

# ‘Ye shall be witnesses unto Me.’

## General Introduction.

The Saviour’s life on earth was not a life of ease and devotion to Himself, but He toiled with persistent, earnest, untiring effort for the salvation of lost mankind. From the manger to Calvary He followed the path of self-denial and sought not to be released from arduous tasks, painful travels and exhausting care and labour. He said, “The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:28. This was the one great object of His life. Everything else was secondary and subservient. It was His meat and drink to do the will of God and to finish His work. Self and self-interest had no part in His labour.

So those who are the partakers of the grace of Christ will be ready to make any sacrifice, that others for whom He died may share the heavenly gift. They will do all they can to make the world better for their stay in it. This spirit is the sure outgrowth of a soul truly converted. No sooner does one come to Christ than there is born in his heart a desire to make known to others what a precious friend he has found in Jesus; the saving and sanctifying truth cannot be shut up in his heart. If we are clothed with the righteousness of Christ and are filled with the joy of His indwelling Spirit, we shall not be able to hold our peace. If we have tasted and seen that the Lord is good we shall have something to tell. Like Philip when he found the Saviour, we shall invite others into His presence. We shall seek to present to them the attractions of Christ and the unseen realities of the world to come. There will be an intensity of desire to follow in the path that Jesus trod. There will be an earnest longing that those around us may “behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” John 1:29.

And the effort to bless others will react in blessings upon ourselves. This was the purpose of God in giving us a part to act in the plan of redemption. He has granted men the privilege of becoming partakers of the divine nature and, in their turn, of diffusing blessings to their fellow men. This is the highest honour, the greatest joy, that it is possible for God to bestow upon men. Those who thus become participants in labours of love are brought nearest to their Creator.

God might have committed the message of the gospel, and all the work of loving ministry, to the heavenly angels. He might have employed other means for accomplishing His purpose. But in His infinite love He chose to make us co-workers with Himself, with Christ and the angels, that we might share the blessing, the joy, the spiritual uplifting, which results from this unselfish ministry.

*Steps to Christ, pages 78 - 79*

## Lesson 1: ‘And ye also shall bear witness’

MEMORY VERSE: ‘And we are His witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey Him.’ Acts 5:32.

STUDY HELP: *Christian Service*, pages 7-13.

### Introduction

‘It was the Saviour’s purpose that after He ascended to heaven to become man’s intercessor, His followers should carry on the work that He had begun. Shall the human agent show no special interest in giving the light of the gospel message to those who sit in darkness? There are some who are willing to go to the ends of the earth in order to carry the light of truth to men, but God demands that every soul who knows the truth shall seek to win others to the love of the truth. If we are not willing to make special sacrifices in order to save souls that are ready to perish, how can we be counted worthy to enter into the city of God?’ *Testimonies, volume 9*, page 103.

### ‘Go ye therefore’

#### 1. How did Jesus express the commission to witness? Acts 1:8, last part.

NOTE: ‘His word is “Go, . . . teach all nations;” and to the command is added the promise, “Lo, I am with you always.” The Lord requires of us nothing that He does not give us power to perform. The disciples obeyed the command to bear witness for Christ, and of their experience we read: “They went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.” Of you as well as of the disciples these words may be spoken.’ *Signs of the Times*, March 26, 1902.

#### 2. What promise accompanies the commission to witness for the Lord? Acts 1:8, first part.

NOTE: ‘There are some who, instead of wisely improving present opportunities, are idly waiting for some special season of spiritual refreshing by which their ability to enlighten others will be greatly increased. They neglect present duties and privileges, and allow their light to burn dim, while they look forward to a time when, without any effort on their part, they will be made the recipients of special blessing, by which they will be transformed and fitted for service... Those only who are constantly receiving fresh supplies of grace, will have power proportionate to their daily need and their ability to use that power. Instead of looking forward to some future time when, through a special endowment of spiritual power, they will receive a miraculous fitting up for soul winning, they are yielding themselves daily to God, that He may make them vessels meet for His use. Daily they are improving the opportunities for service that lie within their reach. Daily they are witnessing for the Master wherever they may be, whether in some humble sphere of labour in the home, or in a public field of usefulness.’ *Acts of the Apostles*, pages 54-55.

## ‘Into all the world’

### 3. Where is the Christian to witness for the Lord? Acts 1:8, Mark 16:15, Mark 5:19.

NOTE: ‘Every church member should feel it his special duty of labour for those living in his neighbourhood. Study how you can best help those who take no interest in religious things. As you visit your friends and neighbours, show an interest in their spiritual as well as in their temporal welfare. Present Christ as a sin-pardoning Saviour. Invite your neighbours to your home, and read with them from the precious Bible and from books that explain its truths. This, united with simple songs and fervent prayers, will touch their hearts. Let church members educate themselves to do this work.’ *Testimonies, Volume 6*, page 276.

### 4. What examples are we given of Christians witnessing for the Lord? Acts 18:24-26, Acts 8:26-38.

NOTE: ‘The truth should be presented with divine tact, gentleness, and tenderness. It should come from a heart that has been softened and made sympathetic. Let our words be gentle as we seek to win souls. God will be wisdom to him who seeks for wisdom from a divine source. We are to seek opportunities on every hand, we are to watch unto prayer, and be ready always to give a reason for the hope that is in us, with meekness and fear. Lest we shall impress unfavourably one soul for whom Christ died we should keep our hearts uplifted to God, so that when the opportunity presents itself, we may have the right words to speak at the right time. If you thus undertake work for God, the Spirit of God will be your helper. The Holy Spirit will apply the word spoken in love for the soul. The truth will have quickening power when spoken under the influence of the grace of Christ. God’s plan is first to get at the heart. Speak the truth, and let Him carry forward the reformatory power and principle. Make no reference to what opponents say, but let the truth alone be advanced. The truth can cut to the quick. Plainly unfold the Word in all its impressiveness.’ *Lift Him Up*, page 211.

## ‘And preach the Gospel’

### 5. What is to be the heart of the Christian’s message? Mark 16:15. Compare Revelation 14:6 & Matthew 24:14.

NOTE: ‘The science of salvation is to be the burden of every sermon, the theme of every song. Let it be poured forth in every supplication.’ *The Voice in Speech and Song*, page 337.

‘This message was to bring more prominently before the world the uplifted Saviour, the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. It presented justification through faith in the Surety; it invited the people to receive the righteousness of Christ, which is made manifest in obedience to all the commandments of God. Many had lost sight of Jesus. They needed to have their eyes directed to His divine person, His merits, and His changeless love for the human family. All power is given into His hands, that He may dispense rich gifts unto men, imparting the priceless gift of His own righteousness to the helpless human agent. This is the message that God commanded to be given to the world. It is the third angel’s message, which is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, and attended with the outpouring of His Spirit in a large measure.’ *Evangelism*, page 190-191.

### 6. What is the Gospel? Romans 1:16.

NOTE: ‘The gospel is called the power of God unto salvation because God alone can make the truth a power which sanctifies the soul.’ *Manuscript 56, 1899*.

‘The message proclaimed by the angel flying in the midst of heaven is the everlasting gospel, the same gospel that was declared in Eden when God said to the serpent, “I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel” (Genesis 3:15). Here was the first promise of a Saviour who would stand on the field of battle to contest the power of Satan and prevail against him. Christ came to our world to represent the character of God as it is represented in His holy law; for His law is a transcript of His character. Christ was both the law and the gospel. The angel that proclaims the everlasting gospel proclaims the law of God; for the gospel of salvation brings men to obedience of the law, whereby their characters are formed after the divine similitude.’ *Selected Messages Book 2*, page 106.

## ‘The hour of His judgement is come’

### 7. In what special context is the Gospel to be preached today? Revelation 14:6-7.

NOTE: ‘The message itself sheds light as to the time when this movement is to take place. It is declared to be a part of the “everlasting gospel;” and it announces the opening of the judgement. The message of salvation has been preached in all ages; but this message is a part of the gospel which could be proclaimed only in the last days, for only then would it be true that the hour of judgement had come. The prophecies present a succession of events leading down to the opening of the judgement. This is especially true of the book of Daniel. But that part of his prophecy which related to the last days, Daniel was bidden to close up and seal “to the time of the end.” Not till we reach this time could a message concerning the judgement be proclaimed, based on the fulfilment of these prophecies. But at the time of the end, says the prophet, “many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.” Daniel 12:4.’ *Great Controversy*, page 355.

### 8. What is the message of the judgement in practical terms? Amos 4:12.

NOTE: ‘Suppose that today Christ should appear in the clouds of heaven, who would be ready to meet Him? Suppose we should be translated into the kingdom of heaven just as we are. Would we be prepared to unite with the saints of God, to live in harmony with the royal family, the children of the heavenly King? What preparation have you made for the judgement? Have you made your peace with God? Are you labouring together with God? Are you seeking to help those around you, those in

your home, those in your neighbourhood, those with whom you come in contact that are not keeping the commandments of God? Are we getting ready to meet the King?' *Maranatha*, page 98.

**9. What is the preparation needed in the time of God's judgement? Isaiah 58:5-14.**

NOTE: 'The intercession of Christ in man's behalf in the sanctuary above is as essential to the plan of salvation as was His death upon the cross. Through defects in the character, Satan works to gain control of the whole mind, and he knows that if these defects are cherished, he will succeed. Therefore he is constantly seeking to deceive the followers of Christ with his fatal sophistry that it is impossible for them to overcome. But Jesus pleads in their behalf His wounded hands, His bruised body; and He declares to all who would follow Him: "My grace is sufficient for thee" (2 Corinthians 12:9). Let none, then, regard their defects as incurable. God will give faith and grace to overcome them. We are now living in the great Day of Atonement. All who would have their names retained in the book of life should now, in the few remaining days of their probation, afflict their souls before God by sorrow for sin and true repentance. There must be deep, faithful searching of heart.' *God's Amazing Grace*, page 69.

**'Babylon is fallen'**

**10. What further message must be given to the world? Revelation 14:8.**

NOTE: 'Babylon is said to be "the mother of harlots." By her daughters must be symbolised churches that cling to her doctrines and traditions, and follow her example of sacrificing the truth and the approval of God, in order to form an unlawful alliance with the world. The message of Revelation 14, announcing the fall of Babylon must apply to religious bodies that were once pure and have become corrupt. Since this message follows the warning of the judgement, it must be given in the last days; therefore it cannot refer to the Roman Church alone, for that church has been in a fallen condition for many centuries. Furthermore, in the eighteenth chapter of the Revelation the people of God are called upon to come out of Babylon. According to this scripture, many of God's people must still be in Babylon. And in what religious bodies are the greater part of the followers of Christ now to be found? Without doubt, in the various churches professing the Protestant faith. At the time of their rise these churches took a noble stand for God and the truth, and His blessing was with them. Even the unbelieving world was constrained to acknowledge the beneficent results that followed an acceptance of the principles of the gospel... But they fell by the same desire which was the curse and ruin of Israel, the desire of imitating the practices and courting the friendship of the ungodly.' *Great Controversy*, page 382.

**11. When this message is repeated, what addition is made to it? Revelation 18:1-5.**

'God has many thousands who have not bowed the knee to Baal. There are God-fearing men and women in the fallen churches. If this were not so, we would not be given the message to bear: "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen." "Come out of her, My people." Many of the honest in heart are gasping for a breath of life from heaven. They will recognise the gospel when it is brought to them in the beauty and simplicity with which it is presented in God's Word.' *Testimonies, Volume 9*, pages 109-111.

**If any man worship the beast and his image'**

**12. What solemn message must the faithful witness for Christ give before Jesus comes? Revelation 14:9-12.**

NOTE: 'No one has yet received the mark of the beast. The testing time has not yet come. There are true Christians in every church, not excepting the Roman Catholic communion. None are condemned until they have had the light and have seen the obligation of the fourth commandment. But when the decree shall go forth enforcing the counterfeit sabbath, and the loud cry of the third angel shall warn men against the worship of the beast and his image, the line will be clearly drawn between the false and the true. Then those who still continue in transgression will receive the mark of the beast.' *Evangelism*, page 234.

