the Times*, February 24, 1888.

4. How does Paul explain the essentialness of faith? Hebrews 11:6.

NOTE: 'The Lord draws people close to His side, to walk with them, to work with them, to teach them how He overcame every temptation in humanity, and how, therefore, they may overcome through the provision the Lord has made. With every temptation there is a way of escape, by walking humbly with God. Without faith, ever increasing faith, it is impossible to please God. In their fallen nature people can do the very things God expects them to do through the help provided for them. They can walk and work and live by faith in the Son of God. God is not pleased with those who are satisfied with a mere animal life. He has formed human beings after the divine similitude. He designs that they shall possess the character of God by obeying His law, the expression of His divine character. The Lord has given them mind, intellect, and affections. These gifts are entrusted to them to be exercised and improved. God has given them a conscience that must be carefully cherished and appreciated. He has given them knowledge and virtue. These entrusted capabilities are to hold the supremacy that God has assigned to them. The Lord expects every person to exercise the faculty of faith. It is the real, vital essence of Christianity to grasp the unseen by faith, reaching out constantly to lay hold of the spiritual efficiency found in Christ. If people do not constantly improve by exercising the gifts of God, it is not possible for them to have that faith that works by love and purifies the soul.' *Christ Triumphant*, page 53.

'The word preached did not profit them'

5. Why was it that the Israelites received no profit from the things God revealed to them? Hebrews 4:2.

NOTE: 'When the church is properly instructed, there will not be so great dependence and weakness. Believers in the truth will not come and go as the door upon its hinges. They will not sit complacently and listen to sermon after sermon, and fail to bring the instruction into practical life. Many a minister does present the truth with force and clearness, but the members of the church fail to reap benefit therefrom, because the word is not mixed with faith in them that hear it. The mind is occupied with worldly interests, and as soon as they leave the church door, the impression is lost; for as water flows from a leaky vessel, so the truth leaks from the heart. The more preaching they have, the less they do to carry out the truth in practical godliness. They are glutted with sermons, and the truth fails to arouse them to a sense of their condition.' *Review & Herald*, March 7, 1893.

6. How did Jesus show the failure of the Pharisees in their Bible study? John 5:38-40.

NOTE: 'Our profession of truth will not save us; we must be sanctified through the truth. Christ said, "Thy word is truth." We must study the Bible, comparing scripture with scripture. A mere reading through of the Bible will not be sufficient. The heart must be opened to understand what saith the Scriptures in regard to duty. We must have a calm, steady faith, and that moral courage which Jesus alone can impart to us, that we may be strengthened for trial, and prepared for duty. We need living faith, that we may be closely united with God; for only in this way shall we be able to make a success of the Christian life and be a blessing to others.' *Review & Herald*, June 16, 1891.

'O thou of little faith'

7. How did Jesus rebuke Peter for his lack of faith? Matthew 14:31. Read verses 25-32. Compare Matthew 8:26.

NOTE: 'If it had been the water that was supporting him, he would not have begun to sink; for the water was just the same where he sunk as it was where he walked. So when we remember the words of Jesus, "Wherefore didst thou doubt?" we know that when Peter walked on the water, it was the word of Jesus that supported him. It was the word "Come" that brought him, and it was only when he distrusted that word that he began to go down.' E. J. Waggoner, *Present Truth*, January 23, 1896.

'When He said to Peter: "Come," could Peter come? Yes. What, come on the water? Yes, by that word Peter walked on the water. Then, when he forgot the word and thought he was about to sink, he said, "Lord, save me." He could not get to Him, could he? He started, but forgot the power of the word, the faith slipped, and he thought he could not get to Him, and he cried, "Lord, save me." and the Lord put forth His hand. He did not wait for Peter to get to Him, but put forth His hand and lifted Him up. My brother or my sister, if you have mustered up courage to start on the word, "Come," and have forgot the power of it, and your faith has slipped because of the storm that was about you, you can say, "Lord, save me," and He reaches out His hand, and will save.' A. T. Jones, *General Conference Daily Bulletin*, February 9, 1893.

'At the command of Jesus, Peter was able to walk on the water. But he had to keep his eyes on the Saviour. As soon as he looked away, he began to doubt and sink. Then he cried, "Lord, save me," and the Saviour's hand was stretched forth to lift him up. Matthew 14:28-31. So whenever one cries to Him for help, the hand of Christ is stretched forth to save.' *The Story of Jesus*, page 79.

'This incident illustrates much of the character of impulsive Peter. Faith and unbelief were blended in his words and actions. He said, "Lord, if it be Thou, bid me come unto Thee on the water." The Lord had assured the disciples, "It is I; be not afraid." And when Peter saw the waves around him, saw the boisterous winds, he forgot the power of his Lord, and began to sink; but at his cry of weakness, Jesus was at his side to grasp his outstretched hand, and lift him from the billows.' *Review & Herald*, April 7, 1891.

8. In contrast how did Jesus commend the centurion who asked Him to heal his sick servant? Matthew 8:10. Read verses 5-12.

NOTE: 'Now what was it that the centurion expected would heal his servant? It was "the word only," which Jesus would speak. And after the word was spoken, what did the centurion depend upon, to what did he look, for the healing power? It was "the word only." He did not look for the Lord to do it in some ways apart from the word. No. He heard the word, "So be it done unto thee." He accepted that word as it is in truth the word of God, and expected it, depended upon it, to accomplish that which it said. And it was so. And that word is the word of God to-day as certainly as in the day that it was originally spoken. It has lost none of its power, for that word "liveth and abideth forever.'" A. T. Jones, *Review & Herald*, October 27, 1896.

'Because of their unbelief'

9. Why was Jesus unable to work many great miracles among the people of His own area? Matthew 13:58.

NOTE: 'Some doubted. So it will ever be. There are those who find it hard to exercise faith, and they place themselves on the doubting side. These lose much because of their unbelief. If they would control their feelings, and refuse to allow doubt to bring a shadow over their own minds and the minds of others, how much happier and more helpful they would be. They close the door to many blessings that they might enjoy if they would refuse to place themselves on the doubting side, and would, instead, talk hope and courage.' *SDA Bible Commentary, volume 5*, page 1110.

10. What rebuke did the Lord address to Thomas? John 20:29.

NOTE: 'Jesus here showed Thomas that his faith would have been more acceptable to Him if he had believed the evidence of his brethren, and had not refused to believe until he had seen Jesus with his own eyes. If the world should follow this example of Thomas, no one would believe unto salvation; for all who now receive Christ do so through the testimony of others. Many who have a weak and wavering faith, reason that if they had the evidence which Thomas had from his companions they would not doubt as he did. They do not realise that they have not only that evidence, but additional testimony piled up about them on every side. Many who, like Thomas, wait for all cause of doubt to be removed, may never realise their desire as he did, but gradually become entrenched in their unbelief, until they cannot perceive the weight of evidence in favour of Jesus, and, like the sceptical Jews, what little light they have will go out in the darkness which closes around their minds. To reject the plain and conclusive evidences of divine truth hardens the heart, and blinds the understanding. The precious light, being neglected, fades utterly from the mind that is unwilling to receive it.' *Spirit of Prophecy, volume 3*, page 221.

'Like a wave of the sea'

11. How does James describe the person whose prayers are not mixed with faith? James 1:6. Compare Isaiah 57:20-21.

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.

12. If we pray such prayers, what will be the result? James 1:7.

NOTE: 'We do not reach high enough. We do not come to God with the faith that will not be denied. He says: "If any of you lack wisdom, let Him ask of God, who giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea, driven of the wind, and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord." We must lay hold of the promises, saying, "I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me." And when you receive the blessing, you will carry it to others. The atmosphere of heaven will surround your soul, because Christ will be with you. He says, "Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me, and he shall make peace with Me.'" *General Conference Bulletin*, April 2, 1903.

Lesson 5: October 24-30

'Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God'

MEMORY VERSE: 'So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.' Romans 10:17.

STUDY HELP: *Early Writings*, pages 72-73.

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Matthew 8:5-10.

LESSON AIM: To study the connection between faith and God's Word.

Introduction

"Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Romans 10:17. The Scriptures are the great agency in the transformation of character. Christ prayed, "Sanctify them through Thy truth; Thy word is truth." John 17:17. If studied and obeyed,

the word of God works in the heart, subduing every unholy attribute. The Holy Spirit comes to convict of sin, and the faith that springs up in the heart works by love to Christ, conforming us in body, soul, and spirit to His own image. Then God can use us to do His will.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 100.

'The word of God, which effectually worketh also in you'

1. With what spirit should we approach the Word of God? 1 Thessalonians 2:13.

NOTE: 'The Bible is God's voice speaking to us just as surely as though we could hear Him with our ears. The word of the living God is not merely written, but spoken. Do we receive the Bible as the oracle of God? If we realised the importance of this Word, with what awe would we open it, and with what earnestness would we search its precepts. The reading and contemplating of the Scriptures would be regarded as an audience with the Most High. God's Word is a message to us to be obeyed, a volume to be perused diligently, and with a spirit willing to take in the truths written for the admonition of those upon whom the ends of the world are come. It must not be neglected for any other book. When we open the Bible, let us compare our lives with its requirements, measuring our character by the great moral standard of righteousness.' *In Heavenly Places*, page 134.

2. What is important for us to understand about God's Word? Hebrews 6:18. Compare Numbers 23:19.

NOTE: 'It is not impossible for God to lie only because he *will* not, but also because He *can* not. And He *can* not lie, just because He can not; it is impossible. And it is impossible, because when He speaks, the creative energy is in the word spoken; so that "the word only" causes the thing to be so.' A. T. Jones, *Lessons on Faith*, page 20.

'A more sure word of prophecy'

3. Because God cannot lie, in what aspect of God's word may we especially put our faith? 2 Peter 1:19.

NOTE: 'This is also how it is that when the word of God is spoken for a certain time, as in a prophecy for hundreds of years to come, when that time actually has arrived, that word is fulfilled. And it is then fulfilled, not because, apart from the word, God *does* something to fulfil it; but because the word was spoken for that time, and in it is the creative energy which causes the word *at that time* to produce the thing spoken.' A. T. Jones, *Lessons on Faith*, page 20.

4. How are we shown that God appoints a time for the fulfilment of prophecy? Galatians 4:4.

NOTE: 'Like the stars in the vast circuit of their appointed path, God's purposes know no haste and no delay. Through the symbols of the great darkness and the smoking furnace, God had revealed to Abraham the bondage of Israel in Egypt, and had declared that the time of their sojourning should be four hundred years. "Afterward," He said, "shall they come out with great substance." Genesis 15:14. Against that word, all the power of Pharaoh's proud empire battled in vain. On "the self-same day" appointed in the divine promise, "it came to pass, that all the hosts of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt." Exodus 12:41. So in heaven's council the hour for the coming of Christ had been determined. When the great clock of time pointed to that hour, Jesus was born in Bethlehem. "When the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son." Providence had directed the movements of nations, and the tide of human impulse and influence, until the world was ripe for the coming of the Deliverer.' *Maranatha*, page 9.

'To fulfil the word of God'

5. How are we shown that God's word cannot be frustrated? Matthew 2:13-18.

NOTE: 'Joseph received warning to flee into Egypt with Mary and the child. And the angel said, "Be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy Him." Joseph obeyed without delay, setting out on the journey by night for greater security. Herod in Jerusalem impatiently awaited the return of the wise men. As time passed, and they did not appear, his suspicions were roused. Soldiers were at once sent to Bethlehem, with orders to put to death all the children of two years and under. But a higher power was at work against the plans of the prince of darkness. Angels of God frustrated his designs, and protected the life of the infant Redeemer.' *The Truth about Angels*, page 165.

6. How was God's word shown to be trustworthy in the lives of Abraham and Sarah? Hebrews 11:11-12.

NOTE: 'It was perfectly plain that *now* there was no possibility of dependence upon anything whatever, but the naked word only; they were shut up absolutely to this for the accomplishment of what the word said. All works, devices, plans and efforts of their own were excluded, and they were shut up to faith alone, shut up to the word alone, and to absolute dependence upon that word only for the accomplishment of what that word said. And now that the way was clear for "the word only" to work, that word *did* work effectually, and the promised "seed" was born. And so "through faith," through helpless, total dependence upon the word only, "Sarah *herself* received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised." And "therefore sprang there even of one, and *him as good as dead*, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the seashore innumerable." A. T. Jones, *Lessons on Faith*, page 27.

'Abraham believed God'

7. What was the secret of Abraham's spiritual life? Romans 4:3.

NOTE: "'Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the friend of God.'" James 2:23. And Paul says, "They which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham." Galatians 3:7. But Abraham's faith was

made manifest by his works. "Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?" James 2:21, 22. There are many who fail to understand the relation of faith and works. They say, "Only believe in Christ, and you are safe. You have nothing to do with keeping the law." But genuine faith will be manifest in obedience. Said Christ to the unbelieving Jews, "If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham." John 8:39. And concerning the father of the faithful the Lord declares, "Abraham obeyed My voice, and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws." Genesis 26:5. Says the apostle James, "Faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone." James 2:17. And John, who dwells so fully upon love, tells us, "This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments." 1 John 5:3.' *Patriarchs & Prophets*, page 153.