**13. What choice is to be placed before the world by God's faithful witnesses? Compare Revelation 13:13-17 with Revelation 14:9-11.**

NOTE: 'This symbol [the beast], as most Protestants have believed, represents the Papacy. The "image to the beast" represents that form of apostate Protestantism which will be developed when the Protestant churches shall seek the aid of the civil power for the enforcement of their dogmas. As the sign of the authority of the Catholic Church, papist writers cite "the very act of changing the Sabbath into Sunday." What then is the change of the Sabbath, but the sign, or mark, of the authority of the Roman Church, "the mark of the beast"? Sunday-keeping is not yet the mark of the beast, and will not be until the decree goes forth causing men to worship this idol sabbath. And it is not until the issue is plainly set before the people, and they are brought to choose between the commandments of God and the commandments of men, that those who continue in transgression will receive "the mark of the beast." When God sends to men warnings so important that they are represented as proclaimed by holy angels flying in the midst of heaven, He requires every person endowed with reasoning powers to heed the message.' *The Faith I Live By*, page 286.

**Lesson 2: 'Ye shall receive power'**

MEMORY VERSE: 'But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me.' Acts 1:8.

STUDY HELP: *Christian Service*, pages 250-256.

## Introduction

'The goodly fabric of character wrought out through divine power will receive light and glory from heaven, and will stand before the world as a witness pointing to the throne of the living God. Then the work will move forward with solidity and redoubled strength.' *God's Amazing Grace*, page 128.

### 'With one accord'

#### 1. How did the disciples prepare to receive the promised power of the Holy Spirit? Acts 1:14.

NOTE: 'It was by the confession and forsaking of sin, by earnest prayer and consecration of themselves to God, that the early disciples prepared for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. The same work, only in greater degree, must be done now. Then the human agent had only to ask for the blessing, and wait for the Lord to perfect the work concerning him. It is God who began the work, and He will finish His work, making man complete in Jesus Christ.' *Testimonies to Ministers*, page 507.

#### 2. What was the result of this preparation of the disciples' hearts? Acts 2:1.

NOTE: 'Under the training of Christ the disciples had been led to feel their need of the Spirit. Under the Spirit's teaching they received the final qualification, and went forth to their lifework. No longer were they ignorant and uncultured. No longer were they a collection of independent units or discordant, conflicting elements. No longer were their hopes set on worldly greatness. They were of "one accord," "of one heart and of one soul." Acts 2:46; 4:32. Christ filled their thoughts; the advancement of His kingdom was their aim. In mind and character they had become like their Master, and men "took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus." Acts 4:13.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 45.

### 'That they may see your good works'

#### 3. What added power to the witness of the disciples? Acts 4:13.

NOTE: 'After the Saviour's ascension, the sense of the divine presence, full of love and light, was still with them. It was a personal presence. Jesus, the Saviour, who had walked and talked and prayed with them, who had spoken hope and comfort to their hearts, had, while the message of peace was upon His lips, been taken from them into heaven. As the chariot of angels received Him, His words had come to them, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end." Matthew 28:20. He had ascended to heaven in the form of humanity. They knew that He was before the throne of God, their Friend and Saviour still; that His sympathies were unchanged; that He would forever be identified with suffering humanity. They knew that He was presenting before God the merit of His blood, showing His wounded hands and feet as a remembrance of the price He had paid for His redeemed ones; and this thought strengthened them to endure reproach for His sake. Their union with Him was stronger now than when He was with them in person. The light and love and power of an indwelling Christ shone out through them, so that men, beholding, marvelled.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 65.

#### 4. What will be the effect of the witness of those in whose hearts Christ dwells? Matthew 5:16.

NOTE: 'Great is the work and mission of women, especially those who are wives and mothers. They can be a blessing to all around them. They can have a powerful influence for good if they will let their light so shine that others may be led to glorify our heavenly Father. Women may have a transforming influence if they will only consent to yield their way and their will to God, and let Him control their mind, affections, and being. They can have an influence which will tend to refine and elevate those with whom they associate. But this class are generally unconscious of the power they possess. They exert an unconscious influence which seems to work out naturally from a sanctified life, a renewed heart. It is the fruit that grows naturally upon the good tree of divine planting. Self is forgotten, merged in the life of Christ. To be rich in good works is as natural as their breath. They live to do others good and yet are ready to say: We are unprofitable servants.' *Testimonies Volume 2*, page 465.

### 'The righteousness of God which is by faith'

#### 5. What is God's desire for the way we live our lives? Psalm 15:1-2.

NOTE: 'We must present the principles of truth, and let them work upon the hearts of the people. We may pick the leaves from a tree as often as we please, but this will not cause the tree to die; the next season the leaves will come out again as thick as before. But strike the axe at the root of the tree, and not only will the leaves fall off of themselves, but the tree will die. Those who accept the truth, in the love of it, will die to the world, and will become meek and lowly in heart like their divine Lord. Just as soon as the heart is right, the dress, the conversation, the life, will be in harmony with the Word of God.' *My Life Today*, page 265.

#### 6. By what principle may people lead righteous lives? Romans 1:17.

NOTE: 'Righteousness is right-doing.' *My Life Today*, page 272.

'What is faith? It is simply taking God at His word; it is believing that God will do just as He has promised.' *Signs of the Times*, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 1889.

**7. Of what can the follower of God be completely confident? 1 Kings 8:56**

NOTE: 'God does not bid you fear that He will fail to fulfil His promises, that His patience will weary, or His compassion be found wanting. Fear lest your will shall not be held in subjection to Christ's will, lest your hereditary and cultivated traits of character shall control your life. "It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure." Fear lest self shall interpose between your soul and the great Master Worker. Fear lest self-will shall mar the high purpose that through you God desires to accomplish. Fear to trust to your own strength, fear to withdraw your hand from the hand of Christ and attempt to walk life's pathway without His abiding presence.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 161.

**8. In what promise of complete salvation may we put our faith? Philippians 1:6.**

NOTE: 'He who has begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. The honour of God, the honour of Jesus Christ, is involved in the perfection of your character. Your work is to co-operate with Christ, that you may be complete in Him. In being united to Him by faith, believing and receiving Him, you become a part of Himself. Your character is His glory revealed in you. And when you shall appear in His presence, you will find the benediction awaiting you, "Well done, good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over a few things: I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."' *Southern Watchman*, October 25, 1898.

**'Ask ye of the Lord rain'**

**9. What promise is given to those who follow on to know the Lord? Hosea 6:3.**

NOTE: 'The latter rain, falling near the close of the season, ripens the grain and prepares it for the sickle. The Lord employs these operations of nature to represent the work of the Holy Spirit. As the dew and the rain are given first to cause the seed to germinate, and then to ripen the harvest, so the Holy Spirit is given to carry forward, from one stage to another, the process of spiritual growth. The ripening of the grain represents the completion of the work of God's grace in the soul. By the power of the Holy Spirit the moral image of God is to be perfected in the character. We are to be wholly transformed into the likeness of Christ. The latter rain, ripening earth's harvest, represents the spiritual grace that prepares the church for the coming of the Son of man.' *Testimonies to Ministers*, page 506.

**10. What command and what promise are given to God's people? Zechariah 10:1.**

NOTE: 'Do not rest satisfied that in the ordinary course of the season, rain will fall. Ask for it. The growth and perfection of the seed rests not with the husbandman. God alone can ripen the harvest. But man's co-operation is required. God's work for us demands the action of our mind, the exercise of our faith. We must seek His favours with the whole heart if the showers of grace are to come to us. We should improve every opportunity of placing ourselves in the channel of blessing. Christ has said, "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst." The convocations of the church, as in camp meetings, the assemblies of the home church, and all occasions where there is personal labour for souls, are God's appointed opportunities for giving the early and the latter rain.' *Testimonies to Ministers*, page 508.

**'He that watereth shall be watered also himself'**

**11. What blessing will come to the one who shares God's blessings with others? Proverbs 11:25.**

NOTE: 'If you will go to work as Christ designs that His disciples shall, and win souls for Him, you will feel the need of a deeper experience and a greater knowledge in divine things, and will hunger and thirst after righteousness. You will plead with God, and your faith will be strengthened, and your soul will drink deeper drafts at the well of salvation. Encountering opposition and trials will drive you to the Bible and prayer. You will grow in grace and the knowledge of Christ, and will develop a rich experience.' *Steps to Christ*, page 80.

**12. What will be the effect on the character of the one who witnesses for Christ? 2 Corinthians 9:10.**

NOTE: 'The spirit of unselfish labour for others gives depth, stability, and Christlike loveliness to the character, and brings peace and happiness to its possessor. The aspirations are elevated. There is no room for sloth or selfishness. Those who thus exercise the Christian graces will grow and will become strong to work for God. They will have clear spiritual perceptions, a steady, growing faith, and an increased power in prayer. The Spirit of God, moving upon their spirit, calls forth the sacred harmonies of the soul in answer to the divine touch. Those who thus devote themselves to unselfish effort for the good of others are most surely working out their own salvation.' *Steps to Christ*, page 80.

**Lesson 3: 'We are His witnesses of these things'**

MEMORY VERSE: 'For thou shalt be His witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard.' Acts 22:15.  
STUDY HELP *Christian Service*, pages 15-24.

## Introduction

‘The Master has given to every man his work. He has given to every man according to his ability, and his trust is in proportion to his capacity. God requires every one to be a worker in His vineyard. You are to take up the work that has been placed in your charge, and to do it faithfully. “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.” *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, May 1, 1888.

### ‘How shall they hear?’

#### 1. What did the Master say to those who did not answer the call to work in His vineyard? Matthew 20:6.

NOTE: ‘Hundreds, yea, thousands, who have heard the message of salvation are still idlers in the market place, when they might be engaged in some line of active service. To these Christ is saying, “Why stand ye here all the day idle?” and He adds, “Go ye also into the vineyard.” Matthew 20:6, 7. Why is it that many more do not respond to the call? Is it because they think themselves excused in that they do not stand in the pulpit? Let them understand that there is a large work to be done outside the pulpit by thousands of consecrated lay members.’ *Acts of the Apostles*, page 110.

‘While the souls of men are dying, and the Master calls for you, let none hear you idly saying, “There is nothing I can do.”’ *Old hymn*.

#### 2. What has Christ provided to enable each Christian to do his appointed work? Romans 12:4-8.

NOTE: ‘God’s servants do not all possess the same gifts, but they are all His workmen. Each is to learn of the Great Teacher, and is then to communicate what he has learned. God has given to each of His messengers an individual work. There is a diversity of gifts, but all the workers are to blend in harmony, controlled by the sanctifying influence of the Holy Spirit. As they make known the gospel of salvation, many will be convicted and converted by the power of God. The human instrumentality is hid with Christ in God, and Christ appears as the chiefest among ten thousand, the One altogether lovely.’ *Acts of the Apostles*, page 274.

### ‘Unlearned and ignorant men’

#### 3. What was the world’s estimate of Peter and John as they witnessed for the Master? Acts 4:13, first part.

NOTE: ‘There are many who will spend and be spent to win souls to Christ. In obedience to the great commission, they will go forth to work for the Master. Under the ministration of angels ordinary men will be moved by the Spirit of God to warn people in the highways and byways. Humble men, who do not trust in their gifts, but who work in simplicity, trusting always in God, will share in the joy of the Saviour as their persevering prayers bring souls to the cross.’ *This Day With God*, page 227.

#### 4. What sort of person does God most commonly call to His service? 1 Corinthians 1:26-27.

NOTE: ‘Jesus chose unlearned fishermen because they had not been schooled in the traditions and erroneous customs of their time. They were men of native ability, and they were humble and teachable, men whom He could educate for His work. In the common walks of life there is many a man patiently treading the round of daily toil, unconscious that he possesses powers which, if called into action, would raise him to an equality with the world’s most honoured men. The touch of a skilful hand is needed to arouse those dormant faculties. It was such men that Jesus called to be His co-labourers; and He gave them the advantage of association with Himself. Never had the world’s great men such a teacher. When the disciples came forth from the Saviour’s training, they were no longer ignorant and uncultured. They had become like Him in mind and character, and men took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus.’ *Conflict & Courage*, page 282.

### ‘I will pour out My Spirit’

#### 5. What different kinds of people will God pour out His Spirit? Acts 2:17-18.

NOTE: ‘Time is short, and there is much to be done. Let all who can, old and young, men, women and children, take up this work. As they go forth, the Lord will open the way before them. The words that they speak will be as seeds sown in good ground. Many souls will be saved as a result of their willing service.’ *Indiana Reporter*, September 2, 1903.

‘Christ declared, “If I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men unto Me.” He is doing this work, but He calls upon old and young, men, women, and youth, to co-operate with Him. While Christ draws, those who have tasted of the word of life must draw with Christ. Human instrumentalities must co-operate with the divine intelligences.’ *Manuscript Releases Volume 4*, page 11.

#### 6. What qualifications are needed to be a witness for God? Romans 12:1-3

NOTE: ‘God’s cause at this time is in special need of men and women who possess Christlike qualifications for service, executive ability, and a large capacity for work, who have kind, warm, sympathetic hearts, sound common sense, and unbiased judgement; who will carefully weigh matters before they approve or condemn, and who can fearlessly say No, or Yea and Amen; who, because they are sanctified by the Spirit of God, practice the words “All ye are brethren,” striving constantly to uplift and restore fallen humanity.’ *Manuscript Releases, volume 2*, page 88.

### ‘A love of the truth’

**7. What knowledge is essential for freedom from sin? John 8:32.**

NOTE: 'In these final hours of probation for the sons of men, when the fate of every soul is so soon to be decided forever, the Lord of heaven and earth expects His church to arouse to action as never before. Those who have been made free in Christ through a knowledge of precious truth, are regarded by the Lord Jesus as His chosen ones, favoured above all other people on the face of the earth; and He is counting on them to show forth the praises of Him who hath called them out of darkness into marvellous light. The blessings which are so liberally bestowed, are to be communicated to others. The good news of salvation is to go to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people.' *Prophets and Kings*, pages 716-717.

**8. What is even more essential than knowledge of the truth? 2 Thessalonians 2:10-11.**

NOTE: 'The five foolish virgins had lamps (this means a knowledge of Scripture truth), but they had not the grace of Christ. Day by day they went through a round of ceremonies and external duties, but their service was lifeless, devoid of the righteousness of Christ. The Sun of Righteousness did not shine in their hearts and minds, and they had not the love of the truth which conforms to the life and character, the image and superscription, of Christ. The oil of grace was not mingled with their endeavours. Their religion was a dry husk without the true kernel. They held fast to forms of doctrines, but they were deceived in their Christian life, full of self-righteousness, and failing to learn lessons in the school of Christ, which, if practised, would have made them wise unto salvation.' *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, March 27, 1894.

**'Adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things'**

**9. How should the things a Christian believes affect his life? Titus 2:10, last part.**

NOTE: 'The Lord knows the thoughts and purposes of man, and how easily He can melt us! How His Spirit, like a fire, can subdue the flinty heart! How He can fill the soul with love and tenderness! How He can give us the graces of His Holy Spirit, and fit us to go in and out, in labouring for souls! The power of overcoming grace should be felt throughout the church today; and it may be felt, if we take heed to the counsels of Christ to His followers. As we learn to adorn the doctrine of Christ our Saviour we shall surely see of the salvation of God.' *Counsels on Stewardship*, page 189.

'Those who make any pretensions to godliness should adorn the doctrine they profess and not give occasion for the truth to be reviled through their inconsiderate course of action. "Owe no man anything," says the apostle. You ought now, my brother, to take hold earnestly to correct your habits of indolence, redeeming the time. Let the world see that the truth has wrought a reformation in your life.' *Testimonies Volume 5*, page 181.

**10. As their enemies observed Peter and John, what did they realise about them? Acts 4:13, last part.**

NOTE: 'No longer were their hopes set on worldly greatness. They were of "one accord," "of one heart and of one soul." Acts. 2:46; 4:32. Christ filled their thoughts; the advancement of His kingdom was their aim. In mind and character they had become like their Master, and men "took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus." Acts 4:13.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 45.

**'Be not afraid of their faces'**

**11. What counsel was Jeremiah given when God chose Him to witness for Him? Jeremiah 1:8-9.**

NOTE: 'The same God who gave his messages to Moses and Jeremiah will give His word to His witnesses in this generation. "For it is not ye that speak," Christ declares, "but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you." *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, May 24, 1898.

'He bids us go forth to speak the words He gives us, feeling His holy touch upon our lips. Christ has given to the church a sacred charge. Every member should be a channel through which God can communicate to the world the treasures of His grace, the unsearchable riches of Christ. There is nothing that the Saviour desires so much as agents who will represent to the world His Spirit and His character. There is nothing that the world needs so much as the manifestation through humanity of the Saviour's love. All heaven is waiting for men and women through whom God can reveal the power of Christianity.' *Acts of the Apostles*, pages 599-600.

**12. What reaction to our witness may we also expect? Ezekiel 33:31-32.**

NOTE: 'They see the preciousness of the love of Christ. They see the beauty of His character, the possibilities of a life given to His service. But in contrast they see the life of those who profess to revere God's precepts. Of how many are the words true that were spoken to the prophet Ezekiel... It is one thing to treat the Bible as a book of good moral instruction, to be heeded so far as is consistent with the spirit of the times and our position in the world; it is another thing to regard it as it really is, the word of the living God, the word that is our life, the word that is to mould our actions, our words, and our thoughts. To hold God's word as anything less than this is to reject it.' *Education*, page 259.

**Lesson 4: 'How shall they hear without a preacher?'**

MEMORY VERSE: 'How then 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?' Romans 10:14.

STUDY HELP: *Christ's Object Lessons*, pages 56-61.

## Introduction

'The greatest work, the noblest effort, in which men can engage, is to point sinners to the Lamb of God... God says to them, Go, teach and preach Christ. Instruct and educate all who know not of His grace, His goodness, and His mercy. Teach the people... Workers for Christ are never to think, much less to speak, of failure in their work. The Lord Jesus is our efficiency in all things; His Spirit is to be our inspiration; and as we place ourselves in His hands, to be channels of light, our means of doing good will never be exhausted. We may draw upon His fullness, and receive of that grace which has no limit.' *Gospel Workers*, page 19.

### 'The foolishness of preaching'

#### 1. What means has God chosen to bring the news of salvation to the world? 1 Corinthians 1:21.

NOTE: 'We are never to forget that Christ teaches through His servants. There may be conversions without the instrumentality of a sermon. Where persons are so situated that they are deprived of every means of grace, they are wrought upon by the Spirit of God and convinced of the truth through reading the Word; but God's appointed means of saving souls is through "the foolishness of preaching." Though human, and compassed with the frailties of humanity, men are God's messengers; and the dear Saviour is grieved when so little is effected by their labours. Every minister who goes out into the great harvest field should magnify his office. He should not only seek to bring men to the knowledge of the truth, but he should labour, as did Paul, "warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom," that he may "present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.'" *Testimonies Volume 5*, page 300.

#### 2. With what thought-provoking questions did Paul seek to rouse the church to its responsibilities? Romans 10:14.

NOTE: 'While the angels hold the four winds, we are to work with all our capabilities. We must bear our message without any delay. We must give evidence to the heavenly universe, and to men in this degenerate age, that our religion is a faith and a power of which Christ is the Author and His word the divine oracle. Human souls are hanging in the balance. They will either be subjects for the kingdom of God or slaves to the despotism of Satan. All are to have the privilege of laying hold of the hope set before them in the gospel, and how can they hear without a preacher? The human family is in need of a moral renovation, a preparation of character, that they may stand in God's presence. There are souls ready to perish because of the theoretical errors which are prevailing, and which are calculated to counterwork the gospel message. Who will now fully consecrate themselves to become labourers together with God?' *Testimonies Volume 6*, page 21.

#### 3. What is one part that must be played by those who cannot preach? Romans 10:15, first part.

NOTE: 'As God's work extends, calls for help will come more and more frequently. That these calls may be answered, Christians should heed the command, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house." Malachi 3:10. If professing Christians would faithfully bring to God their tithes and offerings, His treasury would be full. There would then be no occasion to resort to fairs, lotteries, or parties of pleasure to secure funds for the support of the gospel. Men are tempted to use their means in self-indulgence, in the gratification of appetite, in personal adornment, or in the embellishment of their homes. For these objects many church members do not hesitate to spend freely and even extravagantly. But when asked to give to the Lord's treasury, to carry forward His work in the earth, they demur. Perhaps, feeling that they cannot well do otherwise, they dole out a sum far smaller than they often spend for needless indulgence. They manifest no real love for Christ's service, no earnest interest in the salvation of souls.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 338.

### 'Whom shall I send?'

#### 4. What question comes from the throne of God to every believer? Isaiah 6:8.

NOTE: 'Sabbath after Sabbath many of you hear the voice of the living preacher, but how many feel the need of bringing the truth into your practical life? How many realise that light is given you that you may reflect it upon others? There is great need that the people should be educated that they may do the part of the work that has been appointed unto them to do; but the education of church members has been neglected. If the minister would instruct his people, he might have an army to help him in diffusing the light when a crisis comes in the work. Each member of the church should do the work for which he is best adapted, and the work could be so arranged that everything would move off harmoniously, and the prosperity of a working church would be manifested in the vital interest which would spring up among those who put their energies into the cause of Christ.' *Pastoral Ministry*, page 154.

#### 5. What precious promises come to those who feel they cannot speak for God? Jeremiah 1:6-9.

NOTE: 'The same God who gave His messages to Moses and Jeremiah will give His word to His witnesses in this generation. "For it is not ye that speak," Christ declares, "but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you." This word of the Lord has been verified in all ages, and it will be verified to the close of time in all who hold the beginning of their confidence firm unto the end. The most powerful testimony will be given in defence of the faith once delivered to the saints. The Holy Spirit is close beside those who are called to witness for truth and righteousness.' *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, May 24, 1898.

### 'Look on the fields'

#### 6. Where is the Christian to witness for Christ? Matthew 13:38, first part, Mark 16:15.

NOTE: 'If you cannot cross the ocean and the heathen lands explore, you can find the heathen nearer; you can help them at your door.' *Old Hymn*.

'Let ministers and lay members go forth into the ripening fields. They will find their harvest wherever they proclaim the forgotten truths of the Bible. They will find those who will accept the truth, and who will devote their lives to winning souls to Christ. It is not the Lord's purpose that ministers should be left to do the greatest part of the work of sowing the seeds of truth. Men who are not called to the ministry are to be encouraged to labour for the Master according to their several ability. Hundreds of men and women now idle could do acceptable service. By carrying the truth into the homes of their friends and neighbours, they could do a great work for the Master.' *Christian Service*, page 67.

**7. By what illustration did Jesus explain the variety of responses to the message of salvation? Matthew 13:3-23.**

NOTE: 'The sowers of the seed have a work to do in preparing hearts to receive the gospel. In the ministry of the word there is too much sermonising, and too little of real heart-to-heart work. There is need of personal labour for the souls of the lost. In Christlike sympathy we should come close to men individually, and seek to awaken their interest in the great things of eternal life. Their hearts may be as hard as the beaten highway, and apparently it may be a useless effort to present the Saviour to them; but while logic may fail to move, and argument be powerless to convince, the love of Christ, revealed in personal ministry, may soften the stony heart, so that the seed of truth can take root.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 57.

**'Some fell by the wayside'**

**8. What example do we have of seed that fell by the wayside? Acts 17:32.**

NOTE: 'Explaining the seed that fell by the wayside, He said, "When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the wayside." The seed sown by the wayside represents the word of God as it falls upon the heart of an inattentive hearer. Like the hard-beaten path, trodden down by the feet of men and beasts, is the heart that becomes a highway for the world's traffic, its pleasures and sins. Absorbed in selfish aims and sinful indulgences, the soul is "hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." Hebrews 3:13. The spiritual faculties are paralysed. Men hear the word, but understand it not. They do not discern that it applies to themselves. They do not realise their need or their danger. They do not perceive the love of Christ, and they pass by the message of His grace as something that does not concern them.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 44.