8. How are we shown who are the ones who share in the promises made to Abraham? Galatians 3:7. Note verse 28.

NOTE: 'To Isaiah it was given to make very plain to Judah the truth that among the Israel of God were to be numbered many who were not descendants of Abraham after the flesh. This teaching was not in harmony with the theology of his age, yet he fearlessly proclaimed the messages given him of God and brought hope to many a longing heart reaching out after the spiritual blessings promised to the seed of Abraham. Often the Israelites seemed unable or unwilling to understand God's purpose for the heathen. Yet it was this very purpose that had made them a separate people and had established them as an independent nation among the nations of the earth. Abraham, their father, to whom the covenant promise was first given, had been called to go forth from his kindred, to the regions beyond, that he might be a light bearer to the heathen. Although the promise to him included a posterity as numerous as the sand by the sea, yet it was for no selfish purpose that he was to become the founder of a great nation. "I will bless thee," Jehovah declared, "and make thy name great; . . . in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." No distinction on account of nationality, race, or caste, is recognised by God. Christ came to demolish every wall of partition, to throw open every compartment of the temple courts, that every soul may have free access to God. His love is so broad, so deep, so full, that it penetrates everywhere. It lifts out of Satan's influence those who have been deluded by his deceptions, and places them within reach of the throne of God, the throne encircled by the rainbow of promise. In Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, bond nor free.' *Conflict & Courage*, page 236.

'God did tempt Abraham'

9. How did God test Abraham's faith? Genesis 22:1-2.

NOTE: 'And Abraham did it, hoping against hope. God had said: Thy seed shall be as the stars of heaven; in Isaac shall thy seed be called; offer Isaac for a burnt offering. Abraham did not insist that God should "harmonise these passages." It was all-sufficient for *him* to know that the statements were all *the word of God*. Knowing this, he would trust that word, would follow that word, and would let the Lord "harmonise these passages," or "explain these texts," if any such thing were needed.' A. T. Jones, *Lessons on Faith*, page 29.

10. When Abraham passed the test, how did God speak of him? Genesis 22:15-18.

NOTE: 'Abraham expected to have Isaac *come back* with him as certainly as that he *went* with him. [Genesis 22:50] Abraham expected to offer Isaac for a burnt-offering, and expected then to see Isaac rise from the ashes and go back with him. For the word of God had gone forth. In Isaac shall thy seed be called, and, Thy seed shall be as the stars of heaven for multitude. And Abraham would trust that word only, that it *could* never fail. Hebrews 11:17-19. THIS IS FAITH.' A. T. Jones, *Lessons on Faith*, page 30.

'The faith of the father and the submission of the son were fully tested. "Now I know that thou fearest God, seeing that thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from Me." Abraham's test was the most severe that could ever come to a human being. Had he then turned from God, he would never have been registered as the father of the faithful. Had he deviated from God's command, the world would have lost this rich example of faith in God and victory over unbelief. Nothing is too precious to give to God. Confidence in the divine Word will lead to a doing of that Word.' *Christ Triumphant*, page 83.

'They which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham'

11. Why were stories like the experience of Abraham recorded in Scripture? Romans 4:23-24.

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.

12. What assurance are those given who like Abraham cultivate faith in God? Galatians 3:9.

NOTE: 'Faith appropriates the rich promises of God, believing they are for us. As we accept the promises of God, we grow stronger in faith, and find the word of the Lord fulfilled as He has spoken it. We may feel our weakness and unworthiness, and

because of this, realise our dependence upon God. Every one of us can have a rich experience in the things of God if we will utterly forsake our sin and submit ourselves to God. O, how can we cherish impurity in the soul when Christ has died for us, that we may become partakers of the divine nature, and escape the corruption that is in the world through lust? We are to be sanctified through the truth, and this sanctification is not the work of a moment, but of a life-time. We must all learn to lean upon Jesus; for the time will come when we shall be scattered, and we cannot lean upon one another. Christ is ready to give us the help we need. The Bible is full of precious treasure, but we must dig for it as did the man who purchased the field of treasure. In this way we shall learn what it is to have living faith. Many are enfeebling the mind by the reading of stories and novels, and are losing their relish for the word of God. They are becoming mental inebriates, and will be unable to look at the solemn questions of life and destiny in the right light, unless they put away this practice. Search the Scriptures, and know what is truth. Lean upon God, and know what is living faith, and live by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.' *Review & Herald*, April 14, 1891.

Lesson 6: October 31-November 6 **'The faith of Jesus'**

MEMORY VERSE: 'Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.' Revelation 14:12.

STUDY HELP: *God's Amazing Grace*, page 209.

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:19-34.

LESSON AIM: To study what is meant by the faith of Jesus.

Introduction

"'The faith of Jesus.'" It is talked of, but not understood. What constitutes the faith of Jesus, that belongs to the third angel's message? Jesus becoming our sin-bearer that He might become our sin-pardoning Saviour. He was treated as we deserve to be treated. He came to our world and took our sins that we might take His righteousness. And faith in the ability of Christ to save us amply and fully and entirely is the faith of Jesus.' *Selected Messages, book 3*, page 172.

Compiler's note: The words 'the faith of Jesus' can be understood in two distinct ways, first, that we need to place our faith in Jesus alone, and, second, that Jesus, in His life on earth, provided us with an example of what it means to live by faith. Thus we are to recognise that only in Jesus may we have hope for the future, and that only as we exercise faith, as He exercised faith, may we be overcomers.

'The saints'

1. In addition to obedience to the commandments of God, what else identifies the saints of God? Revelation 14:12.

NOTE: 'John writes concerning scenes that have to do with our own time. He says, "The temple of God was opened in Heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of His testament." That ark contains the tables whereon is engraved the law of God. On the Isle of Patmos, John beheld in prophetic vision the people of God, and saw that at this time the attention of the loyal and true followers of Christ would be attracted to the open door of the most holy place in the heavenly sanctuary. He saw that by faith they would follow Jesus within the veil where He ministers above the ark of God containing His immutable law. The prophet described the faithful ones, saying, "Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." This is the class that excite the wrath of the dragon because they obey God, and are loyal to His commandments.' *Signs of the Times*, April 22, 1889.

2. As sinners, how may we avail ourselves of the promises God offers? Galatians 3:22.

NOTE: 'The salvation that Christ made such a sacrifice to gain for man is that which is alone of value; for it is that which saves from sin, the cause of all the misery and woe in our world. The mercy of God is that which constantly draws the sinner to Jesus. If he responds, coming in penitence with confession, in faith laying hold of the hope set before him in the gospel, God will accept him; for "the broken and contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise." Thus the law of God is not weakened by the gospel, but the power of sin is broken, and the sceptre of mercy is extended to the penitent sinner. The rainbow above the throne is the bow of promise, testifying to the whole world that God will never forget His people in their struggle against evil. Let Jesus be our theme. Let us by pen and voice present, not only the commandments of God, but the faith of Jesus. This will promote real heart-piety as nothing else can.' *Review & Herald*, December 13, 1892.

'By faith of Jesus Christ'

3. How may sinners receive the righteousness of God? Romans 3:22.

NOTE: 'Those who depend upon their own righteousness instead of relying upon the righteousness of Christ will lose the prize; they will be weighed in the balances of the sanctuary and found wanting. Let everyone who is striving for the precious boon of eternal life distrust his own strength, and, in much prayer, cast his helpless soul upon Christ. There is too little searching of the Word of God for definite direction in the way of life. The larger number of those who profess to believe on Christ

have only superficial ideas as to what constitutes Christian character. Do not deceive yourself with the idea that your own inherent righteousness will bring you into harmony with God. Do not fail to look upon yourself as a sinner in the sight of God. Do not fail to look upon Jesus lifted up upon the cross; and as you look, believe and live; for by faith in the atoning sacrifice you may be justified through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Believe that you are forgiven, that you are justified, not in transgression and disobedience, but in submission to the will of God. If through faith you lay hold of the righteousness of Christ, then be not careless of your thoughts, your words, your works. Study much, and pray that as Christ has shown you the way, He may by His grace keep you in the way. For we are "kept by the power of God through faith"; and even faith is not of ourselves, but it also is the gift of God.' *Lift Him Up*, page 237.

4. How may we be justified [forgiven] for the sins we have committed? Galatians 2:16.

NOTE: 'The perishing sinner may say: "I am a lost sinner; but Christ came to seek and to save that which was lost. He says, "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Mark 2:17). I am a sinner, and He died upon Calvary's cross to save me. I need not remain a moment longer unsaved. He died and rose again for my justification, and He will save me now. I accept the forgiveness He has promised.'" *Selected Messages, book 3*, page 356.

5. In what promise are we to have faith as we ask forgiveness? 1 John 1:9. Compare Proverbs 28:13.

NOTE: 'Forgiveness has a broader meaning than many suppose. When God gives the promise that He "will abundantly pardon," He adds, as if the meaning of that promise exceeded all that we could comprehend: "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:7-9. 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. And again he says, "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us." Psalm 103:12.' *Prayer*, page 298.

'If ye have faith'

6. How did Jesus emphasise the importance of faith in the lives of His followers? Matthew 17:17-21.

NOTE: 'Instead of strengthening their faith by prayer and meditation on the words of Christ, they had been dwelling on their discouragements and personal grievances. In this state of darkness they had undertaken the conflict with Satan. In order to succeed in such a conflict, they must come to the work in a different spirit. Their faith must be strengthened by fervent prayer and fasting, and humiliation of heart. They must be emptied of self, and be filled with the Spirit and power of God. Earnest, persevering supplication to God in faith, faith that leads to entire dependence upon God, and unreserved consecration to His work, can alone avail to bring men the Holy Spirit's aid in the battle against principalities and powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world, and wicked spirits in high places. "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.

7. How did Jesus link faith with answered prayer? Matthew 9:27-29.

NOTE: 'Your lifeless, heartless, frozen-up efforts are not acceptable to God. There is no excuse for you to do so little for Jesus, when He has done so much for you. Does not God behold your works? He says, "I know thy works;" God witnesses the heart service, and God witnesses the mere lip service. We are in perilous times. If you had kept pace with the opening providence of God, and made the most of the light and privileges granted to you, you would today be a power in the world. You would not need these words I now write you; you would be all light in the Lord; divine power and glory would be manifested in your gatherings. According to your faith so shall it be unto you. If your faith claims little, you will receive only little.' *New York Indicator*, February 28, 1900.

'I can of Mine own self do nothing'

8. What example did Jesus reveal of living by faith? Luke 9:57-58. Compare Matthew 6:31-33.

NOTE: 'You must decide between Christ and the world. If you choose Christ, you must deny self, take up the cross, and follow Him. The Saviour says to you: Withdraw your love from earthly treasure. Follow Me, and you shall have treasure in heaven, a "far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." Christ does not ask His children to follow where He has not led the way. He was rich, but for our sake He became poor. He left the heavenly courts, and came to this earth to share the poverty of the poor and the toil of the labourer. He said of Himself, "Foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head." God is testing and proving His children to see if He can trust them with eternal riches. Are you living for Him? Have you placed all you have at His disposal?' *Youth's Instructor*, March 6, 1902.

9. What was the secret of Christ's life of faith? Luke 6:12. Consider Matthew 21:22, Acts 1:14.

NOTE: 'As activity increases and men become successful in doing any work for God, there is danger of trusting to human plans and methods. There is a tendency to pray less, and to have less faith. Like the disciples, we are in danger of losing sight of our dependence on God, and seeking to make a saviour of our activity. We need to look constantly to Jesus, realising that it is His power which does the work. While we are to labour earnestly for the salvation of the lost, we must also take time for meditation, for prayer, and for the study of the word of God. Only the work accomplished with much prayer, and sanctified by the merit of Christ, will in the end prove to have been efficient for good. No other life was ever so crowded with labour and responsibility as was that of Jesus; yet how often He was found in prayer! How constant was His communion with God! Again and again in the history of His earthly life are found records such as these: "Rising up a great while before day, He went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed." "Great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by Him of their infirmities. And He withdrew Himself into the wilderness, and prayed." "And it came to pass in those days, that He went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God." Mark 1:35; Luke 5:15, 16; 6:12. In a life wholly devoted to the good of others, the Saviour found it necessary to withdraw from the thoroughfares of travel and from the throng that followed Him day after day. He must turn aside from a life of ceaseless activity and contact with human needs, to seek retirement and unbroken communion with His Father. As one with us, a sharer in our needs and weaknesses, He was wholly dependent upon God, and in the secret place of prayer He sought divine strength, that He might go forth braced for duty and trial. In a world of sin Jesus endured struggles and torture of soul. In communion with God He could unburden the sorrows that were crushing Him. Here He found comfort and joy.' *Desire of Ages*, page 362.

10. How do we know that Jesus was not born with superhuman powers? John 5:30, John 6:38, John 14:10-12.

NOTE: "'Verily, verily, I say unto you," Christ continued, "he that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also." The Saviour was deeply anxious for His disciples to understand for what purpose His divinity was united to humanity. He came to the world to display the glory of God, that man might be uplifted by its restoring power. God was manifested in Him that He might be manifested in them. Jesus revealed no qualities, and exercised no powers, that men may not have through faith in Him. His perfect humanity is that which all His followers may possess, if they will be in subjection to God as He was. "And greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto My Father." By this Christ did not mean that the disciples' work would be of a more exalted character than His, but that it would have greater extent. He did not refer merely to miracle working, but to all that would take place under the working of the Holy Spirit.' *Desire of Ages*, page 664.

'I know that Thou hearest Me always'

11. How did Jesus demonstrate His faith in prayer? John 11:41.

NOTE: '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. We need look for no outward evidence of the blessing. The gift is in the promise, and we may go about our work assured that what God has promised He is able to perform, and that the gift, which we already possess, will be realised when we need it most.' *Education*, page 258.

Notice how Jesus expressed His thanks for answered prayer *before* He saw the evidence that His prayer had been answered. This demonstrates the faith of Jesus.

12. On what was Jesus' faith at this time based? John 11:42. Compare Deuteronomy 8:2.

NOTE: 'We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us.' *Last Day Events*, page 72.

'For years I had been impressed with the way God's professed people of old forgot Him (see Deuteronomy 32:18, Psalm 106:12, 21). I concluded that since forgetfulness of God leads to a weak, backslidden faith, remembering will lead to increased faith and confidence. This is in harmony with the principle: "We . . . beholding . . . are changed into the same image" (2 Corinthians 3:18). If we look at failure, our hearts will be filled with fear, and our faith will weaken. . . As I reviewed past miracles from our God of love, I remembered the promise: "What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee" (Psalm 56:3). "I will remember the works of the Lord: surely I will remember Thy wonders of old. I will meditate also of all Thy work, and talk of Thy doings" (Psalm 77:11-12). "Remember His marvellous works that He hath done; His wonders, and the judgements of His mouth" (Psalm 105:5). "He hath made His wonderful works to be remembered." (Psalm 111:4).' Glenn A. Coon, *Getting Through to God*, pages 110-111.

'As Thou wilt'

13. At the crisis of His life, how did Jesus express His faith? Matthew 26:38-39, 42.

NOTE: 'When we come to God we must be submissive and contrite of heart, subordinating everything to His sacred will. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Christ prayed to His Father, saying, "O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me" (Matthew 26:39). The cup which He prayed should be removed from Him, that looked so bitter to His soul, was the cup of separation from God in consequence of the sin of the world. "Nevertheless not what I will, but what Thou wilt" (Matthew 26:39). The spirit of submission that Christ manifested in offering up His prayer before God is the spirit that is acceptable to God. Let the soul feel its need, its helplessness, its nothingness; let all its energies be called forth in an earnest desire for help, and help will come. Let faith pierce the darkness. Walk with God in the dark as well as in the light, repeating the words, "He is faithful that promised" (Hebrews 10:23). Through the trial of our faith we shall be trained to trust in God.' *In Heavenly Places*, page 89.

14. How are we shown the reality of Christ's struggle? Hebrews 5:7-8. Consider Hebrews 4:15.

NOTE: 'The Son of God was assaulted at every step by the powers of darkness. After His baptism He was driven of the Spirit into the wilderness, and suffered temptation for forty days. Letters have been coming in to me, affirming that Christ could not have had the same nature as man, for if He had, He would have fallen under similar temptations. If He did not have man's nature, He could not be our example. If He was not a partaker of our nature, He could not have been tempted as man has been. If it were not possible for Him to yield to temptation, He could not be our helper. It was a solemn reality that Christ came to fight the battles as man, on man's behalf. His temptation and victory tell us that humanity must copy the Pattern; man must become a partaker of the divine nature.' *Selected Messages, book 1*, page 408.

Lesson 7: November 7-13

'The Author and Finisher of our faith'

MEMORY VERSE: 'Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.' Hebrews 12:2.

STUDY HELP: *This Day with God*, page 234.

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 3:5-26.

LESSON AIM: To study the source and purpose of faith.

Introduction

'Faith is trusting in God, believing that He loves us, and knows what is for our best good. Thus, instead of our own way, it leads us to choose His way. In place of our ignorance, it accepts His wisdom; in place of our weakness, His strength; in place of our sinfulness, His righteousness. Our lives, ourselves, are already His; faith acknowledges His ownership, and accepts its blessing. Truth, uprightness, purity are pointed out as secrets of life's success. It is faith that puts us in possession of these. Every good impulse or aspiration is the gift of God; faith receives from God the life that alone can produce true growth and efficiency . . . Faith earns nothing for us; it is the gift of God, which we may receive and cherish by making Christ our personal Saviour.' *The Faith I Live By*, page 90.

'The Author . . . of our faith'

1. From where does faith come? Romans 12:3. Consider Galatians 5:22.

NOTE: 'As you receive the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of unselfish love and labour for others, you will grow and bring forth fruit. The graces of the Spirit will ripen in your character. Your faith will increase, your convictions deepen, your love be made perfect. More and more you will reflect the likeness of Christ in all that is pure, noble, and lovely.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 67.

'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.' A. T. Jones, *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, April 24, 1894.

2. What are we to do with the measure of faith that God has given to all of us? Galatians 5:6.

NOTE: '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 without that faith that works by love, and purifies the soul.' *Review & Herald*, October 18, 1898.

'The just shall live by faith'

3. Why has God given us faith? Hebrews 11:6.

NOTE: 'The Lord draws people close to His side, to walk with them, to work with them, to teach them how He overcame every temptation in humanity, and how, therefore, they may overcome through the provision the Lord has made. With every temptation there is a way of escape, by walking humbly with God. Without faith, ever increasing faith, it is impossible to please God.' *Christ Triumphant*, page 53.

'The work of conquering evil is to be done through faith. Those who go into the battlefield will find that they must put on the whole armour of God. The shield of faith will be their defence and will enable them to be more than conquerors. Nothing else will avail but this, faith in the Lord of hosts, and obedience to His orders. Vast armies furnished with every other facility will avail nothing in the last great conflict. Without faith, an angel host could not help. Living faith alone will make them invincible

and enable them to stand in the evil day, steadfast, unmovable, holding the beginning of their confidence firm unto the end.' *Counsels to Parents, Teachers & Students*, page 182.

4. How are we to cultivate our faith? Psalm 37:3-7.

NOTE: 'God means we shall trust in Him and enjoy His goodness. He lays out day by day before us and we must have eyes and perceptive powers to take these things in. However great and glorious the full and perfect deliverance from evil we shall realise in heaven, it is not all to be kept for the time of final deliverance. God brings it into our present life. We need daily to cultivate faith in a present Saviour. Trusting in a power out of and above ourselves, exercising faith in unseen support and power which is waiting the demand of the needy and dependent, we can trust amid clouds as well as sunshine, singing of present deliverance and present enjoyment of His love. The life we now live must be by faith in the Son of God.' *This Day With God*, page 62.

'Yet not I'

5. How does Paul show that living by faith is through co-operation with Christ? Galatians 2:20.

NOTE: 'Many who profess the name of Christ, and claim to be looking for His speedy coming, know not what it is to suffer for Christ's sake. Their hearts are not subdued by grace, and they are not dead to self, as is often shown in various ways. At the same time they are talking of having trials. But the principal cause of their trials is an unsubdued heart, which makes self so sensitive that it is often crossed. If such could realise what it is to be a humble follower of Christ, a true Christian, they would begin to work in good earnest and begin right. They would first die to self, then be instant in prayer, and check every passion of the heart. Give up your self-confidence and self-sufficiency, brethren, and follow the meek Pattern. Ever keep Jesus in your mind that He is your example and you must tread in His footsteps. Look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame.' *Early Writings*, page 113.

6. How often will we need to be crucified with Christ? Compare 1 Corinthians 15:31.

NOTE: 'Self is to be crucified, not now and then, but daily, and the physical, mental, and spiritual must be subordinate to the will of God. The glory of God, the perfection of Christian character, is to be the aim, the purpose of our life. Christ's followers must imitate Christ in disposition. The Pattern is given us to copy, and no excuse will be accepted of God as a reason for not meeting the divine standard, however contrary it may be to our own nature, our own selfish desires and inclinations. Like Christ is the watchword, not like your father or your mother, but like Jesus Christ, hid in Christ, clothed with Christ's righteousness, imbued with the Spirit of Christ.' *Daughters of God*, page 169.

'Kept by the power of God through faith'

7. What part does faith play in our salvation from our sins? 1 Peter 1:5.

NOTE: 'We are not kept by our intelligence, by our words, or by our riches. In these we find no safety. We are kept only by the power of God through faith unto salvation. We are living in a period of time during which we must by faith be allied with an infinite God or else we cannot overcome the strong powers of darkness seeking to destroy us. Temptations will come. But when Satan throws his hellish shadow before us, we should reach in faith through the shadow to the Light of life, to Him who has not only created us but who by His own blood has redeemed us. We are Christ's cherished heritage. In living faith we must co-operate with Him in working out our own salvation. Amid trials and temptations His hand upholds and sustains us.' *Christ Triumphant*, page 199.

8. What is the ultimate goal of faith? 1 Peter 1:9.

NOTE: The word 'end' here means purpose or goal. Compare James 5:11.

'Salvation belongs to us today just as much as it will when in the kingdom of God. No one but ourselves can deprive us of it. Says Peter, "Receiving [present time] the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls." Our present salvation is our only hope of a future salvation. "Kept by the power of God" is the expression used by Peter, and it denotes precisely the same condition, "being justified by faith", in the fifth chapter of Romans. The same power that will make men immortal in the life to come justifies them, makes them conformable to the law, by being in harmony with it every day.' E. J. Waggoner, *Signs of the Times*, June 15, 1891.

'The measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ'

9. How does Paul explain the aim of faith in the life of Christians? Ephesians 4:13.

NOTE: 'He came to "seek and to save that which was lost." And in saving the lost, He came to the lost where we are. He put Himself among the lost. "He was numbered with the transgressors." He was "made to be sin." And from the standpoint of the weakness and infirmity of the lost, He trusted in God, that He would deliver Him and save Him. Laden with the sins of the world; and tempted in all points like as we are, He hoped in God and trusted in God to save Him from all those sins and to keep Him from sinning. Psalms 69:1-21; 71:1-20; 22:1-22; 31:1-5. And this is the faith of Jesus: this is the point where the faith of Jesus reaches lost, sinful man to help him. For thus it has been demonstrated to the very fullness of perfection, that there is no man in the wide world for whom there is not hope in God, no one so lost that he cannot be saved by trusting God in this faith of Jesus. And this faith of Jesus, by which in the place of the lost, He hoped in God and trusted God for salvation from sin and power to keep from sinning, this victory of His it is that has brought to every man in the world divine faith by which every man can hope in God and trust in God and can find the power of God to deliver him from sin and to keep him

from sinning. That faith which He exercised and by which He obtained the victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil, that faith is His free gift to every lost man in the world. And thus “this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith;” and this is the faith of which He is the Author and Finisher.’ A. T. Jones, *Signs of the Times*, April 30, 1906.

10. What will keeping the faith of Jesus bring about in the life of the believer? Revelation 14:12.

NOTE: ‘This is the faith of Jesus that is given to men. This is the faith of Jesus that must be received by men in order for them to be saved. This is the faith of Jesus which, now in this time of the Third Angel’s Message, must be received and kept by those who will be saved from the worship of the “beast and his image,” and enabled to keep the commandments of God. This is the faith of Jesus referred to in the closing words of the third angel’s message: “Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”’ A. T. Jones, *Signs of the Times*, April 30, 1906.

‘Then face to face’

11. When will faith be replaced by sight? 1 Corinthians 13:12.

NOTE: ‘By faith we should look to the hereafter and grasp the pledge of God of a growth of intellect, the human faculties uniting with the divine, and every power of the soul being brought into direct contact with the Source of light. We may rejoice that all that has perplexed us in the providences of God will then be made plain; things hard to be understood will find an explanation; and where our finite minds discovered only confusion and broken purposes, we shall see the most perfect and beautiful harmony. Says the apostle Paul: “Now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.”’ *Testimonies, volume 5*, page 706.