**9. What example is given of seed that fell upon stony ground? 2 Timothy 4:10, first part. (Compare Philemon v.24, Colossians 4:14.)**

NOTE: 'The seed sown upon stony ground finds little depth of soil. The plant springs up quickly, but the root cannot penetrate the rock to find nutriment to sustain its growth, and it soon perishes. Many who make a profession of religion are stony-ground hearers. Like the rock underlying the layer of earth, the selfishness of the natural heart underlies the soil of their good desires and aspirations. The love of self is not subdued. They have not seen the exceeding sinfulness of sin, and the heart has not been humbled under a sense of its guilt. This class may be easily convinced, and appear to be bright converts, but they have only a superficial religion. It is not because men receive the word immediately, nor because they rejoice in it, that they fall away. As soon as Matthew heard the Saviour's call, immediately he rose up, left all, and followed Him. As soon as the divine word comes to our hearts, God desires us to receive it; and it is right to accept it with joy. "Joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth." Luke 15:7. And there is joy in the soul that believes on Christ. But those who in the parable are said to receive the word immediately, do not count the cost. They do not consider what the word of God requires of them. They do not bring it face to face with all their habits of life, and yield themselves fully to its control.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 46.

**10. What example is recorded of seed falling among thorns? Acts 5:1-10.**

NOTE: 'The love of riches has an infatuating, deceptive power. Too often those who possess worldly treasure forget that it is God who gives them power to get wealth. They say, "My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth." Deuteronomy 8:17. Their riches, instead of awakening gratitude to God, lead to the exaltation of self. They lose the sense of their dependence upon God and their obligation to their fellow men. Instead of regarding wealth as a talent to be employed for the glory of God and the uplifting of humanity, they look upon it as a means of serving themselves. Instead of developing in man the attributes of God, riches thus used are developing in him the attributes of Satan. The seed of the word is choked with thorns.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 52.

**'He that heareth the word, and understandeth it'**

**11. What work must be done by the faithful witness for Christ? Matthew 28:19-20.**

NOTE: 'House-to-house labourers are needed. The Lord calls for decided efforts to be put forth in places where the people know nothing of Bible truth. Singing and prayer and Bible readings are needed in the homes of the people. Now, just now, is the time to obey the commission, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Matthew 28:20. Those who do this work must have a ready knowledge of the Scriptures. "It is written" is to be their weapon of defence. God has given us light on His word, that we may give this light to our fellow men. The truth spoken by Christ will reach hearts. A "Thus saith the Lord" will fall upon the ear with power, and fruit will appear wherever honest service is done.' *Counsels to Parents, Teachers & Students*, page 540.

**12. What warning did Christ give about unfaithful witnesses? Matthew 23:1-3.**

NOTE: 'They had no true love for God or man. God called them to be co-workers with Him in blessing the world; but while in profession they accepted the call, in action they refused obedience. They trusted to self, and prided themselves on their goodness; but they set the commands of God at defiance. They refused to do the work which God had appointed them.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 278.

'Christ calls them to unite with Him in His work for the saving of the world, but they content themselves with saying, "I go, sir." They do not co-operate with those who are doing God's service. They are idlers. Like the unfaithful son, they make false promises to God. In taking upon themselves the solemn covenant of the church, they have pledged to receive and obey the Word of God, to give themselves to God's service; but they do not do this. In profession they claim to be sons of God, but in life and character they deny the relationship. They do not surrender the will to God. They are living a lie. In the command, "Go work today in my vineyard," the test of sincerity is brought to every soul. Will there be deeds as well as words? Will the one called put to use all the knowledge he has, working faithfully, disinterestedly, for the Owner of the vineyard?' *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, June 23, 1910.

## Lesson 5: 'Go ye therefore and teach'

MEMORY VERSE: 'For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!' 1 Corinthians 9:16.

STUDY HELP: *Christian Service*, pages 113-131.

### Introduction

'The people of God are to come close to Christ in self-denial and sacrifice, their one aim being to give the message of mercy to all the world. Some will work in one way and some in another, as the Lord shall call and lead them. But they are all to strive together, seeking to make the work a perfect whole. With pen and voice they are to labour for Him. The printed word of truth is to be translated into different languages and carried to the ends of the earth. My heart is often burdened because so many who might work are doing nothing. They are the sport of Satan's temptations. Every church member who has a knowledge of the truth is expected to work while the day lasts; for the night cometh, wherein no man can work. Erelong we shall understand what that night means.' *Testimonies Volume 9*, page 26.

### 'That by my voice I might teach others'

#### 1. How is the work of teaching to be carried out? Isaiah 28:9-10.

NOTE: 'Those who are learning should be patiently instructed, precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little and there a little. Every effort should be made, by precept and example, to teach them right methods.' *Christian Leadership*, page 57.

'Souls are kept from obeying the truth by a confusion of ideas, and also because they do not know how to surrender their wills and their minds to Jesus. They want special instruction how to become Christians. The work done for Christ in the world is not made of great deeds and wonderful achievements. These will come in as needed. But the most successful work is that which keeps self as much as possible out of sight. It is the work of giving line upon line and precept upon precept, here a little and there a little; coming close in sympathy with human hearts. This is the service done to Jesus Christ that will be recognised at the last day.' *Evangelism*, page 152.

#### 2. What special work of teaching are parents called upon to perform? Deuteronomy 6:4-7, 11:9.

NOTE: 'Parents should in a special sense regard themselves as agents of God to instruct their children, as did Abraham, to keep the way of the Lord. They need to search the Scriptures diligently, to know what is the way of the Lord, that they may teach it to their household. Micah says, "What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" [Micah 6:8.] In order to be teachers, parents must be learners, gathering light constantly from the oracles of God and by precept and example bringing this precious light into the education of their children.' *The Adventist Home*, page 184.

### 'As ye go, preach'

#### 3. How did Jesus describe the work committed to Him? Luke 4:16-21.

NOTE: 'Of Christ's life and death and intercession, which prophets had foretold, the apostles were to go forth as witnesses. Christ in His humiliation, in His purity and holiness, in His matchless love, was to be their theme. And in order to preach the gospel in its fullness, they must present the Saviour not only as revealed in His life and teachings, but as foretold by the prophets of the Old Testament and as symbolised by the sacrificial service.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 127.

#### 4. How did Paul describe the work of preaching and its divinely appointed purpose? 1 Corinthians 1:17-21.

NOTE: 'This is God's devised plan; and through successive generations, through centuries of heathenism, this plan has been carried forward, not as an experiment, but as an approved way for the spreading of the gospel. Through this method from the beginning, conviction came upon man, and the world was enlightened concerning the gospel of God.' *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, page 360.

‘There may be conversions without the instrumentality of a sermon. Where persons are so situated that they are deprived of every means of grace, they are wrought upon by the Spirit of God and convinced of the truth through reading the word; but God’s appointed means of saving souls is through “the foolishness of preaching.”’ *Testimonies Volume 5*, page 300.

‘Let the men who are engaged in the solemn work of bearing the last message to the world, heed the exhortation of Paul, “Preach the Word,” not the... productions of human speculations. Listen to the words of inspiration addressed to Timothy: “I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they [the people] heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”’ *Bible Echo*, June 15, 1893.

## ‘We persuade men’

### **5. What example are we given of Paul’s method of giving Bible studies? Acts 28:23.**

NOTE: ‘Of all the gifts that God has bestowed upon men, none is more precious than the gift of speech. If sanctified by the Holy Spirit, it is a power for good. It is with the tongue that we convince and persuade; with it we offer prayer and praise to God, and with it we convey rich thoughts of the Redeemer’s love.’ *Testimonies Volume 6*, page 337.

‘We are living in the closing scenes of this earth’s history. Prophecy is fast fulfilling. The hours of probation are fast passing. We have no time, not a moment, to lose. Let us not be found sleeping on guard. Let no one say in his heart or by his works: “My Lord delayeth His coming.” Let the message of Christ’s soon return sound forth in earnest words of warning. Let us persuade men and women everywhere to repent and flee from the wrath to come. Let us arouse them to immediate preparation, for we little know what is before us. Let ministers and lay members go forth into the ripening fields to tell the unconcerned and indifferent to seek the Lord while He may be found. The workers will find their harvest wherever they proclaim the forgotten truths of the Bible. They will find those who will accept the truth and will devote their lives to winning souls to Christ.’ *Testimonies Volume 8*, page 252.

### **6. In all our efforts to persuade people of the truth, what must we remember? John 16:8.**

NOTE: ‘God requires that His agents may put forth practical, personal efforts in doing whatever He calls upon them to do, so that the truth may be set before human minds, and the Holy Spirit have an opportunity to convict and convert the soul. No man can do this part of the work.’ *Home Missionary*, December 1, 1894.

‘Present the truth as it is in Jesus. There must be no combative or controversial spirit in the advocacy of the truth. Those who study the manner of Christ’s teaching and educate themselves to follow His way, will attract and hold large numbers, as Christ held the people in His day. The Saviour is our example in all things. His love abiding in the heart will be expressed in words that will benefit the hearers, and win souls to him. When the truth in its practical character is urged upon the people because you love them, souls will be convicted, for the Holy Spirit will convict of the truth.’ *General Conference Bulletin*, February 25, 1895.

## ‘Exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine’

### **7. What counsel did Paul give Timothy to help him in his ministry? 2 Timothy 4:2.**

NOTE: ‘If ministers who preach the gospel would do their duty, and would also be ensamples to the flock of God, their voices would be lifted up like a trumpet to show the people their transgressions and the house of Israel their sins. Ministers who exhort sinners to be converted should distinctly define what sin is and what conversion from sin is. Sin is the transgression of the law. The convicted sinner must exercise repentance toward God for the transgression of His law, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.’ *Confrontation*, page 75.

‘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. My ministering brethren, as you stand before the people, speak of those things that are essential, those things that will instruct. Teach the great practical truths that must be brought into the life. Teach the saving power of Jesus, “in whom we have redemption, . . . even the forgiveness of sins.” Strive to make your hearers comprehend the power of truth.’ *Gospel Workers*, page 147.

### **8. How is the faithful witness for God to combat false teaching? Titus 1:9.**

NOTE: ‘There are persons that are ready to catch at something strange, which they can bring as a surprise upon the people, to awaken their fears and begin a strange work that will spoil the good work that has been begun right. Those who are handling the great, grand, ennobling truths of the Word must ever reveal a spirit deep, earnest, fervent, but calm, and full of sound sense, that the mouths of gainsayers may be stopped. Encourage not a wave of fanaticism that will spoil a work begun as it should be, and carried on with the Word of God in your hands. Those engaged in the work... are not to suppose that some strange thing must be brought in and mingled with their labour, as evidence of the supernatural character of the work, setting on it the seal that it is of God. Their work is to speak to the people in humble, trustful faith, asking counsel of God, not following their own ideas, not trusting to the bringing out of fanciful things to arouse the senses of those who are dead in trespasses and sins. The system of truth found in the Word of God is capable of making impressions such as the great Teacher desires to have made upon the intellect.’ *Evangelism*, page 136.

## **‘Let us go again’**

### **9. How did Paul express his continued care for those whom he had brought to Christ? Acts 15:36.**

NOTE: ‘It is poor policy to leave a few here and there, unfed and uncared for, for devouring wolves, or to become targets for the enemy to open fire upon. I have been shown that there has been much of such work done among us as a people. Promising fields have been spoiled for future effort by striking in prematurely without counting the cost, and leaving the work half done. Because there has been a course of lectures given, [they] then stop the work, rush into a new field to half do the work there, and these poor souls who have but a slight knowledge of the truth are left without proper measures being taken to confirm and establish them in the faith and educate them like well-drilled soldiers how to meet the enemy’s attacks and vanquish him. *Evangelism*, page 340.