12. How will those who lived by faith in Him greet their Saviour? Isaiah 25:9.

NOTE: ‘Since Jesus has made such an infinite sacrifice for us, how cruel it is that we should remain indifferent. Individually we have cost the life of the Son of God, and He desires us to walk out by living faith, believing in Him with all the heart. He would have you bring the truth of God into the inner sanctuary, to soften and subdue the soul; for when Christ is dwelling in your heart by faith, you will love those for whom He died. Suppose that the trump of God should sound tonight, who is ready to respond with gladness? How many of you would cry, “Oh, stay the chariot wheels; I am not ready”? Of how many would it be written, as it was written of Belshazzar, “Thou art weighed in the balances and art found wanting”? To be wanting in that day is to be wanting forever; for when Christ shall come in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory, we must be all ready to be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, and to be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. Your only safety is in coming to Christ, and ceasing from sin this very moment. The sweet voice of mercy is sounding in your ears today, but who can tell if it will sound tomorrow? How precious will be the appearing of Christ to those who have done good upon the earth. Jesus, our Redeemer, is coming back to the world, and all those who believe in Him, who love Him, and keep His commandments, will be able to say, “Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us.”’ *Signs of the Times*, August 29, 1892.

Lesson 8: November 14-20
‘The fruit of the Spirit is . . . faith’

MEMORY VERSE: ‘But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith.’ Galatians 5:22.

STUDY HELP: *Desire of Ages*, pages 675-676.

LESSON SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 4:13-18.

LESSON AIM: To study how faith is the fruitage of the Holy Spirit in the life and how that fruit will grow.

Introduction

‘When one is fully emptied of self, when every false god is cast out of the soul, the vacuum is filled by the inflowing of the Spirit of Christ. Such a one has the faith that purifies the soul from defilement. He is a branch of the True Vine, and bears rich clusters of fruit to the glory of God. What is the character of the fruit borne? The fruit of the Spirit is “love,” not hatred; “joy,” not discontent and mourning; “peace,” not irritation, anxiety, and manufactured trials. It is “long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.”’ *Sons & Daughters of God*, page 290.

‘Every branch that beareth fruit’

1. How are we enabled to bear fruit for Christ? John 15:4.

NOTE: “‘I am the Vine, ye are the branches,’” Christ said to His disciples. Though He was about to be removed from them, their spiritual union with Him was to be unchanged. The connection of the branch with the vine, He said, represents the relation you are to sustain to Me. The scion is grafted into the living vine, and fibre by fibre, vein by vein, it grows into the vine stock. The life of the vine becomes the life of the branch. So the soul dead in trespasses and sins receives life through connec-

tion with Christ. By faith in Him as a personal Saviour the union is formed. The sinner unites his weakness to Christ's strength, his emptiness to Christ's fullness, his frailty to Christ's enduring might. Then he has the mind of Christ. The humanity of Christ has touched our humanity, and our humanity has touched divinity. Thus through the agency of the Holy Spirit man becomes a partaker of the divine nature. He is accepted in the Beloved. This union with Christ, once formed, must be maintained. Christ said, "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in Me." This is no casual touch, no off-and-on connection. The branch becomes a part of the living vine. The communication of life, strength, and fruitfulness from the root to the branches is unobstructed and constant. Separated from the vine, the branch cannot live. No more, said Jesus, can you live apart from Me. The life you have received from Me can be preserved only by continual communion. Without Me you cannot overcome one sin, or resist one temptation.' *Desire of Ages*, page 676.

2. What is the fruit that we are to bear? Galatians 5:22-23.

NOTE: 'Fruit-bearing, then, is the condition of discipleship. What is the fruit that is to be borne? Purity of character, unselfish deeds, Christlike words. Those who do not bear this fruit, those whose lives do not reveal the tenderness of Christ, are not accepted as representatives of God. In order for us to bear the fruit that glorifies God, our hearts must be filled with the love of Christ. We must learn of Him His meekness and lowliness. Then we shall not strive for self-exaltation. Those who retain their own unchristlike peculiarities are not sanctified through oneness with the Saviour. Self is so prominent that Christ is not seen. When men see more clearly the completeness of Christ's sacrifice and condescension, they will better understand what is comprehended by oneness with Him. A Christian is one whose heart is controlled by the Holy Spirit. The love of God pervades his soul. He desires to live, not to get glory for himself, not to serve himself, but to serve and glorify the One who gave His life for him.' *Australasian Union Conference Record*, November 15, 1903.

'Except it abide in the vine'

3. How are we to abide in Christ? John 15:10.

NOTE: 'Now let us see what a beautiful tree is produced by obedience to the law of God. The name of the tree is Love; it is deep-rooted in God, the source of love. Its body is straight and its bark is smooth. Towards the top it is divided into two large branches. The name of the first is Love to God; the name of the second is Love to men. The branch called Love to God parts again into four branches called: Have no false gods, Make no image, Profane not God's name, and Keep holy the Creator's Rest-day. The branch called Love to men bears six principal branches which are named as follows: Honour parents, Kill not, Commit not adultery, Steal not, Witness not falsely and Covet not. Thus there are ten principal branches supported by the two great ones, and the ten branch out again into all the various duties of life. The leaves cover the whole as a robe of righteousness, and the fruit is the fruit of the Spirit, which is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23. These, and many more of the kind, are the "peaceable fruits of righteousness," or right doing. It is said in the Proverbs that, "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life." Proverbs 9:30. The tree which we have been examining is a tree of love. But love fulfils the law; that is, keeps all its precepts, and thus becomes a tree of life; for Christ said, "If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments." Matthew 19:17. And again, "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.' Roswell F. Cottrell: *The Bible Class, lesson 9*, pages 22-23.

4. What will be the effect of our bearing fruit? John 15:8.

NOTE: 'God desires to manifest through you the holiness, the benevolence, the compassion of His own character. Yet the Saviour does not bid the disciples labour to bear fruit. He tells them to abide in Him. "If ye abide in Me," He says, "and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." It is through the word that Christ abides in His followers. This is the same vital union that is represented by eating His flesh and drinking His blood. The words of Christ are spirit and life. Receiving them, you receive the life of the Vine. You live "by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4. The life of Christ in you produces the same fruits as in Him. Living in Christ, adhering to Christ, supported by Christ, drawing nourishment from Christ, you bear fruit after the similitude of Christ.' *Desire of Ages*, page 677.

'By the same Spirit'

5. How are we shown that faith is also a gift of the Holy Spirit? 1 Corinthians 12:9.

NOTE: 'Cultivate the gift of faith. Be brave, and overcome every practice which mars the soul-temple. We are wholly dependent on God, and our faith is strengthened by still believing, though we cannot see God's purpose in His dealing with us, or the consequence of this dealing. Faith points forward and upward to things to come, laying hold of the only power that can make us complete in Him. "Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me," God declares, "and he shall make peace with Me." *Temperance*, page 195.

6. Why are we given faith, and the other gifts of the Spirit? 1 Corinthians 12:7. Consider Matthew 25:14-28.

NOTE: 'When we first receive Jesus into our hearts, we are as babes in religion; but we are not to remain babes in experience. We are to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; we are to attain to the full measure of the stature of men and women in Him. We are to make advances, to gain new and rich experiences through faith, growing in trust and confidence and love, knowing God and Jesus Christ whom He hath sent. God expects, in view of the great facilities He has provided for our advancement, that we shall grow; but many do not become more efficient, simply because they do not use the power that God has already given them. By a proper use of their entrusted talents, they might acquire tact and wisdom, and

grow in efficiency. The unprofitable servant gave back his Lord's entrusted talent; but the Lord demanded the reason why he had not put to use that which had been given for that purpose.' *Youth's Instructor*, June 8, 1893.

'Even our faith'

7. What profit comes from cultivating our faith? 1 John 5:4.

NOTE: 'The Lord expects every person to exercise the faculty of faith. It is the real, vital essence of Christianity to grasp the unseen by faith, reaching out constantly to lay hold of the spiritual efficiency found in Christ. If people do not constantly improve by exercising the gifts of God, it is not possible for them to have that faith that works by love and purifies the soul. To cultivate a few of God's entrusted talents is not enough. The conscience is to be in touch with the life and character of God. This is spiritual walking with Jesus Christ, partaking of the divine nature, having overcome the corruptions that are in the world through lust.' *Christ Triumphant*, page 53.

8. How does faith affect our attitude to the future? Hebrews 11:1.

NOTE: 'Often the Christian life is beset with dangers, and duty seems hard to perform. The imagination pictures impending ruin before, and bondage and death behind. Yet the voice of God speaks clearly, Go forward. Let us obey the command, even though our sight cannot penetrate the darkness. The obstacles that hinder our progress will never disappear before a halting, doubting spirit. Those who defer obedience till every uncertainty disappears, and there remains no risk of failure or defeat, will never obey. Faith looks beyond the difficulties, and lays hold of the unseen, even Omnipotence, therefore it cannot be baffled. Faith is the clasping of the hand of Christ in every emergency.' *Christian Service*, page 110.

'A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit'

9. What does the fruit tell us about the tree? Matthew 7:17-18. Consider Hebrews 11:6.

NOTE: 'The true secret of all true followers of Jesus, and their continued, unsullied integrity, is that they love truth, they love righteousness. Their moral taste is not depraved, and although they are surrounded by evil the deep work of the truth wrought in their hearts keeps them true and steadfast to God even in very bad circumstances. This is the fruit that grows on the Christian tree, the faith that realises the presence and help of God at all times. There is a constant dread of incurring the displeasure of God, whom they reverence and whom they love. It was this principle that preserved Joseph amid temptation. You must cultivate real faith in God, in His gracious goodness, faith in His presence. You must pray as you have never prayed before.' *Christ Triumphant*, page 95.

10. What will happen to the tree that does not bear good fruit? Matthew 7:19. Compare John 15:2, 6.

NOTE: 'The work of faith means more than we think. It means genuine reliance upon the naked word of God. By our actions we are to show that we believe that God will do just as He has said. The wheels of nature and of providence are not appointed to roll backward nor to stand still. We must have an advancing, working faith, a faith that works by love and purifies the soul from every vestige of selfishness. It is not self, but God, that we must depend upon. We must not cherish unbelief. We must have that faith that takes God at His word. True faith consists in doing just what God has enjoined, not manufacturing things He has not enjoined. Justice, truth, mercy, are the fruit of faith. We need to walk in the light of God's law; then good works will be the fruit of our faith, the proceeds of a heart renewed every day. The tree must be made good before the fruit can be good. We must be wholly consecrated to God. Our will must be made right before the fruit can be good.' *Our Father Cares*, page 131.

'Full of the Holy Ghost and of faith'

11. What qualification was looked for in those wanted for responsibilities in the Church? Acts 6:5, Acts 11:22-24.

NOTE: 'Not a moment have we to lose. We all have an influence that tells for the truth or against it. I desire to carry with me unmistakable evidences that I am one of Christ's disciples. We want something besides Sabbath religion. We need the living principle, and to daily feel individual responsibility. This is shunned by many, and the fruit is carelessness, indifference, a lack of watchfulness and spirituality. Where is the spirituality of the church? Where are men and women full of faith and the Holy Spirit? My prayer is: Purify Thy church, O God.' *Testimonies*, volume 1, page 99.

12. How will faith help us in our daily conflict with temptation? Ephesians 6:16.

NOTE: 'We should be much in secret prayer. Christ is the vine, ye are the branches. And if we would grow and flourish, we must continually draw sap and nourishment from the Living Vine; for separated from the Vine we have no strength. I asked the angel why there was no more faith and power in Israel. He said, "Ye let go of the arm of the Lord too soon. Press your petitions to the throne, and hold on by strong faith. The promises are sure. Believe ye receive the things ye ask for, and ye shall have them." I was then pointed to Elijah. He was subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly. His faith endured the trial. Seven times he prayed before the Lord, and at last the cloud was seen. I saw that we had doubted the sure promises, and wounded the Saviour by our lack of faith. Said the angel, "Gird the armour about thee, and above all take the shield of faith; for that will guard the heart, the very life, from the fiery darts of the wicked." If the enemy can lead the desponding to take their eyes off from Jesus, and look to themselves, and dwell upon their own unworthiness, instead of dwelling upon the worthiness of Jesus, His love, His merits, and His great mercy, he will get away their shield of faith and gain his object; they will be exposed to his fiery temptations. The weak should therefore look to Jesus, and believe in Him; they then exercise faith.' *Early Writings*, page 73.

Lesson 9: November 21-27

‘By grace are ye saved through faith’

MEMORY VERSE: ‘For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.’ Ephesians 2:8.

STUDY HELP: *Lift Him Up*, page 369.

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Romans 7:24-8:10.

LESSON AIM: To study the importance of faith in salvation.

Introduction

‘What is the sinner to do? Believe in Christ. He is Christ’s property, bought with the blood of the Son of God. Through test and trial the Saviour redeemed human beings from the slavery of sin. What then must we do to be saved from sin? Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as the sin-pardoning Saviour. He who confesses his sin and humbles his heart will receive forgiveness. Jesus is the sin-pardoning Saviour as well as the only begotten Son of the infinite God. The pardoned sinner is reconciled to God through Jesus Christ our Deliverer from sin. Keeping in the path of holiness, he is a subject of the grace of God. There is brought to him full salvation, joy, and peace, and the true wisdom that comes from God.’ *Bible Training School*, March 1, 1906.

‘He shall save His people from their sins’

1. What did Christ come to save us from? Matthew 1:21.

NOTE: ‘Today let the question come home to the heart of every one who professes the name of Christ, “Dost thou believe in the Son of God?” Not, “Do you admit that Jesus is the Redeemer of the world?” Not to soothe your conscience and the consciences of others by saying, “I believe,” and think that is all there is to be done. But do you believe with all your heart that Jesus is your Saviour? Do you bring Him into your life, and weave Him into your character, until you are one with Christ? Many accept Jesus as an article of belief, but they have no saving faith in Him as their sacrifice and Saviour. They have no realisation that Christ has died to save them from the penalty of the law which they have transgressed, in order that they may be brought back to loyalty to God. Do you believe that Christ, as your substitute, pays the debt of your transgression? Not, however, that you may continue in sin, but that you may be saved from your sins; that you, through the merits of his righteousness, may be re-instated to the favour of God. Do you know that a holy and just God will accept your efforts to keep His law, through the merits of His own beloved Son who died for your rebellion and sin?’ *Review & Herald*, July 24, 1888.

2. Unless we are saved from our sins, what will be the inevitable result? Romans 5:12, Romans 6:23, first part, James 1:15. Contrast Genesis 3:4.

NOTE: ‘God has given in His word decisive evidence that He will punish the transgressors of His law. Those who flatter themselves that He is too merciful to execute justice upon the sinner, have only to look to the cross of Calvary. The death of the spotless Son of God testifies that “the wages of sin is death,” that every violation of God’s law must receive its just retribution. Christ the sinless became sin for man. He bore the guilt of transgression, and the hiding of His Father’s face, until His heart was broken and His life crushed out. All this sacrifice was made that sinners might be redeemed. In no other way could man be freed from the penalty of sin. And every soul that refuses to become a partaker of the atonement provided at such a cost must bear in his own person the guilt and punishment of transgression.’ *Great Controversy*, page 539.

‘Thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive’

3. What provision has been made for the sins we have already committed? Colossians 1:12-14.

NOTE: ‘Through faith we receive the grace of God; but faith is not our Saviour. It earns nothing. It is the hand by which we lay hold upon Christ, and appropriate His merits, the remedy for sin. And we cannot even repent without the aid of the Spirit of God. The Scripture says of Christ, “Him hath God exalted with His right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.” Acts 5:31. Repentance comes from Christ as truly as does pardon. How, then, are we to be saved? “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,” so the Son of man has been lifted up, and everyone who has been deceived and bitten by the serpent may look and live. “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” John 1:29. The light shining from the cross reveals the love of God. His love is drawing us to Himself. If we do not resist this drawing, we shall be led to the foot of the cross in repentance for the sins that have crucified the Saviour. Then the Spirit of God through faith produces a new life in the soul. The thoughts and desires are brought into obedience to the will of Christ. The heart, the mind, are created anew in the image of Him who works in us to subdue all things to Himself. Then the law of God is written in the mind and heart, and we can say with Christ, “I delight to do Thy will, O my God.” Psalm 40:8.’ *Desire of Ages*, page 175.

4. What are we told about God’s willingness to forgive us our sins? Psalm 86:5.

NOTE: ‘Christ longs to give those who do not understand Him correct views of His character, to set them right, to take away their burden of sin and resistance, and give them rest. The divine Comforter is full of pity, sympathy, and love, and seeks to

woo them to God. He seeks to direct their attention to Christ as He really is, full of mercy, compassion, and pardoning love, willing to forgive their transgression and sin, when they repent and seek Him for forgiveness.' *Signs of the Times*, November 26, 1894.

'Kept by the power of God through faith'

5. What provision has been made to prevent us from falling into sin? 1 Peter 1:5. Compare Jude vv. 24-25.

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 unfulfilling 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.

6. In what precious promise may we have faith when we are tempted to sin? 1 Corinthians 10:13. Consider Hebrew 2:18.

NOTE: 'Darkness will sometimes gather about the Christian, but let the hand of faith reach up and lay hold of the arm of Jesus; for He has promised that if we follow Him, we shall have the light of life. Christ is our leader; we cannot lead ourselves; but in order to obtain His help, we must believe. We should pray much; but we do not always have the spirit of prayer, and Satan takes advantage of our weakness on this point. We should never be discouraged, however, but in times of temptation and trial we should hang our helpless souls upon Jesus. We must learn to rest our case with our Redeemer; He has promised to be with us to the end of the world. We should learn to trust the word of God; for heaven and earth could easier pass away than that one of His promises could fail.' *Signs of the Times*, December 15, 1890.

'Do not continue to talk of your weakness; Jesus came to bring moral power to combine with human effort, that we might advance step by step in the heavenward way. Let your faith lay hold of the precious promises of God, and if clouds have encompassed you, the mists will roll back; for the angels of God are ever ready to help in every trial and emergency. We are not left to battle unaided against the prince of darkness. As we realise the attacks of the enemy, we shall feel the need of fleeing to the stronghold, we shall learn to lean upon the Mighty One. He will be to us as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land, as a covert from the tempest. Deep and fervent will be the gratitude of him who experiences the help of God in times of temptation and trial. The whole army of heaven is enlisted to fight our battles for us, to work out for us a glorious victory, and Jesus is the Captain of our salvation.' *Bible Echo*, December 1, 1892.

'Without Me ye can do nothing'

7. Can we preserve ourselves from sinning? John 15:5.

NOTE: 'Man is contending with foes who are stronger than he. It is impossible for us in our own strength to maintain the conflict; and whatever diverts the mind from God, whatever leads to self-exaltation or to self-dependence, is surely preparing the way for our overthrow. The tenor of the Bible is to inculcate distrust of human power and to encourage trust in divine power.' *Conflict & Courage*, page 365.

8. How then are we to gain the victory over temptation? 1 John 5:4.

NOTE: 'Who can know, in the moment of temptation, the terrible consequences which will result from one wrong, hasty step? Our only safety is to be shielded by the grace of God every moment, and not put out our own spiritual eyesight so that we will call evil, good, and good, evil. Without hesitation or argument we must close and guard the avenues of the soul against evil. Every Christian must stand on guard continually, watching every avenue of the soul where Satan might find access. He must pray for divine help and at the same time resolutely resist every inclination to sin. By courage, by faith, by persevering toil, he can conquer. But let him remember that to gain the victory Christ must abide in him and he in Christ.' *The Adventist Home*, page 403.

'What must I do?'

9. When Paul was asked: 'What must I do to be saved?' what reply did he give? Acts 16:30-31.

NOTE: 'You may say that you believe in Jesus, when you have an appreciation of the cost of salvation. You may make this claim, when you feel that Jesus died for you on the cruel cross of Calvary; when you have an intelligent, understanding faith that His death makes it possible for you to cease from sin, and to perfect a righteous character through the grace of God, bestowed upon you as the purchase of Christ's blood. The eyes of fallen men may be anointed with the eye-salve of spiritual comprehension, and they may see themselves as they really are, poor, and miserable, and blind, and naked. They may be brought to realise their need of repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.' *Review & Herald*, July 24, 1888.

10. What is it that we are to believe? Acts 27:25. Consider John 1:12.

NOTE: 'Trust in the Lord as a little child trusts its earthly parent. Cling to the Saviour. Let nothing separate your soul from God. "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). Look for mercies; expect mercies. Look continually for blessings. See them, acknowledge them, and do not complain, do not fret. Do not cast blame upon God, but say, "O Lord, I do believe, though I am a sinner and

because I am a sinner. I believe in Thee with all my heart. Thou art the Truth, and Thy Word I believe." What is religion? It is the conformity of the whole being to the will of God. "If any man will come after Me," Christ said, "let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me" (Luke 9:23). You need an intelligent belief in the Word of God. This Word is our rule of action. You are not to stand long, saying, "What must I do?" The first question with you is: "What must I believe?" Right believing means right doing. Christ gave His life to make it possible for you to be a partaker of the divine nature. Remember that the Lord will bless all who put their trust in Him.' *The Upward Look*, page 176.

'Who then shall be saved?'

11. When the disciples wondered whether salvation was possible, of what did Jesus assure them? Matthew 19:25-26.

NOTE: 'If we had firm faith in God, if we appropriated His promises to ourselves, mingling faith with our prayers and efforts, we would surely see the salvation of God. "All things are possible to him that believeth.'" *Counsels to Writers & Editors*, page 108.

"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 unworthiness, 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.

12. Can we describe ourselves as 'saved' if we do not lay hold on divine power to keep us from sinning? Romans 6:1-2.

Consider verses 12-14.

NOTE: 'From the pulpits of today the words are uttered: "Believe, only believe. Have faith in Christ; you have nothing to do with the old law, only trust in Christ." How different is this from the words of the apostle, who declares that faith without works is dead. He says, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." We must have that faith that works by love and purifies the soul. Many seek to substitute a superficial faith for uprightness of life, and think through this to obtain salvation. The Lord requires at this time just what He required of Adam in Eden, perfect obedience to the law of God. We must have righteousness without a flaw, without a blemish. God gave His son to die for the world, but He did not die to repeal the law which was holy and just and good. The sacrifice of Christ on Calvary is an unanswerable argument showing the immutability of the law. Its penalty was felt by the Son of God in behalf of guilty man, that through His merits the sinner might obtain the virtue of His spotless character by faith in His name. The sinner was provided with a second opportunity to keep the law of God in the strength of his Divine Redeemer. The cross of Calvary forever condemns the idea that Satan has placed before the Christian world, that the death of Christ abolished not only the typical system of sacrifices and ceremonies but the unchangeable law of God, the foundation of His throne, the transcript of His character. Through every device possible Satan has sought to make of none effect the sacrifice of the Son of God, to render His expiation useless, and His mission a failure. He has claimed that the death of Christ made obedience to the law unnecessary, and permitted the sinner to come into favour with a holy God without forsaking his sin. He has declared that the Old Testament standard was lowered in the gospel, and that men can come to Christ, not to be saved from their sins but in their sins. But when John beheld Jesus he told His mission. He said, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.'" *Signs of the Times*, May 19, 1890.

Lesson 10: November 28-December 4

'Let him ask in faith'

MEMORY VERSE: 'But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.' James 1:6.

STUDY HELP: *Ye Shall Receive Power*, page 269.

LESSON SCRIPTURE: James 1:5-8, 5:17-18.

LESSON AIM: To study what it means to cultivate faith.

Introduction

'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 without that faith that works by love, and purifies the soul.' *Review & Herald*, October 18, 1898.

'Believe that ye receive them'

1. What does it mean to exercise faith? Mark 11:24.

NOTE: 'The children of the Lord neglect prayer, especially secret prayer, altogether too much; many do not exercise that faith which it is their privilege and duty to exercise, often waiting for that feeling which faith alone can bring. Feeling is not faith; the two are distinct. Faith is ours to exercise, but joyful feeling and the blessing are God's to give. The grace of God comes to the soul through the channel of living faith, and that faith it is in our power to exercise. True faith lays hold of and claims the promised blessing before it is realised and felt. We must send up our petitions in faith within the second veil, and let our faith take hold of the promised blessing, and claim it as ours. We are then to believe that we receive the blessing, because our faith has hold of it, and according to the word it is ours. "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark 11:24. Here is faith, naked faith, to believe that we receive the blessing, even before we realise it. When the promised blessing is realised and enjoyed, faith is swallowed up. But many suppose they have much faith when sharing largely of the Holy Spirit, and that they cannot have faith unless they feel the power of the Spirit. Such confound faith with the blessing that comes through faith. The very time to exercise faith is when we feel destitute of the Spirit. When thick clouds of darkness seem to hover over the mind, then is the time to let living faith pierce the darkness and scatter the clouds.' *Christian Experience & Teachings*, page 126.

2. What will such exercise of faith achieve? 1 Peter 1:7.

NOTE: 'Throughout the history of God's people great mountains of difficulty, apparently insurmountable, have loomed up before those who were trying to carry out the purposes of Heaven. Such obstacles are permitted by the Lord as a test of faith. When we are hedged about on every side, this is the time above all others to trust in God and in the power of His Spirit. The exercise of a living faith means an increase of spiritual strength and the development of an unfaltering trust. It is thus that the soul becomes a conquering power. Before the demand of faith, the obstacles placed by Satan across the pathway of the Christian will disappear; for the powers of heaven will come to his aid. "Nothing shall be impossible unto you." *Conflict & Courage*, page 258.

'O ye of little faith'

3. What rebuke did Jesus give the disciples for their failure to exercise faith? Matthew 16:5-10.

NOTE: 'Praise God! As I see what the Lord has wrought, I am filled with astonishment, and with confidence in Christ as leader. We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.' *Last Day Events*, page 72.

'If those who are still on the stage of action, who have had an experience in the dealings of God in the rise and progress of the work, would stand as did Joshua to strengthen the faith of the people of God by reviewing past blessings and mercies, they themselves would be blessed and they would prove a blessing to those who have not had this experience. If they would recount the sacrifices made by those who led out in the work, and would keep before the people the simplicity of the early workers and the power of God that was manifested to keep the work free from error, delusion, and extravagance, they would have a moulding influence upon the workers at this time. When we lose sight of what the Lord has done in the past for His people, we lose sight of His present working in their behalf.' *Christ Triumphant*, page 140.