### **10. What example are we given of Paul and Barnabas confirming and strengthening those brought to the truth? Acts 14:21-22.**

NOTE: ‘Neither Paul nor Barnabas was content to take up work elsewhere without confirming the faith of the converts whom they had been compelled to leave alone for a time in the places where they had recently laboured. And so, undaunted by danger, “they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith.” Many had accepted the glad tidings of the gospel and had thus exposed themselves to reproach and opposition. These the apostles sought to establish in the faith in order that the work done might abide.’ *Acts of the Apostles*, page 185.

‘Jesus, our great High Priest, is touched with the feeling of our infirmities, and He works to bind up those who are wounded and bruised by the enemy. He does not leave the tempted soul to the mercy of the destroyer. The children of God are to work in Christ’s lines. They are to seek the wandering, straying sheep of His pasture. Those who claim to love God are to form a guard around perishing souls to save them from ruin. Instead of saying, “Let the erring go, we will not try to help them,” we are to strengthen the hands which hang down, and confirm the feeble knees. We shall never form characters after the divine similitude if we cherish the meagre, stunted piety that looks out only for our individual selves, and does not lead us to do earnest, positive work for the salvation of others. We are to let our light shine in such a way as to guide souls into the haven of safety, that they may find refuge in Christ.’ *Signs of the Times*, August 20, 1896.

## **‘I will be with thy mouth’**

### **11. What encouraging promise did the Lord give to Moses? Exodus 4:12-15.**

NOTE: ‘As Christ sent forth His disciples, so today He sends forth the members of His church. The same power that the apostles had is for them. If they will make God their strength, He will work with them, and they shall not labour in vain. Let them realise that the work in which they are engaged is one upon which the Lord has placed His signet. God said to Jeremiah, “Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee.” Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched His servant’s mouth, saying, “Behold, I have put My words in thy mouth.” Jeremiah 1:7-9. And He bids us go forth to speak the words He gives us, feeling His holy touch upon our lips.’ *Acts of the Apostles*, page 599.

### **12. What was the effect of this promise on the ministry of the apostles? Acts 4:33.**

NOTE: ‘They could not be restrained or intimidated by threatenings. The Lord spoke through them, and as they went from place to place, the poor had the gospel preached to them, and miracles of divine grace were wrought. So mightily can God work when men give themselves up to the control of His Spirit.’ *Acts of the Apostles*, page 49.

‘The Spirit of Christ animated the whole congregation; for they had found the pearl of great price. These scenes are to be repeated, and with greater power. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost was the former rain, but the latter rain will be more abundant. The Spirit awaits our demand and reception. Christ is again to be revealed in His fullness by the Holy Spirit’s power.’ *Christ’s Object Lessons*, page 120.

## **Lesson 6: ‘They went forth and preached every where’**

MEMORY VERSE: ‘Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word.’ Acts 8:4.

STUDY HELP: *Ministry of Healing*, pages 102-107.

### **Introduction**

‘God’s servants should be minutemen, ever ready to move as fast as His providence opens the way. Any delay on their part gives time for Satan to work to defeat them. His commandment-keeping people are to stand constantly in readiness for service. Those who are really representatives of Christ are working for the good of others. They delight in advancing the cause of God both at home and abroad. They are seen and heard, and their influence is felt.’ *Christian Service*, page 244.

## **‘We cannot but speak’**

### **1. How did Peter and John express their necessity to witness for Christ? Acts 4:20.**

NOTE: ‘Christ’s living agents, those who have tasted and found that the Lord is good, should reveal Him in words, in actions, in cheerfulness, in patience, in long-suffering, in hopefulness, in joyousness. “Blessed are your eyes, for they see” the marvellous love of God; “and your ears, for they hear” the precious words of Him who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. And we must see to some purpose, that we may present the glad tidings, show that it is glad tidings. Put off the spirit of heaviness. Speak of the mercy, the goodness, and the love of Jesus; for “we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”’ *Signs of the Times*, December 7, 1891.

### **2. After being threatened by the authorities, what prayer did the early Christians pray and how was it answered? Acts 4:29-31.**

NOTE: ‘The disciples prayed that greater strength might be imparted to them in the work of the ministry; for they saw that they would meet the same determined opposition that Christ had encountered when upon the earth. While their united prayers were ascending in faith to heaven, the answer came. The place where they were assembled was shaken, and they were endowed anew with the Holy Spirit. Their hearts filled with courage, they again went forth to proclaim the word of God in Jerusalem. “With great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus,” and God marvellously blessed their efforts.’ *Acts of the Apostles*, page 67.

## **‘Full of faith and of the Holy Spirit’**

### **3. What qualification did Stephen have for his work for Christ? Acts 6:5.**

NOTE: ‘What is needed now are men chosen of God and precious who will go forth full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, to proclaim the gospel, calling upon God for His grace to aid them in their work. The Lord has warned us that a large number of believers should not congregate in one place. Let men go out in the name of the Lord, humble and devoted, as colporteurs and canvassers to sell the books that bring light to the souls of those who know not the truth. When this is done, there will be seen striking instances of conversion.’ *Bible Training School*, April 1, 1906.

### **4. When Stephen was called upon to testify to his faith, what did his hearers see in his face? Acts 6:15.**

NOTE: ‘The Saviour of the world was revealed to him as looking down from Heaven upon him with the deepest interest; and the glorious light of Christ’s countenance shone upon Stephen with such brightness that even his enemies saw his face shine like the face of an angel.’ *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, May 3, 1881

‘The Bible Christian is a man of principle, sober, watchful, prayerful, a man full of faith and good works. He is not seeking the prominence of the hill, but is firm, established, strengthened, settled. It requires a sound conscience to do the works of Christ. It requires consistent and holy living. By much prayer, watching unto prayer, self-denial, the true Christian lifts the cross of Christ and follows in His footsteps. He walks with God, not with Satan. A Christian is the world’s light, and the only Bible that many... can read.’ *Manuscript Releases Volume 18*, page 279.

## **‘And preached Christ unto them’**

### **5. During the persecution that followed Stephen’s death, what did his colleague Philip do? Acts 8:5.**

NOTE: ‘Philip left Jerusalem, and preached a risen Redeemer in Samaria. Many believed, and received Christian baptism. Philip’s preaching was marked with so great success, and so many were gathered into the fold of Christ, that he finally sent to Jerusalem for help. In answer to this petition, the church sent Peter and John to his assistance, who laboured in Samaria with wonderful results. They now perceived the meaning of Christ, when he said, “Ye shall be witnesses unto me, both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”’ *Spirit of Prophecy Volume 3*, page 301.

### **6. What further work was Philip called to do? Acts 8:26-38.**

NOTE: ‘This Ethiopian represented a large class who need to be taught by such missionaries as Philip, men who will hear the voice of God and go where He sends them. There are many who are reading the Scriptures who cannot understand their true import. All over the world men and women are looking wistfully to heaven. Prayers and tears and inquiries go up from souls longing for light, for grace, for the Holy Spirit. Many are on the verge of the kingdom, waiting only to be gathered in. An angel guided Philip to the one who was seeking for light and who was ready to receive the gospel, and today angels will guide the footsteps of those workers who will allow the Holy Spirit to sanctify their tongues and refine and ennoble their hearts. The angel sent to Philip could himself have done the work for the Ethiopian, but this is not God’s way of working. It is His plan that men are to work for their fellow men.’ *Acts of the Apostles*, page 109.

## **‘By two and two’**

### **7. How did the Lord send out His disciples to work for Him? Mark 6:7.**

NOTE: ‘None was sent forth alone, but brother was associated with brother, friend with friend. Thus they could help and encourage each other, counselling and praying together, each one’s strength supplementing the other’s weakness. In the same manner He afterward sent forth the seventy. It was the Saviour’s purpose that the messengers of the gospel should be associated in this way. In our own time evangelistic work would be far more successful if this example were more closely followed.’ *Desire of Ages*, page 350.

**8. How did the Lord teach His disciples to live by faith? Mark 6:8-9.**

NOTE: 'If our hearts are touched by His love, the question of compensation will not be uppermost in our minds. We shall rejoice to be co-workers with Christ, and we shall not fear to trust His care. If we make God our strength, we shall have clear perceptions of duty, and unselfish aspirations; our life will be actuated by a noble purpose, which will raise us above sordid motives.' *Gospel Workers*, page 114.

**'At midnight Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises'**

**9. What was the initial outcome of Paul and Silas's ministry in Philippi? Acts 16:22-24.**

NOTE: "'Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted,'" Christ continued, "and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for My name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another." All this the Christians suffered. Fathers and mothers betrayed their children; children betrayed their parents; friends delivered their friends to the Sanhedrin. Until he himself was converted, Saul of Tarsus was exceedingly bitter against all who believed in Christ. He then began to preach Christ and him crucified, and the enemies of the gospel caused him and Silas to be whipped, and thrown into prison.' *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, December 20, 1898.

**10. What was the reaction of the two imprisoned witnesses to their plight? Acts 16:25.**

'It is an exalted privilege to be connected with Jesus. In every condition of trial, we may have the consolation of His presence. We may live in the very atmosphere of heaven. Our enemies may thrust us into prison, but prison walls cannot cut off the communication between Christ and our souls. One who sees our every weakness, who is acquainted with every trial, is above all earthly powers; and angels can come to us in lonely cells, bringing light and peace from heaven. The prison will be as a palace, for the rich in faith dwell there; and the gloomy walls will be lighted up with heavenly light, as when Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises at midnight in the Philippian dungeon. Bunyan was confined in Bedford jail; and thence issued a light that has illuminated the pathway to the celestial city.' *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, April 15, 1884.

**'They took him unto them'**

**11. What lessons can we learn from the ministry of Aquila and Priscilla? Acts 18:2-3, 25-26, Romans 16:3-4, 1 Corinthians 16:19.**

NOTE: 'Aquila and Priscilla were not called to give their whole time to the ministry of the gospel, yet these humble labourers were used by God to show Apollos the way of truth more perfectly. The Lord employs various instrumentalities for the accomplishment of His purpose, and while some with special talents are chosen to devote all their energies to the work of teaching and preaching the gospel, many others, upon whom human hands have never been laid in ordination, are called to act an important part in soul-saving.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 355.

**12. What other examples of humble helpers does the Bible reveal? Romans 16:1-2, 1 Corinthians 16:15, Colossians 4:12-13, 2 Timothy 4:11.**

NOTE: 'The Lord designs that we shall care for the interests of our brethren and sisters. The apostle Paul has given an illustration of this... Phebe entertained the apostle, and she was in a marked manner an entertainer of strangers who needed care. Her example should be followed by the churches of today.' *Testimonies Volume 6*, page 343.  
'That which will make our churches vigorous and successful in their efforts, is not bustle, but quiet, humble work; not parade and bombast, but patient, prayerful, persevering effort.' *Testimonies, volume 5*, page 130.

**Lesson 7: 'That I might by all means save some'**

MEMORY VERSE: 'Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness.' Romans 12: 6-8.

STUDY HELP: *Christian Service*, pages 125-131.

**Introduction**

'Those who have been most successful in soul-winning were men and women who did not pride themselves on their ability, but who in humility and faith sought to help those about them. Jesus did this very work. He came close to those whom He desired to reach. How often, with a few gathered about Him, He gave His lessons, and one by one the passers-by paused to listen, until a great multitude heard with wonder and awe the words of the heaven-sent Teacher.' *Gospel Workers*, page 194.

**'He taught them many things by parables'**

**1. What means did the Lord use for explaining principles of the kingdom of God? Matthew 6:26, 28-30, 7:15-20.**

NOTE: 'The book of nature is a great lesson book, which in connection with the Scriptures we are to use in teaching others of His character, and guiding lost sheep back to the fold of God. As the works of God are studied, the Holy Spirit flashes conviction into the mind. It is not the conviction that logical reasoning produces; but unless the mind has become too dark to know God, the eye too dim to see Him, the ear too dull to hear His voice, a deeper meaning is grasped, and the sublime, spiritual truths of the written word are impressed on the heart. In these lessons direct from nature, there is a simplicity and purity that makes them of the highest value. All need the teaching to be derived from this source. In itself the beauty of nature leads the soul away from sin and worldly attractions, and toward purity, peace, and God.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 24.