4. What parable did Jesus tell to explain the importance of exercising faith? Matthew 22:11-13.

NOTE: 'The man who came to the feast without a wedding garment represents the condition of many in our world today. They profess to be Christians, and lay claim to the blessings and privileges of the gospel; yet they feel no need of a transformation of character. They have never felt true repentance for sin. They do not realise their need of Christ or exercise faith in Him. They have not overcome their hereditary or cultivated tendencies to wrongdoing. Yet they think that they are good enough in themselves, and they rest upon their own merits instead of trusting in Christ. Hearers of the word, they come to the banquet, but they have not put on the robe of Christ's righteousness.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 315.

'Like a wave of the sea'

5. How does the Bible picture those who have not cultivated their faith? James 1:6.

NOTE: 'There are many among us who are not cultivating faith. They have a vacillating experience. They are "like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed." Sometimes they seem strong in faith, then a blast of unbelief sweeps over them, and they are filled with gloom and doubt. They make no decided efforts to recover themselves out of the snare of the Devil, but are taken captive by him at his will. There are others who, when assailed by temptations of unbelief, flee to the word of God and to earnest prayer, and they are not left to the power of the enemy. The day is coming that will reveal whether we are building on the solid rock or the sliding sand.' *Review & Herald*, January 10, 1888.

6. What parable shows what it means to cultivate faith? Luke 19:12-26.

NOTE: '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. There is no danger of ever lessening this capital *when it is used*: as certainly as it is used at all, it will increase, it will grow exceedingly. And as certainly as it grows, the righteousness, the peace, the joy of the Lord are assured to the full salvation of the soul.' A. T. Jones: *Lessons on Faith*, page 21.

'A man subject to like passions as we are'

7. What can we learn from Elijah's exercise of faith? James 5:17.

NOTE: 'It was only by the exercise of strong faith in the unfailing power of God's word that Elijah delivered his message. Had he not possessed implicit confidence in the One whom he served, he would never have appeared before Ahab. On his way to Samaria, Elijah had passed by ever-flowing streams, hills covered with verdure, and stately forests that seemed beyond the reach of drought. Everything on which the eye rested was clothed with beauty. The prophet might have wondered how the streams that had never ceased their flow could become dry, or how those hills and valleys could be burned with drought. But he gave no place to unbelief. He fully believed that God would humble apostate Israel, and that through judgments they would be brought to repentance. The fiat of Heaven had gone forth; God's word could not fail; and at the peril of his life Elijah fearlessly fulfilled his commission.' *Conflict & Courage*, page 205.

8. What further example of Elijah exercising faith are we shown? 1 Kings 18:41-44, James 5:18.

NOTE: 'Many pray the prayer of the disciples: "Lord, increase our faith." This is well. Yet along with this, it must never be forgotten that faith comes only by the word of God. Therefore, as certainly as your faith shall be increased, it can be only by there being in you an increase of the word of God. And the only way that there can be in you an increase of the word of God is by your hearkening to that word, praying to the Lord for the thing which that word says, depending wholly upon that word for that thing, and thanking Him that you *have received* it. Then and thus that word is received by you and lives in you. Thus while we can pray, "Lord, increase our faith," at the same time we must remember that we are to build up ourselves on our most holy faith. Jude v.20. That is how to exercise faith. Faith can be exercised only on the word of God, and by the word of God; for where there is no word of God, there cannot be any faith.' A. T. Jones: *Lessons on Faith*, page 37.

'We walk by faith, not by sight'

9. What must we remember about our daily life in this world? 2 Corinthians 5:7.

NOTE: 'We need daily to cultivate faith in a present Saviour. Trusting in a power out of and above ourselves and this exercise of faith in unseen support and power which is waiting the demand of the needy and dependent we then can trust amid clouds as well as sunshine, singing of present deliverance and present enjoyment of His love. The life we now live must be by faith in the Son of God. The Christian life is a strangely mingled scene of sorrows and joys, disappointments and hopes, tears and confidence. There will be much dissatisfaction with self, as he views his own heart so deeply stirred, surged with passion that seems to bear all before it and then follows remorse and sorrow and repentance followed by peace and deep hidden joys, because he knows as his faith grasps the promises that are revealed in God's Word that he has the forgiving love of a long-suffering Saviour. And that Saviour he seeks to bring into his life, weave into his character.' *Battle Creek Letters*, page 8.

10. What will prevent us from cultivating faith? Hebrews 3:12.

NOTE: 'If there are doubts and unbelief entertained, Christ cannot bring His light and the glory of His presence into your souls. Cannot you now begin to cultivate faith and talk of the mercies of God, and praise God with all your hearts? It is by prayer that you will receive strength to resist temptation. Christ will supply your wants, and relieve your doubts, and fill your soul with gladness. If we are to do as the apostle recommends us to do, give to every man a reason of the hope that is within us with meekness and fear, then we want the truth stamped upon our hearts. Here is where the great lack has been with many, very many. They have a nominal faith. There has been too much time devoted to small things unworthy of the least thought, and the mind is dwarfed and bound about with the things it dwelt upon.' *Sermons & Talks, volume 2*, page 23.

'Faith that worketh'

11. How are we shown that faith is active, not merely a theoretical belief? Galatians 5:6.

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.'" The faith here brought to view is not a casual faith, it is a living, earnest, active faith, that takes God at His word, and relies upon His pledged promises. This faith brings peace, and constitutes the children of God the light of the world. They live in the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness. It is enough to make the soul joyful to have such assurances, a Comforter always with us, and we revealing to the world in hopefulness, in joyfulness, that we have been called out of darkness into His marvellous light.' *Signs of the Times*, December 7, 1891.

12. How are we shown that faith is active, the faith that works? Read Hebrews 11:4-38.

NOTE: 'Faith and activity will impart assurance and satisfaction that will increase day by day. Are you tempted to give way to feelings of anxious foreboding or utter despondency? In the darkest days, when appearances seem most forbidding, fear not. Have faith in God. He knows your need. He has all power. His infinite love and compassion never weary. Fear not that He will fail of fulfilling His promise. He is eternal truth. Never will He change the covenant He has made with those who love Him. And He will bestow upon His faithful servants the measure of efficiency that their need demands.' *Prophets and Kings*, pages 164-165.

Lesson 11: December 5-11
'Preach the Word'

MEMORY VERSE: 'So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.' Romans 10:17.

STUDY HELP: *The Faith I Live By*, page 123.

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Romans 10:13-17.

LESSON AIM: To study the importance of preaching the Word of God.

Introduction

'In these last days ministers need to guard the churches against the dangers arising from the acceptance of fanciful and erroneous theories by preaching the plain truths of the Word regarding individual duty and responsibility. The people of God are to be educated to hate and forsake all unrighteousness if they would be prepared for a place in the kingdom of heaven. Teach that the fruits of repentance are to be seen in the life in deeds of righteousness. By lives of faith and devotion, and reliance upon the Word of God as the foundation of all faith, by acts of unselfishness and sincerity, teach them to make known the saving grace of Christ.' *Review & Herald*, February 18, 1909.

'How shall they hear without a preacher?'

1. How did Paul emphasise the importance of preaching? Romans 10:14-15.

NOTE: 'In every place the gospel invitation is to be given; for "how . . . shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" The Lord is speaking to His people at this time, saying, Gain an entrance into the cities, and proclaim the truth in simplicity and in faith. The Holy Spirit will work through your efforts to impress hearts. Introduce no strange doctrine into your message, but speak the simple words of the gospel of Christ, which young and old can understand. The unlearned as well as the educated are to comprehend the truths of the third angel's message, and they must be taught in simplicity. If you would approach the people acceptably, humble your hearts before God, and learn His ways.' *Review & Herald*, January 18, 1912.

2. What is to be preached? 2 Timothy 4:2.

NOTE: 'In these direct and forcible words is made plain the duty of the minister of Christ. He is to "preach the word," not the opinions and traditions of men, not pleasing fables or sensational stories, to move the fancy and excite the emotions. He is not to exalt himself, but as in the presence of God he is to stand before a dying world and preach the word. There is to be no levity, no trifling, no fanciful interpretation; the minister must speak in sincerity and deep earnestness, as a voice from God expounding the Sacred Scriptures. He is to bring to his hearers those things which most concern their present and eternal good.' *Gospel Workers*, page 147.

'They will not endure sound doctrine'

3. What problem faces the preacher of the Word in the last days? 2 Timothy 4:3.

NOTE: 'Satan is constantly at work to divert the mind into wrong channels, so that the truth may lose its force upon the heart. And unless ministers and people practise the truth and are sanctified by it, they will allow speculation regarding questions of no vital importance to occupy the mind. This will lead to cavilling and strife; for countless points of difference will arise. Men of ability have devoted a lifetime of study and prayer to the searching of the Scriptures, and yet there are many portions of the Bible that have not been fully explored. Some passages of Scripture will never be perfectly comprehended until in the future life Christ shall explain them. There are mysteries to be unravelled, statements that human minds cannot harmonise. And the enemy will seek to arouse argument upon these points, which might better remain undiscussed. A devoted, spiritual worker will avoid bringing up minor theoretical differences, and will devote his energies to the proclamation of the great testing truths to be given to the world. He will point the people to the work of redemption, the commandments of God, the near-coming of Christ; and it will be found that in these subjects there is food enough for thought. In time past there have been presented to me for my opinion many non-essential, fanciful theories. Some have advocated the theory that believers should pray with their eyes open. Others teach that, because those who ministered anciently in sacred office were required, upon entering the sanctuary, to remove their sandals and wash their feet, believers now should remove their shoes when entering the house of worship. Still others refer to the sixth commandment, and declare that even the insects that torment human beings should not be killed. And some have put forth the theory that the redeemed will not have grey hair, as if this were a matter of any importance. I am instructed to say that these theories are the production of minds unlearned in the first principles of the gospel. By such theories the enemy strives to eclipse the great truths for this time. Those who in their preaching pass by the great truths of God's Word to speak of minor matters, are not preaching the gospel, but are dealing in idle sophistry. Let not our ministers spend time in the discussion of such matters. Let those who have any question as to what they should teach, any question as to the subjects upon which they should dwell, go to the discourses of the great Teacher, and follow His lines of thought. The subjects that Jesus regarded as essential are the subjects that we are to urge home today. We are to encourage our hearers to dwell upon those subjects which are of eternal moment.' *Gospel Workers*, pages 312-313.

4. What will end-time congregations prefer instead of sound doctrine? 2 Timothy 4:4.

NOTE: 'The people need pure provender, thoroughly winnowed from the chaff. "Preach the word," was the charge that Paul gave to Timothy, and this is our commission also. The minister who mixes story-telling with his discourses is using strange fire. God is offended, and the cause of truth is dishonoured, when His representatives descend to the use of cheap, trifling words.' *Testimonies to Ministers*, page 318.

‘The words of faith and of good doctrine’

5. How did Paul describe what the words of a good preacher should be? 1 Timothy 4:6.

NOTE: ‘We are engaged in an exalted, sacred work. Those who profess to be called to teach the truth to those who sit in darkness should not be bodies of unbelief and darkness themselves. They should live near to God, where they can be all light in the Lord. The reason why they are not so is that they are not obeying the word of God themselves; therefore doubts and discouragements are expressed, when only words of faith and holy cheer should be heard.’ *Testimonies, volume 2*, page 516.

‘Speak words of faith and courage that will be as a healing balm to the bruised and wounded one. Many have fainted and become discouraged in the great struggle of life, when one word of kindly cheer would have strengthened them to overcome. Never should we pass by one suffering soul without seeking to impart to him of the comfort wherewith we are comforted of God.’ *Pacific Union Recorder*, June 9, 1904.

6. What will be the effect on those who hear and accept sound doctrine? Titus 2:1-2.

NOTE: ‘A new order of things has come into the ministry. There is a desire to pattern after other churches, and simplicity and humility are almost unknown. The young ministers seek to be original, and to introduce new ideas and new plans for labour. Some open revival meetings, and by this means call large numbers into the church. But when the excitement is over, where are the converted ones? Repentance and confession of sin are not seen. The sinner is entreated to believe in Christ and accept Him, without regard to one’s past life of sin and rebellion. The heart is not broken. There is no contrition of soul. The supposed converted ones have not fallen upon the Rock, Christ Jesus. The Lord desires His servants today to preach the old gospel doctrine, sorrow for sin, repentance, and confession. Sinners must be laboured for, perseveringly, earnestly, wisely, until they shall see that they are transgressors of God’s law, and shall exercise repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ.’ *Christ Triumphant*, page 362.