**2. From what other sources did Christ draw illustrations to teach the Gospel? Matthew 13:33, Luke 15:8-10, Matthew 25: 1-13, Luke 11:5-10, Matthew 13:47-50.**

NOTE: 'The birds of the air, the lilies of the field, the sower and the seed, the shepherd and the sheep, with these Christ illustrated immortal truth. He drew illustrations also from the events of life, facts of experience familiar to the hearers, the leaven, the hid treasure, the pearl, the fishing net, the lost coin, the prodigal son, the houses on the rock and the sand. In His lessons there was something to interest every mind, to appeal to every heart.' *Education*, page 102.

**'I will utter things which have been kept secret'**

**3. How did Paul teach lessons of eternal significance? Ephesians 6:11-17, 1 Corinthians 9:24-27.**

NOTE: 'By connecting His teaching with the scenes of life, experience, or nature, [Christ] secured their attention and impressed their hearts. Afterward, as they looked upon the objects that illustrated His lessons, they recalled the words of the divine Teacher. To minds that were open to the Holy Spirit, the significance of the Saviour's teaching unfolded more and more. Mysteries grew clear, and that which had been hard to grasp became evident. Jesus sought an avenue to every heart. By using a variety of illustrations, He not only presented truth in its different phases, but appealed to the different hearers. Their interest was aroused by figures drawn from the surroundings of their daily life. None who listened to the Saviour could feel that they were neglected or forgotten. The humblest, the most sinful, heard in His teaching a voice that spoke to them in sympathy and tenderness.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 21.

**4. What other examples of this method can be found in the writings of the apostles? James 1:6, 23-24, 3:3-5, 11, 5:7, Jude 12.**

NOTE: 'The teachings of Jesus unfold... modes of reaching the human heart, and impressing upon it important lessons of truth and right. Jesus used the familiar objects of nature to illustrate and intensify His meaning. He drew lessons from every-day life, the occupations of men, and their dealing with one another.' *Signs of the Times*, December 20, 1877.

'In His teaching; the unknown was illustrated by the known. Jesus taught by illustrations and parables drawn from nature and from the familiar events of every-day life. The inspired record says, "All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake He not unto them; that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world." Matt. 13:34, 35. In this way He associated natural things with spiritual, linking the things of nature and the life-experience of His hearers with the sublime, spiritual truths of the written word. And His lessons were repeated whenever their eyes rested on the objects which had been associated with eternal truth.' *Special Testimonies on Education*, page 67.

**'Written for our learning'**

**5. Why were the stories contained in the Bible recorded? 1 Corinthians 10:6, 11.**

NOTE: '[Jeremiah 36] is a record of historical events that will be repeated. Let all who desire to receive warning, read carefully. In the incidents of the closing scenes of the Lord's ministry is embraced much that very many claiming to be Bible Christians do not study. They do not see that in their experience they are passing over the very same ground. They do not seem to care to learn lessons from the history of ancient Israel that have been written for their admonition. As God's church, we cannot tread the same path of unbelief as did ancient Israel, refusing to be admonished and discarding the messages He had given, and escape the sure result of our course of action.' *Sermons & Talks Volume 2*, page 331.

**6. What blessings may be received from studying the stories of the Bible? Romans 15:4.**

NOTE: 'The Bible is designed of God to be the book by which the understanding may be disciplined, the soul guided and directed. To live in the world and yet to be not of the world, is a problem that many professed Christians have never worked out in their practical life. Enlargement of mind will come to a nation only as men return to their allegiance to God. The world is flooded with books on general information, and men apply their minds in searching uninspired histories; but they neglect the most wonderful book that can give them the most correct ideas and ample understanding.' *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, February 25, 1896.

**'Thy saving health among all nations'**

**7. What link between spiritual and physical health does the Bible reveal? Proverbs 3:7-8.**

NOTE: 'Medical missionary work is in no case to be divorced from the gospel ministry. The Lord has specified that the two shall be as closely connected as the arm is with the body. Without this union neither part of the work is complete. The medical missionary work is the gospel in illustration.' *Testimonies Volume 6*, pages 240, 241.

**8. What principle of health is also a fundamental principle of the Gospel? 1 Corinthians 9:25-27.**

NOTE: 'The requirements of God must be brought home to the conscience. Men and women must be awakened to the duty of self-mastery, the need of purity, freedom from every depraving appetite and defiling habit. They need to be impressed with the fact that all their powers of mind and body are the gift of God, and are to be preserved in the best possible condition for His service. In that ancient ritual which was the gospel in symbol, no blemished offering could be brought to God's altar. The sacrifice that was to represent Christ must be spotless. The word of God points to this as an illustration of what His children are to be "a living sacrifice," "holy and without blemish," "well-pleasing to God." Romans 12:1, R.V., margin; Ephesians 5:27.' *Ministry of Healing*, page 130.

**'A more sure word of prophecy'**

**9. What means has God given as a light to guide our way? 2 Peter 1:19.**

NOTE: 'Every child of God should be intelligent in the Scriptures, and able, by tracing the fulfilment of prophecy, to show our position in this world's history... The way is not left in uncertainty, as though we were standing where four roads met, not knowing which one to take. The truth is our guide; it is to us like a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.' *Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, page 23.

'God gave to men the sure word of prophecy; angels and even Christ Himself came to make known to Daniel and John the things that must shortly come to pass. Those important matters that concern our salvation were not left involved in mystery. They were not revealed in such a way as to perplex and mislead the honest seeker after truth. Said the Lord by the prophet Habakkuk: "Write the vision, and make it plain, . . . that he may run that readeth it." Habakkuk 2:2. The word of God is plain to all who study it with a prayerful heart. Every truly honest soul will come to the light of truth. "Light is sown for the righteous." Psalm 97:11. And no church can advance in holiness unless its members are earnestly seeking for truth as for hid treasure.' *Great Controversy*, page 521.

**10. What precious promise has God made regarding prophecy? Daniel 2:22, Amos 3:7.**

NOTE: 'The followers of Christ are to combine in a strong effort to call the attention of the world to the fast-fulfilling prophecies of the Word of God. The prophecies which the great I AM has given in His Word, uniting link after link in the chain of events, from eternity in the past to eternity in the future, tell us where we are today in the procession of the ages, and what may be expected in the time to come. All that prophecy has foretold as coming to pass, until the present time, has been traced on the pages of history, and we may be assured that all which is yet to come will be fulfilled in its order. Today the signs of the times declare that we are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. Everything in our world is in agitation. Before our eyes is fulfilling the Saviour's prophecy of the events to precede His coming.' *Evangelism*, pages 193-194.

**'This is life eternal'**

**11. Whatever methods we may use, what must be the focus of our witness? John 17:3.**

NOTE: 'We are in the antitypical day of atonement, and not only are we to humble our hearts before God and confess our sins, but we are, by all our educating talent, to seek to instruct those with whom we are brought in contact, and to bring them by precept and example to know God and Jesus Christ whom He hath sent.' *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, page 272.

**12. What is the most important thing of all? Philippians 3:8-9.**

NOTE: 'This I do know, that our churches are dying for the want of teaching on the subject of righteousness by faith in Christ, and on kindred truths.' *Gospel Workers*, page 301.

'Through faith in Christ, every deficiency of character may be supplied, every defilement cleansed, every fault corrected, every excellence developed. 'Ye are complete in Him.' Prayer and faith are closely allied, and they need to be studied together. In the prayer of faith there is a divine science; it is a science that every one who would make his life work a success must understand. Christ says, 'What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.' He makes it plain that our asking must be according to God's will; we must ask for the things that He has promised, and whatever we receive must be used in doing His will. The conditions met, the promise is unequivocal. For the pardon of sin, for the Holy Spirit, for a Christlike temper, for wisdom and strength to do His work, for any gift He has promised, we may ask; then we are to believe that we receive, and return thanks to God that we have received.' *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, November 11, 1915

Believing in Jesus as his personal Saviour, accepting of His righteousness by faith, the sinner becomes a partaker of the divine nature, and escapes the corruption that is in the world through lust. It is through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that the Christian is enabled to resist temptation and to work righteousness. Without the divine nature, without the influence of the Spirit of God, man cannot work out his own salvation; for God must work in him to will and to do of His good pleasure. Christ has said, "Without Me ye can do nothing." *Messenger*, April 26, 1893.

**Lesson 8: 'Go out into the highways and hedges'**

MEMORY VERSE: 'How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!' Isaiah 52:7.

STUDY HELP: *Christian Service*, pages 113-120.

## Introduction

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### 'Go home and tell'

#### 1. What examples are we given of personal testimony in witnessing? John 1:40-41, 43-46.

NOTE: 'These examples should teach us the importance of personal effort, of making direct appeals to our kindred, friends, and neighbours. There are those who for a lifetime have professed to be acquainted with Christ, yet who have never made a personal effort to bring even one soul to the Saviour. They leave all the work for the minister. He may be well qualified for his calling, but he cannot do that which God has left for the members of the church.' *Desire of Ages*, page 141.

#### 2. What example did Christ show of witnessing to an individual? John 3: 1-17.

NOTE: 'In manifesting an unselfish interest in others, in doing those things that will please the Saviour, you will grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour... What can I do that can be counted as good service to Him who has died that I might live? The Master gives this answer, "Seek and save that which is lost." You are to work in Christ's way, with patience, with interest, with determination that you will not feel discouraged as you work for time and eternity, believing that Jesus can do much through human ability consecrated to His service. What higher privilege could we desire than to be labourers together with God, making the most of our entrusted powers, that this very work may be accomplished?' *Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, page 69.

### 'My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me'

#### 3. How did Christ manifest His desire for the salvation of others? John 4: 6-26

NOTE: 'Christ neglected no opportunity of proclaiming the gospel of salvation. Listen to His wonderful words to that one woman of Samaria. He was sitting by Jacob's well, as the woman came to draw water. To her surprise He asked a favour of her. "Give Me to drink," He said. He wanted a cool draft, and He wished also to open the way whereby He might give to her the water of life... How much interest Christ manifested in this one woman! How earnest and eloquent were His words! When the woman heard them, she left her waterpot, and went into the city, saying to her friends, "Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?"' *Ministry of Healing*, pages 27-28.

#### 4. What examples of personal ministry does Christ suggest? Matthew 25:34-36, Isaiah 58:6-7.

NOTE: 'Jesus saw in every soul one to whom must be given the call to His kingdom. He reached the hearts of the people by going among them as one who desired their good. He sought them in the public streets, in private houses, on the boats, in the synagogue, by the shores of the lake, and at the marriage feast. He met them at their daily vocations, and manifested an interest in their secular affairs. He carried His instruction into the household, bringing families in their own homes under the influence of His divine presence. His strong personal sympathy helped to win hearts.' *Desire of Ages*, page 151.

### 'Arise and go'

#### 5. What response should the faithful servant make to the Lord's guidance? Acts 8:26-27, 13:2-3, 16:6-10.

NOTE: 'While Philip was still in Samaria, he was directed by a heavenly messenger to "go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza. . . . And he arose and went." He did not question the call, nor did he hesitate to obey; for he had learned the lesson of conformity to God's will.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 107.

#### 6. What similar response did Isaiah make to the Lord's call to service? Isaiah 6: 8.

NOTE: 'Some look always at the objectionable and discouraging features, and therefore discouragement overtakes them. They forget that the heavenly universe is waiting to make them agencies of blessing to the world; and that the Lord Jesus is a never-failing storehouse from which human beings may draw strength and courage. There is no need for despondency and apprehension. The time will never come when the shadow of Satan will not be cast athwart our pathway. Thus the enemy seeks to hide the light shining from the Sun of Righteousness. But our faith should pierce this shadow. God calls for cheerful co-workers, who refuse to become discouraged and disheartened by opposing agencies. The Lord is leading us, and we may go forward courageously, assured that He will be with us.' *Gospel Workers*, 265-266.

### 'Preaching the gospel, and healing'

#### 7. What are we told about the ministry of Jesus? Matthew 4:23, 9:35.

NOTE: 'During His ministry Jesus devoted more time to healing the sick than to preaching... The followers of Christ are to labour as He did. We are to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and comfort the suffering and afflicted. We are to minister to the despairing, and inspire hope in the hopeless. And to us also the promise will be fulfilled, "Thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy rearward." Isaiah 58:8. The love of Christ, manifested in unselfish ministry, will be more effective in reforming the evildoer than will the sword or the court of justice. These are necessary to strike terror to the lawbreaker, but the loving missionary can do more than this.' *Desire of Ages*, page 350.

#### **8. How did the disciples follow Christ's example? Luke 9:6.**

NOTE: 'There is to be no separation in His work. Christ sent out the twelve apostles, and afterward the seventy disciples, to preach the gospel and to heal the sick. "As ye go," He said, "preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give." Matthew 10:7, 8. And as they went forth preaching the kingdom of God, power was given them to heal the sick and cast out evil spirits. In God's work, teaching and healing are never to be separated.' *Testimonies Volume 8*, page 165.

'Medical missionary work brings to humanity the gospel of release from suffering. It is the pioneer work of the gospel. It is the gospel practised, the compassion of Christ revealed. Of this work there is great need, and the world is open for it. God grant that the importance of medical missionary work shall be understood, and that new fields may be immediately entered.' *Medical Ministry*, page 239.

'God calls for thousands to work for Him, not by preaching to those who know the truth for this time, but by warning those who have never heard the last message of mercy. Work with a heart filled with an earnest longing for souls. Do medical missionary work. Thus you will gain access to the hearts of people, and the way will be prepared for a more decided proclamation of the truth.' *Counsels on Health*, page 499.

'I wish to tell you that soon there will be no work done in ministerial lines but medical missionary work.' *Evangelism*, page 523.

### **'Thy sins be forgiven thee'**

#### **9. How did Christ minister to the physical and spiritual needs of one who came to Him? Matthew 9:2-7.**

NOTE: 'When the poor, suffering paralytic was brought to the Saviour, the urgency of the case seemed not to admit of a moment's delay, for already dissolution was doing its work upon the body... Our Saviour saw and understood his condition perfectly. He also knew that this wretched man had a sickness of the soul far more aggravating than bodily suffering. He knew that the greatest burden he had borne for months was on account of sins. The crowd of people waited with almost breathless silence to see how Christ would treat this case, apparently so hopeless, and were astonished to hear the words which fell from His lips: "Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee." These were the most precious words that could fall upon the ear of that sick sufferer, for the burden of sin had lain so heavily upon him that he could not find the least relief. Christ lifts the burden that so heavily oppressed him: "Be of good cheer;" I, your Saviour, came to forgive sins. How quickly the pallid countenance of the sufferer changes! Hope takes the place of dark despair, and peace and joy take the place of distressing doubt and stolid gloom. The mind being restored to peace and happiness, the suffering body can now be reached.' *Testimonies Volume 3*, pages 168-169.

#### **10. How does James echo the same unity of physical and spiritual healing? James 5:15.**

NOTE: 'With all our treatments given to the sick, simple fervent prayer should be offered for the blessing of healing. We are to point the sick to the compassionate Saviour, and His power to forgive and to heal. Through His gracious providence they may be restored. Point the sufferers to their Advocate in the heavenly courts. Tell them that Christ will heal the sick, if they will repent and cease to transgress the laws of God. There is a Saviour who will reveal Himself... to save those who will submit themselves to Him. The suffering ones can unite with you in prayer, confessing their sin, and receiving pardon.' *Manuscript Releases Volume 8*, pages 267-268.

'Now in regard to that which we can do for ourselves. There is a point that requires careful, thoughtful consideration. I must become acquainted with myself, I must be a learner always as to how to take care of this building, the body God has given me, that I may preserve it in the very best condition of health. I must eat those things which will be for my very best good physically, and I must take special care to have my clothing such as will conduce to a healthful circulation of the blood. I must not deprive myself of exercise and air. I must get all the sunlight that it is possible for me to obtain. I must have wisdom to be a faithful guardian of my body.' *Paulson Collection*, page 28.

### **'Questions and strifes of words'**

#### **11. What counsel are we given about getting into arguments? 2 Timothy 2:23-24, Romans 14: 1, 1 Timothy 1:4.**

NOTE: 'The Holy Spirit does not work with men who love to be sharp and critical. This spirit has been cherished in meeting debaters, and some have formed the habit of squaring [off] for combat. God is dishonoured in this. Keep back the sharp thrusts; do not learn in Satan's school his methods of warfare. The Holy Spirit does not inspire the words of censure. A time of trouble is before us, and every honest soul who has not had the light of truth will then take a stand for Christ. Those who believe the truth are to be newly converted every day. Then they will be vessels unto honour. Do not repeat the words of your opponents, or enter into controversy with them. You meet not merely the men, but Satan and his angels. Christ did not bring against Satan a railing accusation concerning the body of Moses. If the world's Redeemer, who understood the crooked, deceptive arts of Satan, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but in holiness and humility said, "The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan," is it not wise for His servants to follow His example?' *The Upward Look*, page 270.

**12. What example does the Bible give of contention among God's servants? Acts 15:39. (See Philippians 1:16, Proverbs 13:10, 17:14, 18:16.)**

NOTE: 'Satan can skilfully play the game of life with many souls, and he acts in a most underhanded, deceptive manner to spoil the faith of the people of God and to discourage them. . . . He works today as he worked in heaven, to divide the people of God in the very last stage of this earth's history. He seeks to create dissension, and to arouse contention and discussion, and to remove if possible the old landmarks of truth committed to God's people. He tries to make it appear as if the Lord contradicts Himself.' *Evangelism*, page 359.

'Contention in the church is always attended with a dearth of spirituality. The Lord cannot be glorified by a contentious church. "All ye are brethren." Cultivate the grace of God. Lift up your hearts in prayer to Him for His keeping power. Avoid all contention among yourselves. Use every means within your reach to restrain the unsanctified words that are ever upon the tongue, words that would cast a reflection upon others. Be true to one another. We are bought with a price; therefore in word and act we should glorify God.' *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, January 6, 1903.

**13. How did Jesus deal with contentious questions? John 4:20-24, Matthew 22:17-22, 23-33.**

NOTE: 'We may answer foolish questions by saying, Wait, and we shall all know what is essential for us to know. Our salvation does not depend on side issues.' *Letter 58, 1900*.

## **Lesson 9: 'The Lord added to the church'**

MEMORY VERSE: 'And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.' Hebrews 10:24-25.

STUDY HELP: *Acts of the Apostles*, pages 9-13.

### **Introduction**

'The church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organised for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. From the beginning it has been God's plan that through His church shall be reflected to the world His fullness and His sufficiency. The members of the church, those whom He has called out of darkness into His marvellous light, are to show forth His glory. The church is the repository of the riches of the grace of Christ; and through the church will eventually be made manifest, even to "the principalities and powers in heavenly places," the final and full display of the love of God. Ephesians 3:10.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 9.

### **'Till we all come in the unity of the faith'**

**1. Before the Holy Spirit could be poured out upon the church, what change had to take place among them? Acts 2: 1. (Compare Acts 2:44-45, 4:32.)**

NOTE: 'These disciples prepared themselves for their work. Before the day of Pentecost they met together, and put away all differences. They were of one accord. They believed Christ's promise that the blessing would be given, and they prayed in faith. They did not ask for a blessing for themselves merely; they were weighted with the burden for the salvation of souls. The gospel was to be carried to the uttermost parts of the earth, and they claimed the endowment of power that Christ had promised. Then it was that the Holy Spirit was poured out, and thousands were converted in a day.' *Desire of Ages*, page 827.

**2. What was Paul's desire for the members of the church? Philippians 2:1-5, 1 Corinthians 1:10.**

NOTE: 'Notice that it was after the disciples had come into perfect unity, when they were no longer striving for the highest place, that the Spirit was poured out. They were of one accord. All differences had been put away. And the testimony borne of them after the Spirit had been given is the same. Mark the word: "The multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul." The Spirit of Him who died that sinners might live, animated the entire congregation of believers. The disciples did not ask for a blessing for themselves. They were weighted with the burden of souls. The gospel was to be carried to the ends of the earth, and they claimed the endowment of power that Christ had promised. Then it was that the Holy Spirit was poured out, and thousands were converted in a day. When we have entire, wholehearted consecration to the service of Christ, God will recognise the fact by an outpouring of His Spirit without measure; but this will not be while the largest portion of the church are not labourers together with God.' *Evangelism*, pages 698-699.

### **'All that believed were together'**

**3. How does Paul describe the blessing he and others received from fellowship with believers? Romans 15:32, 2 Corinthians 7:13, Philippians 1:25-26.**

NOTE: 'Some may be called to go twenty, fifty, or one hundred miles from home to attend meeting with those of like precious faith; but they should not count it a sacrifice. If they call upon God to imbue them with the Holy Spirit, to give them words to speak that will be as meat in due season, they will find their own hearts refreshed, and they will be richly repaid. It has often

been found that where there was but a limited number, the most precious and profitable seasons have been enjoyed. In such meetings there had been ample time for conversation on religious topics, time for prayer together, time for rejoicing in the love of God. Every member of the church could learn the needs of his brethren and sisters, and by so doing could pray more intelligently for them. It is impossible to do this so fully at large camp-meetings or other gatherings, but at these smaller meetings we have found our hearts knit together in bonds of love and Christian fellowship.' *Gospel Workers*, 1892 ed, page 242.

#### **4. What blessing can reports of missionary activity bring to the church? Acts 15:3.**

NOTE: 'Let the overseers of the church devise plans whereby young men and women may be trained to put to use their entrusted talents. Let the older members of the church seek to do earnest, compassionate work for the children and youth. Let ministers put to use all their ingenuity in devising plans whereby the younger members of the church may be led to co-operate with them in missionary work. But do not imagine that you can arouse their interest merely by preaching a long sermon at the missionary meeting. Plan ways whereby a live interest may be kindled. Let all have a part to act. Train the young to do what is appointed them, and from week to week let them bring their reports to the missionary meeting, telling what they have experienced and through the grace of Christ what success has been theirs. If such reports were brought in by consecrated workers, the missionary meetings would not be dull and tedious. They would be full of interest, and there would be no lack in attendance.' *The Adventist Home*, page 487.

### **'We are labourers together with God'**

#### **5. How does Paul describe the importance of co-operation among the members of the church? Ephesians 4:16, Philippians 1:27.**

NOTE: 'There is variety in the human body, from the eyes to the feet. Yet all these members are dependent upon one another to make a perfect whole. In all the variety composing the human body, there is harmonious action in conformity to the laws controlling the being... By the figure of the vine and the branches Christ illustrated not only the relation that should exist between Him and His followers but also the union between every believer and his fellow-believer. The branches of the vine are related to each other; but they are not alike. Each has its own individuality, which cannot be merged into that of another, but all have a special connection with each other. The root that supplies nourishment to one branch supplies nourishment to every other branch. Each must depend alike on the vine for sustenance; all must be joined to the parent stalk. The life and growth and faithfulness of each depend alike on the parent vine. In obedience to the laws of nature, their common hold of the true vine makes them one; in their diversity there is unity... It is not the purpose of God to centralise in this way, bringing all the interests of one branch of the work under the management of a comparatively few men. In His great purpose of advancing the cause of truth in the earth, He designs that every part of His work shall blend with every other part. The workers are to draw together in the Spirit of Christ. In their diversity, they are to preserve unity... They are to work in sympathy and love, with entire confidence in one another... The law of co-operation is the great one work in reciprocal influence. There is to be no kingly power, one man controlling the whole. All influences are brought to bear one upon the other in revealing Christ and the cross to a world that is perishing in sin and iniquity.' *Manuscript Releases Volume 5*, pages 361-364.

#### **6. What examples are we given of co-operation among God's workers? Acts 8:5, 12, 14-15, 1 Corinthians 3:6-9.**

NOTE: 'God's servants are to work together, blending in kindly, courteous order, "in honour preferring one another." Romans 12:10. There is to be no unkind criticism, no pulling to pieces of another's work; and there are to be no separate parties. Every man to whom the Lord has entrusted a message has his specific work. Each one has an individuality of his own, which he is not to sink in that of any other man. Yet each is to work in harmony with his brethren. In their service God's workers are to be essentially one. No one is to set himself up as a criterion, speaking disrespectfully of his fellow workers or treating them as inferior. Under God each is to do his appointed work, respected, loved, and encouraged by the other labourers. Together they are to carry the work forward to completion.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 275.