‘Wise unto salvation through faith’

7. What is the reason why we have been given the Scriptures? 2 Timothy 3:15.

NOTE: ‘After His resurrection Jesus appeared to His disciples on the way to Emmaus, and, “beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.” Luke 24:27. The hearts of the disciples were stirred. Faith was kindled. They were “begotten again into a lively hope” even before Jesus revealed Himself to them. It was His purpose to enlighten their understanding and to fasten their faith upon the “sure word of prophecy.” He wished the truth to take firm root in their minds, not merely because it was supported by His personal testimony, but because of the unquestionable evidence presented by the symbols and shadows of the typical law, and by the prophecies of the Old Testament. It was needful for the followers of Christ to have an intelligent faith, not only in their own behalf, but that they might carry the knowledge of Christ to the world. And as the very first step in imparting this knowledge, Jesus directed the disciples to “Moses and all the prophets.” Such was the testimony given by the risen Saviour to the value and importance of the Old Testament Scriptures.’ *Great Controversy*, page 349.

8. What should our search of the Scriptures lead us to? John 5:39. Read verse 40.

NOTE: ‘As they [the disciples] heard their beloved Master explaining the Scriptures in the light of all that had happened, their faith in Him was fully established. They reached the place where they could say, “I know whom I have believed.” 2 Timothy 1:12. They began to realise the nature and extent of their work, to see that they were to proclaim to the world the truths entrusted to them. The events of Christ’s life, His death and resurrection, the prophecies pointing to these events, the mysteries of the plan of salvation, the power of Jesus for the remission of sins, to all these things they had been witnesses, and they were to make them known to the world. They were to proclaim the gospel of peace and salvation through repentance and the power of the Saviour.’ *Acts of the Apostles*, page 27.

‘Not being mixed with faith’

9. What will lead to the Word of God not benefiting those who hear it? Hebrews 4:2.

NOTE: ‘We should meditate upon the Scriptures, thinking soberly and candidly upon the things that pertain to our eternal salvation. The infinite mercy and love of Jesus, the sacrifice made in our behalf, call for most serious and solemn reflection. We should dwell upon the character of our dear Redeemer and Intercessor. We should seek to comprehend the meaning of the plan of salvation. We should meditate upon the mission of Him who came to save His people from their sins. By constantly contemplating heavenly themes, our faith and love will grow stronger. Our prayers will be more and more acceptable to God, because they will be more and more mixed with faith and love. They will be more intelligent and fervent. There will be more constant confidence in Jesus, and you will have a daily, living experience in the willingness and power of Christ to save unto the uttermost all that come unto God by Him.’ *God’s Amazing Grace*, page 34.

10. Why is faith so important? Hebrews 11:6.

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.

‘The end of your faith’

11. What is the end result of true faith? 1 Peter 1:9.

NOTE: ‘Faith is not the ground of our salvation, but it is the great blessing, the eye that sees, the ear that hears, the feet that run, the hand that grasps. It is the means, not the end. If Christ gave His life to save sinners, why shall I not take that blessing? My faith grasps it, and thus my faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen. Thus resting and believing, I have peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ. Faith, saving faith, 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. Remember that the exercise of faith is the one means of preserving it. Should you sit always in one position, without moving, your muscles would become strengthless and your limbs would lose the power of motion. The same is true in regard to your religious experience. You must have faith in the promises of God. Faith will perfect itself in exercise and activity. It is of the greatest importance to us that we surround the soul with the atmosphere of faith.’ *In Heavenly Places*, page 104.

12. What statement of faith was Paul able to make as he faced the prospect of martyrdom? 2 Timothy 1:12. Consider 2 Timothy 4:6.

NOTE: ‘I am so glad that we can come to God in faith and humility, and plead with Him until our souls are brought into such close relationship with Jesus that we can lay our burdens at His feet, saying, “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.”’ *God’s Amazing Grace*, page 281.

Lesson 12: December 12-18 ‘So great a cloud of witnesses’

MEMORY VERSE: ‘Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.’ Hebrews 12:1-2, first part.

STUDY HELP: *In Heavenly Places*, page 268.

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 11:4-38.

LESSON AIM: To study the example of people of faith.

Introduction

‘Here we are cited to the example of the multitude of faithful witnesses who would not sacrifice their faith and principle for the sake of enjoying ease and self-gratification, but who gave up all, not withholding their lives, for the truth of God. Their example should quicken our zeal and increase our faith. But Jesus is our perfect pattern; and when we look to Him who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, we should be aroused to greater earnestness. He has led the way to the heavenly reward in glory.’ *Review & Herald*, October 18, 1881.

‘By faith Abraham’

1. How did Abraham demonstrate his faith in God? Hebrews 11:8. Compare Genesis 12:1-4.

NOTE: ‘Abraham’s unquestioning obedience is one of the most striking evidences of faith to be found in all the Bible. It was no light test that was thus brought upon Abraham, no small sacrifice that was required of him. There were strong ties to bind him to his country, his kindred, and his home. But he did not hesitate to obey the call. He had no question to ask concerning the land of promise, whether the soil was fertile and the climate healthful; whether the country afforded agreeable surroundings and would afford opportunities for amassing wealth. God had spoken, and His servant must obey; the happiest place on earth for him was the place where God would have him to be. Many are still tested as was Abraham. They may be required to abandon a career that promises wealth and honour, to leave congenial and profitable associations, and separate from kindred, to enter upon what appears to be only a path of self-denial, hardship, and sacrifice. God has a work for them to do. Who is ready at the call of Providence to renounce cherished plans and familiar associations? Who will accept new duties and enter untried fields? He who will do this has the faith of Abraham, and will share with him that “far more exceeding and eternal weight of

glory,” with which “the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared” (2 Corinthians 4:17; Romans 8:18).’ *Conflict & Courage*, page 44.

2. What was the supreme test of Abraham’s faith? Hebrews 11:17-19. Compare Genesis 22:1-18.

NOTE: ‘God had spoken, and His word must be obeyed. Abraham was stricken in years, but this did not excuse him from duty. He grasped the staff of faith and in dumb agony took by the hand his child, beautiful in the rosy health of youth, and went out to obey the word of God. Abraham did not stop to question how God’s promises could be fulfilled if Isaac were slain. He did not stay to reason with his aching heart, but carried out the divine command to the very letter, till, just as the knife was about to be plunged into the quivering flesh of the child, the word came: “Lay not thine hand upon the lad;” “for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from Me.” This act of faith in Abraham is recorded for our benefit. It teaches the great lesson of confidence in the requirements of God, however close and cutting they may be; and it teaches children perfect submission to their parents and to God. By Abraham’s obedience we are taught that nothing is too precious for us to give to God.’ *Conflict & Courage*, page 56.

‘By faith Noah’

3. What was Noah commanded to do as an act of faith? Hebrews 11:7. Compare Genesis 6:14, 22.

NOTE: ‘Abel, Enoch, and Noah were representative men in that age to the inhabitants of the old world. Everyone had had their test upon the law of God. Would they obey God, would they do just as He told them to do, or would they disobey and realise the results? If Noah had been like many in our day who say, “Believe, believe; all you have to do is believe,” then he would not have condemned the world. But Noah had that genuine faith, that faith that works. He testified by his faith and works to the inhabitants of the Noachic world that he believed God. Had he stood back and said, “I cannot build this ark; why, I will be considered crazy if I build this ark on dry land,” then he would have had no influence for good upon them. But he believed just what God had said, and carried it out by his works. They considered him insane; they laughed at him and mocked him, but still he kept at work building the ark according to God’s directions. When the last message of Noah was given to that degenerate age, as he stood before the people giving his warning, they turned from him to ridicule him. They had listened to the prayers of Noah that had ascended day after day on their behalf, and with his heart drawn out for them he delivered his very last message to them.’ *Christ Triumphant*, page 55.

4. What testimonies are recorded concerning Noah? 2 Peter 2:5, Genesis 6:8-9, Genesis 7:5.

NOTE: ‘While Noah was giving his warning message to the world, his works testified of his sincerity. It was thus that his faith was perfected and made evident. He gave the world an example of believing just what God says. All that he possessed, he invested in the ark. Every blow struck upon the ark was a witness to the people.’ *Conflict & Courage*, page 38.

‘Elias was a man subject to like passions’

5. What declaration of faith began Elijah’s ministry? 1 Kings 17:1.

NOTE: ‘Among the mountains of Gilead, east of the Jordan, there dwelt in the days of Ahab a man of faith and prayer whose fearless ministry was destined to check the rapid spread of apostasy in Israel. Far removed from any city of renown, and occupying no high station in life, Elijah the Tishbite nevertheless entered upon his mission confident in God’s purpose to prepare the way before him and to give him abundant success. The word of faith and power was upon his lips, and his whole life was devoted to the work of reform. His was the voice of one crying in the wilderness to rebuke sin and press back the tide of evil. And while he came to the people as a reprover of sin, his message offered the balm of Gilead to the sin-sick souls of all who desired to be healed. To Elijah was entrusted the mission of delivering to Ahab Heaven’s message of judgment. He did not seek to be the Lord’s messenger; the word of the Lord came to him. And jealous for the honour of God’s cause, he did not hesitate to obey the divine summons, though to obey seemed to invite swift destruction at the hand of the wicked king. It was only by the exercise of strong faith in the unfailing power of God’s word that Elijah delivered his message. Had he not possessed implicit confidence in the One whom he served, he would never have appeared before Ahab. On his way to Samaria, Elijah had passed by ever-flowing streams, hills covered with verdure, and stately forests that seemed beyond the reach of drought. Everything on which the eye rested was clothed with beauty. The prophet might have wondered how the streams that had never ceased their flow could become dry, or how those hills and valleys could be burned with drought. But he gave no place to unbelief. He fully believed that God would humble apostate Israel, and that through judgments they would be brought to repentance. The fiat of Heaven had gone forth; God’s word could not fail; and at the peril of his life Elijah fearlessly fulfilled his commission.’ *Conflict & Courage*, page 205.

6. What example of Elijah’s faith is recorded for us? James 5:17-18. Compare 1 Kings 18:41-44.

NOTE: ‘It was not because of any outward evidence that the showers were about to fall, that Elijah could so confidently bid Ahab prepare for rain. The prophet saw no clouds in the heavens; he heard no thunder. He simply spoke the word that the Spirit of the Lord had moved him to speak in response to his own strong faith. Having done all that was in his power to do, he knew that Heaven would freely bestow the blessings foretold. The same God who had sent the drought had promised an abundance of rain as the reward of right-doing; and now Elijah waited for the promised outpouring. In an attitude of humility, “his face between his knees,” he interceded with God in behalf of penitent Israel. Six times the servant returned with the word that there was no sign of rain in the brassy heavens. Undaunted, Elijah sent him forth once more; and this time the servant returned with the word, “Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man’s hand.” This was enough. Elijah did not wait for the heavens to gather blackness. In that small cloud he beheld by faith an abundance of rain; and he acted in harmony with his

faith. As he prayed, his faith reached out and grasped the promises of Heaven, and he persevered in prayer until his petitions were answered. He did not wait for the full evidence that God had heard him, but was willing to venture all on the slightest token of divine favour. And yet what he was enabled to do under God, all may do in their sphere of activity in God's service. Faith such as this is needed in the world today, faith that will lay hold on the promises of God's word and refuse to let go until Heaven hears. With the persevering faith of Jacob, with the unyielding persistence of Elijah, we may present our petitions to the Father, claiming all that He has promised. The honour of His throne is staked for the fulfilments of His word.' *Conflict & Courage*, page 211.

'I will fear no evil'

7. What expression of faith is recorded for us from David? Psalm 23.

NOTE: 'David was a representative human being. His history is of interest to every soul who is striving for eternal victories. In his life two powers struggled for the mastery. Unbelief marshalled its forces, and tried to eclipse the light shining upon him from the throne of God. Day by day the battle went on in his heart, Satan disputing every step of advance made by the forces of righteousness. David understood what it meant to fight against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world. At times it seemed that the enemy must gain the victory. But in the end, faith conquered, and David rejoiced in the saving power of Jehovah. The struggle that David went through, every other follower of Christ must go through. Satan has come down with great power, knowing that his time is short. The controversy is being waged in full view of the heavenly universe, and angels stand ready to lift up for God's hard-pressed soldiers a standard against the enemy, and to put into their lips songs of victory and rejoicing.' *Christ Triumphant*, page 151.

8. What experience revealed David's faith even in his youth? 1 Samuel 17:45-46.

NOTE: 'David stepped forward, and addressed his antagonist in language that was both modest and eloquent. And he said to the Philistine, "Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield; but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands." What an inspiration of courage and lofty faith was displayed by the simple shepherd before the armies of the Israelites and the Philistines. There was a ring of fearlessness in his tone, a look of triumph and rejoicing upon his fair countenance.' *Signs of the Times*, August 10, 1888.

'Thou art greatly beloved'

9. What are we told about the faith of Daniel? Daniel 6:10. Read verses 20-22. Compare Daniel 2:16-19.

NOTE: 'The case of Daniel reveals to us the fact that the Lord is always ready to hear the prayers of the contrite soul, and when we seek the Lord with all our hearts, He will answer our petitions. Here is revealed where Daniel obtained his skill and understanding; and if we will only ask of God wisdom, we may be blessed with increased ability, and with power from heaven. If we will come to God just as we are, and pray to Him in faith as did Daniel, we shall see of the salvation of God. We need to pray as we never prayed before.' *Christ Triumphant*, page 334.

10. What testimony is recorded concerning Daniel? Daniel 9:23, Daniel 10:11, 19.

NOTE: 'Except the one perfect Pattern, there is not described in the sacred pages a single character more worthy of emulation than that of the prophet Daniel. Exposed in youth to all the allurements of a royal court, he became a man of unbending integrity and fervent devotion to God. He was subjected to the fierce temptations of Satan, yet his character was not vacillating, nor his course changeable. He was firm where many would be yielding; he was true where they would be false; he was strong where they would be weak. Daniel was a lofty cedar of Lebanon. The angel of the Lord addressed this faithful prophet, "O man greatly beloved, thy prayer is heard." Would that the faith, integrity, and devotion of the prophet Daniel might live in the hearts of God's people of today. Never were these noble qualities more needed in the world than now. Never was there greater need of men who will stand firmly and fearlessly for God and the right.' *Review & Herald*, November 7, 1882.

'Remember me, O my God, for good'

11. What prayer of faith of Nehemiah is recorded for us? Nehemiah 1:11. Read verses 5-11.

NOTE: 'The soul of the Hebrew patriot was overwhelmed by these evil tidings. So great was his sorrow that he could not eat or drink; he "wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted." But when the first outburst of his grief was over, he turned in his affliction to the sure Helper. The record says that he "prayed before the God of heaven." He unburdened his heart to God. He knew that the affliction that had come upon Israel was the result of her transgression, and with deep humiliation he came before God to ask for pardon and a renewal of the divine favour. Faithfully he makes confession of his sins and the sins of his people. Taking hold by faith of the divine promise, Nehemiah lays down at the footstool of heavenly mercy his petition that God would maintain the cause of his penitent people, restore their strength, and build up their waste places.' *Christ Triumphant*, page 182.

12. How was Nehemiah's faith demonstrated by his works? Nehemiah 6:3. Compare Nehemiah 4:14.

NOTE: 'The example of this holy man should be a lesson to all the people of God, that they are not only to pray in faith but to work with wise diligence and fidelity.' *Christ Triumphant*, page 184.

'Satan takes advantage of every unconsecrated element for the accomplishment of his purposes. Among those who profess to be the supporters of God's cause there are those who unite with His enemies and thus lay His cause open to the attacks of His bitterest foes. Even some who desire the work of God to prosper will yet weaken the hands of His servants by hearing, reporting, and half believing the slanders, boasts, and menaces of His adversaries. The response of faith today will be the response made by Nehemiah, "Our God shall fight for us;" for God is in the work, and no man can prevent its ultimate success.' *Conflict & Courage*, page 266.

Lesson 13: December 19-25 **'They shall see His face'**

MEMORY VERSE: 'For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.' 1 Corinthians 13:12.

STUDY HELP: *Steps to Christ*, pages 105-113.

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Revelation 7:9-17.

LESSON AIM: To study what God has promised, now and hereafter, for those who put their faith in Him.

Introduction

'Our lifework here is a preparation for the life eternal. The education begun here will not be completed in this life; it will be going forward through all eternity, ever progressing, never completed. More and more fully will be revealed the wisdom and love of God in the plan of redemption. The Saviour, as He leads His children to the fountains of living waters, will impart rich stores of knowledge. And day by day the wonderful works of God, the evidences of His power in creating and sustaining the universe, will open before the mind in new beauty. In the light that shines from the throne, mysteries will disappear, and the soul will be filled with astonishment at the simplicity of the things that were never before comprehended. Now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face; now we know in part; but then we shall know even as also we are known.' *Ministry of Healing*, page 466.

'We walk by faith, not by sight'

1. How did Paul describe the Christian's life here in this world? 2 Corinthians 5:7.

NOTE: '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. [Emphasis in original.]

2. How does the Bible describe the one who does not have faith? Hebrews 3:12.

NOTE: 'Many of us walk by sight and not by faith. We believe the things that are seen but do not appreciate the precious promises given us in God's Word; and yet we cannot dishonour God more decidedly than by showing that we distrust what He says and question whether the Lord is in earnest with us or is deceiving us.' *Faith & Works*, page 35.

'As thy days, so shall thy strength be'

3. What promise is given to those who are willing to walk by faith? Deuteronomy 33:25, last part.

NOTE: 'The promise is not that we will have strength today for a future emergency, that anticipated future trouble will be provided for beforehand, before it comes to us. We may, if we walk by faith, expect strength and provision for us as fast as our circumstances demand it. We live by faith, not by sight. The Lord's arrangement is for us to ask Him for the very things that we need. The grace of tomorrow will not be given today. Men's necessity is God's opportunity.' *God's Amazing Grace*, page 261.

4. What precious assurance did Jesus give to His followers? Matthew 6:31-34.

NOTE: The words 'take no thought', found in verses 25, 28, 31 & 34, simply mean: Do not worry. Do not grow anxious. They should **not** be understood to advocate a feckless, irresponsible attitude to life.

'We may be confident for the future only in the strength that is given for the present necessities. Do not borrow anxiety for the future. It is today that we are in need. Many are weighed down by the anticipation of future troubles. They are constantly seeking to bring tomorrow's burdens into today. Thus a large share of all their trials are imaginary. For these, Jesus has made no provision. He promises grace only for the day. He bids us not to burden ourselves with the cares and troubles of tomorrow.' *God's Amazing Grace*, page 261.

‘God is faithful’

5. In what precious promises are we to place our trust in times of trial and temptation? 1 Corinthians 10:13.

NOTE: ‘We must not think that by walking in the path of obedience, we shall escape trials; for the enemy will do all in his power to hinder us from gaining heaven. But the Saviour has promised to help us. Have you trials? So had Jesus. Are you tempted? So was He, in all points like as we are. He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. He came unto His own, and His own received him not. “But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God.” “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.” *Manuscript Releases, volume 5, page 251.*

6. What precious promise is for those who fall in times of temptation? 1 John 1:9.

NOTE: ‘Let us trust God’s word implicitly, remembering that we are His sons and daughters. Let us train ourselves to believe His word. We hurt the heart of Christ by doubting, when He has given such evidence of His love. He laid down His life to save us. He says to us: “Come unto Me, . . . and I will give you rest.” Do you believe He will do as He has said? Then, after you have complied with the conditions, carry no longer the burden of your sins. Let it roll upon the Saviour. Trust yourself with Him. Has He not promised to give you rest? But to many He is obliged to say sorrowfully, “Ye will not come to me, that ye might have life” (John 5:40). Behold Christ. Dwell upon His love and mercy. This will fill the soul with abhorrence for all that is sinful and will inspire it with an intense desire for the righteousness of Christ. The more clearly we see the Saviour, the more clearly shall we discern our defects of character. Confess your sins to Christ, and with true contrition of soul co-operate with Him by putting these sins away. Believe that they are pardoned. The promise is positive, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). Be assured that the word of God will not fail. He who has promised is faithful. It is as much your duty to believe that God will fulfil His word and forgive you as it is to confess your sins.” *In Heavenly Places, page 111.*

‘Wherefore didst thou doubt?’

7. With what words did Jesus rebuke Peter for his lack of faith? Matthew 14:31.

NOTE: ‘Faith takes God at His word, not asking to understand the meaning of the trying experiences that come. But there are many who have little faith. They are always fearing and borrowing trouble. Every day they are surrounded by the tokens of God’s love, every day they enjoy the bounties of His providence; but they overlook these blessings. And the difficulties they encounter, instead of driving them to God, separate them from Him, by arousing unrest and repining. Do they well to be thus unbelieving? Jesus is their friend. All heaven is interested in their welfare, and their fear and repining grieve the Holy Spirit. Not because we see or feel that God hears us are we to believe. We are to trust His promises. When we come to Him in faith, we should believe that every petition enters into the heart of Christ. When we have asked for His blessing, we should believe that we receive it, and thank Him that we have it. Then we are to go about our duties, assured that the blessing will be sent when we need it most. When we have learned to do this, we shall know that our prayers are answered. God will do for us “exceeding abundantly,” “according to the riches of His glory,” and “the working of His mighty power.” [Ephesians 3:20, 16, 19.] Often the Christian life is beset with dangers, and duty seems hard to perform. The imagination pictures impending ruin before, and bondage and death behind. Yet the voice of God speaks clearly, Go forward. Let us obey the command, even though our sight cannot penetrate the darkness. The obstacles that hinder our progress will never disappear before a halting, doubting spirit. Those who defer obedience till every uncertainty disappears, and there remains no risk of failure or defeat, will never obey. Faith looks beyond the difficulties, and lays hold of the unseen, even Omnipotence, therefore it cannot be baffled. Faith is the clasping of the hand of Christ in every emergency.’ *Gospel Workers, pages 261-262.*

8. What rebuke did Christ address to Thomas? John 20:27, last part.

NOTE: ‘Do not, I beg of you, sink down into a faithless position. Arise and shine, for the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. Believe, believe without a doubt that God hears your prayers. If you feel weak and unworthy, He is your strength. The Word is abundant in promises from God to us, and the Spirit helps our infirmities to plead these promises. The Word shows the way, the Spirit helps us to walk in it. You need to cling to the Lord with all your might. The word is the seed of the Spirit, and the Spirit is the quickening power. Be firm, and full of faith and trust in God.’ *Testimonies to Southern Africa, page 66.*

‘Take heed’

9. What warning are we given against self-confidence? 1 Corinthians 10:12.

NOTE: ‘Those who accept Christ, and in their first confidence say, I am saved, are in danger of trusting to themselves. They lose sight of their own weakness and their constant need of divine strength. They are unprepared for Satan’s devices, and under temptation many, like Peter, fall into the very depths of sin. We are admonished, “Let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he fall.” 1 Corinthians 10:12. Our only safety is in constant distrust of self, and dependence on Christ.’ *Christ’s Object Lessons, page 155.*

‘Day by day God instructs His children. By the circumstances of the daily life He is preparing them to act their part upon that wider stage to which His providence has appointed them. It is the issue of the daily test that determines their victory or defeat in life’s great crisis. Those who fail to realise their constant dependence upon God will be overcome by temptation. We may now suppose that our feet stand secure, and that we shall never be moved. We may say with confidence, “I know in whom I have believed; nothing can shake my faith in God and in His word.” But Satan is planning to take advantage of our hereditary

and cultivated traits of character, and to blind our eyes to our own necessities and defects. Only through realising our own weakness and looking steadfastly unto Jesus can we walk securely.' *Desire of Ages*, page 382.

10. With what words may the one who trusts in God express his faith? Psalm 4:6-8.

NOTE: 'God always rewards the confidence of His people. The way to the throne of mercy is always open. God sees the wants of His people as clearly in the darkness of midnight which surrounds them as in the splendour of noonday. To look to God for help at all times, this is our safety.' *This Day With God*, page 199.

'We are not kept by our intelligence, by our words, or by our riches. In these we find no safety. We are kept only by the power of God through faith unto salvation. We are living in a period of time during which we must by faith be allied with an infinite God or else we cannot overcome the strong powers of darkness seeking to destroy us. The Holy Spirit is as a light shining on our pathway. Let us put our trust in Christ who is ever at our right hand to help us. Let us take courage, placing our confidence and our trust in Him. He has not left us destitute.' *Sermons & Talks, volume 2*, page 174.

'But then face to face'

11. What contrast is there between our present life and what awaits those who are faithful? 1 Corinthians 13:12. Compare Revelation 22:4

NOTE: 'By faith we may look to the hereafter and grasp the pledge of God for a growth of intellect, the human faculties uniting with the divine, and every power of the soul being brought into direct contact with the Source of light. We may rejoice that all which has perplexed us in the providences of God will then be made plain, things hard to be understood will then find an explanation; and where our finite minds discovered only confusion and broken purposes, we shall see the most perfect and beautiful harmony. "Now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known." 1 Corinthians 13:12.' *Steps to Christ*, page 112.

12. What wonderful prospect awaits those who have lived by faith? Isaiah 25:8. Compare Revelation 7:16-17.

NOTE: 'The garden of the promises of God has been presented before us, and by the precious promises of God we are to lay hold on faith, hope, and love. Through these graces the church may shine forth in the righteousness of Christ. Living faith grasps the hand of divine power, and faith is an anchor to the soul both sure and steadfast, entering into that which is within the veil. John says, "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." He describes the great multitude who shall stand before God as overcomers, and says, "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands." The palms signify that they have gained the victory, and the white robes that they have been clothed with the righteousness of Christ. Thank God that a fountain has been opened to wash our robes of character, and make them as white as snow. And they "cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God, which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshiped God, saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God forever and ever. Amen. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said unto me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple; and He that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters; and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.'" *Signs of the Times*, May 2, 1895.