### **'Many were gathered together praying'**

#### **7. What precious promises does Christ make to those who assemble together to pray? Matthew 18:19-20.**

NOTE: 'Here are the great cities in England and on the continent with their millions of inhabitants that have not yet heard the last warning message. How are these to be warned? If the people of God would only exercise faith, He would work in a wonderful manner to accomplish this work. Hear the words of Christ: "If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in heaven." Precious promise! Do we believe it? What marvellous results would appear if the united prayers of this company were to ascend to God in living faith! Jesus stands ready to take these petitions and present them to His Father, saying, "I know these persons by name. Send answers to their prayers; for I have graven their names on the palms of My hands."' *Evangelism*, page 414.

#### **8. What examples are we given of the power manifested when the church meets for prayer? Acts 4:31, 12:5-17, 16:25-26. (See also Romans 15:30, & 2 Corinthians 1:11.)**

NOTE: 'Those who are really representatives of Christ are working for the good of others. They delight in advancing the cause of God both at home and abroad. They are seen and heard, and their influence is felt, at the prayer meeting... They do not seek to exalt self, or to receive credit for doing a great work, but labour humbly, meekly, faithfully, doing small errands or doing a greater work, if necessary, because Christ has done so much for them.' *Christian Service*, page 244.

‘The Lord has promised that where two or three are met together in His name, there will He be in the midst. Those who meet together for prayer will receive an unction from the Holy One. There is great need of secret prayer, but there is also need that several Christians meet together and unite with earnestness their petitions to God. Seek every opportunity to go where prayer is wont to be made. Those who are really seeking for communion with God will be seen in the prayer meeting, faithful to do their duty, and earnest and anxious to reap all the benefits they can gain. They will improve every opportunity of placing themselves where they can receive the rays of light from heaven. We meet together to edify one another by an interchange of thoughts and feelings, to gather strength, and light, and courage by becoming acquainted with one another’s hopes and aspirations; and by our earnest, heartfelt prayers, offered up in faith, we receive refreshment and vigour from the Source of our strength. These meetings should be most precious seasons.’ *In Heavenly Places*, page 91.

### ‘The disciples were called Christians’

#### **9. What special name was given to the early church by the people of Antioch? Acts 11:26. (See also Acts 26:28.)**

NOTE: ‘The name was given them because Christ was the main theme of their preaching, their teaching, and their conversation. Continually they were recounting the incidents that had occurred during the days of His earthly ministry, when His disciples were blessed with His personal presence. Untiringly they dwelt upon His teachings and His miracles of healing. With quivering lips and tearful eyes they spoke of His agony in the garden, His betrayal, trial, and execution, the forbearance and humility with which He had endured the contumely and torture imposed upon Him by His enemies, and the Godlike pity with which He had prayed for those who persecuted Him. His resurrection and ascension, and His work in heaven as the Mediator for fallen man, were topics on which they rejoiced to dwell. Well might the heathen call them Christians, since they preached Christ and addressed their prayers to God through Him.’ *Acts of the Apostles*, page 157.

#### **10. What does it really mean to be a Christian? Colossians 3:12-17.**

NOTE: ‘God is love. Whoso dwelleth in God, dwelleth in love. All who have indeed become acquainted, by experimental knowledge, with the love and tender compassion of our Heavenly Father will impart light and joy wherever they may be. Their presence and influence will be to their associates as the fragrance of sweet flowers, because they are linked to God and heaven, and the purity and exalted loveliness of heaven are communicated through them to all that are brought within their influence. This constitutes them the light of the world, the salt of the earth’ *Messages to Young People*, page 363.

‘Those professed Christians who are constantly whining and complaining, and who seem to think happiness and a cheerful countenance a sin, have not the genuine article of religion.’ *Testimonies Volume 3*, page 334.

‘Do you ever see me gloomy, desponding, complaining? I have a faith which forbids this. It is a misconception of the true ideal of Christian character and Christian service that leads to these conclusions. It is the want of genuine religion that produces gloom, despondency, and sadness. Earnest Christians seek to imitate Jesus, for to be Christians is to be Christlike. It will be really essential to have correct conceptions of Christ’s life, Christ’s habits, that His principles may be reproduced in us who would be Christlike.’ *The Adventist Home*, page 431.

### ‘The assembling of yourselves together’

#### **11. What counsel does Paul give to those tempted to absent themselves from meetings of God’s people? Hebrews 10:25. (See also Malachi 3:16-17.)**

NOTE: ‘A book of remembrance is written of those who do not forsake the assembling of themselves together, but speak often one to another. The remnant are to overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony. Some expect to overcome alone by the blood of the Lamb, without making any special effort of their own. I saw that God has been merciful in giving us the power of speech. He has given us a tongue, and we are accountable to Him for its use. We should glorify God with our mouth, speaking in honour of the truth and of His unbounded mercy, and overcome by the word of our testimony through the blood of the Lamb. We should not come together to remain silent; those only are remembered of the Lord who assemble to speak of His honour and glory and tell of His power; upon such the blessing of God will rest, and they will be refreshed.’ *Early Writings*, page 114.

#### **12. What is the purpose of such meetings? Hebrews 10:24.**

NOTE: ‘Make earnest and determined efforts to be to every meeting possible. The divine direction is, Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together as the manner of some is, but so much the more as you see the day approaching. You are to be found among the little few who meet to worship God. The help of every soul who loves the truth is needed to bear testimony of the truth and act as missionaries of God, home missionaries to strengthen the things that remain, that are ready to die. Every jot of influence from Christ’s soldiers is now called for on the Lord’s side. Where two or three are assembled together in My name, there am I in the midst and that to bless. Then if we allow ourselves to be hindered by supposed excuses, the enemy will have a hand in creating circumstances so that we shall not be present where Jesus meets to bless His worshippers.’ *Manuscript Releases Volume 12*, page 105.

## **Lesson 10: ‘Through the power of the Holy Ghost’**

MEMORY VERSE: 'But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.' John 14: 26.

STUDY HELP: *Christian Service*, pages 250-256.

## Introduction

'There is no limit to the usefulness of those who put self to one side, make room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon their hearts, and live lives wholly consecrated to God, enduring the necessary discipline imposed by the Lord without complaining or fainting by the way. If they will not faint at the rebuke of the Lord, and become hardhearted and stubborn, the Lord will teach both old and young, hour by hour, day by day. He longs to reveal His salvation to the children of men; and if His chosen people will remove the obstructions, He will pour forth the waters of salvation in abundant streams through human channels.' *Counsels to Teachers, Parents & Students*, page 409.

### 'Ye shall receive power'

#### 1. What is needed by the church to prepare it for its mission? Acts 1:8, first part.

NOTE: 'The Saviour knew that no argument, however logical, would melt hard hearts or break through the crust of worldliness and selfishness. He knew that His disciples must receive the heavenly endowment; that the gospel would be effective only as it was proclaimed by hearts made warm and lips made eloquent by a living knowledge of Him who is the way, the truth, and the life. The work committed to the disciples would require great efficiency; for the tide of evil ran deep and strong against them. A vigilant, determined leader was in command of the forces of darkness, and the followers of Christ could battle for the right only through the help that God, by His Spirit, would give them.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 31.

#### 2. What work has been entrusted to the Holy Spirit? John 16:6-7.

NOTE: 'The Holy Spirit's part of the work has been defined by our Saviour. He says, "He will convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgement." The Holy Spirit is the convicter, and sanctifier as well. As none can repent of their sins until they are convicted, the necessity of uniting the Spirit with us in our labour to reach the fallen is apparent. All of our human abilities will be exercised in vain unless we are united to the heavenly intelligences. It is through the lack of a knowledge of the vitalising truth, and the corrupting influence of error, that men are fallen so low, sunk in the depths of sinful degradation. Angels and men are to work in harmony to teach the truth of God to those who are unlearned therein, that they may be set free from the bonds of sin. It is the truth alone that makes men free.' *Australasian Union Conference Record*, April 1, 1898.

#### 3. What kind of person is best fitted to do God's work? Acts 4:31, Luke 1:15, Acts 4:8, Acts 6:3, Acts 9:17, Acts 11:24.

NOTE: 'The grace of God takes men as they are, and works as an educator, using every principle on which an all-sided education depends. The steady influence of the grace of God trains the soul after Christ's methods, and every fierce passion, every defective trait of character, is worked upon the moulding influence of the Spirit of Christ, until the man has a new motive power, and becomes filled with the Holy Spirit of God, after the likeness of the divine similitude.' *Healthful Living*, page 300. 'God desires that the receivers of His grace shall be witnesses to its power. Those whose course has been most offensive to Him He freely accepts; when they repent, He imparts to them His divine Spirit, places them in the highest positions of trust, and sends them forth into the camp of the disloyal to proclaim His boundless mercy. Provision is made by God Himself for every soul that turns to the Lord, to receive His immediate co-operation. The Holy Spirit becomes His efficiency. It is the Spirit's power that we need. This can do more for us in one minute than we can ever accomplish by talking. Only to those who wait humbly upon God, who watch for His guidance and grace, is the Spirit given. The power of God awaits their demand and reception. This promised blessing, claimed by faith, brings all other blessings in its train.' *My Life Today*, page 47.

### 'Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us'

#### 4. After He ascended to heaven, what did Christ give His church to fit it for its work? Ephesians 4:8-13.

NOTE: 'To every person is committed some peculiar gift or talent which is to be used to advance the Redeemer's kingdom. All God's responsible agents, from the lowliest and most obscure to those in high positions in the church, are entrusted with the Lord's goods. It is not the minister alone who can work for the salvation of souls. Those who have the smallest gifts are not excused from using the very best gifts they have, and in so doing their talents will be increased. It is not safe to trifle with moral responsibilities nor to despise the day of small things. God's providence proportions His trusts according to the varied capabilities of the people. None should mourn because they cannot glorify God with talents which they never possessed and for which they are not responsible.' *Testimonies Volume 4*, page 618.

#### 5. What work of preparation is needed in order to receive spiritual gifts? Acts 1:14, Acts 2:1, Acts 5:32.

NOTE: 'Every individual must realise his own necessity. The heart must be emptied of every defilement and cleansed for the indwelling of the Spirit. It was by the confession and forsaking of sin, by earnest prayer and consecration of themselves to God, that the early disciples prepared for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. The same work, only in greater degree, must be done now. Then the human agent had only to ask for the blessing, and wait for the Lord to perfect the work concerning him. It is God who began the work, and He will finish His work, making man complete in Jesus Christ.' *Testimonies to Ministers*, page 507.

#### 6. Will all receive the same gift? 1 Corinthians 12:4, 8-11, 17-19, 29-30.

NOTE: It has become common in some Christian groups to claim that all should receive an experience called 'the baptism of the spirit'. The evidence for this experience is said to be 'the gift of tongues', that is, the practice of glossolalia.

'Before the final visitation of God's judgements upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children. At that time many will separate themselves from those churches in which the love of this world has supplanted love for God and His word. Many, both of ministers and people, will gladly accept those great truths which God has caused to be proclaimed at this time to prepare a people for the Lord's second coming. The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavour to prevent it by introducing a counterfeit. In those churches which he can bring under his deceptive power he will make it appear that God's special blessing is poured out; there will be manifest what is thought to be great religious interest. Multitudes will exult that God is working marvellously for them, when the work is that of another spirit. Under a religious guise, Satan will seek to extend his influence over the Christian world.' *Great Controversy*, page 464.

### **'He will guide you into all truth'**

#### **7. What precious promise of guidance did the Lord give? John 16:13.**

NOTE: 'Having brought conviction of sin, and presented before the mind the standard of righteousness, the Holy Spirit withdraws the affections from the things of this earth and fills the soul with a desire for holiness. "He will guide you into all truth" (John 16:13), the Saviour declared. If men are willing to be moulded, there will be brought about a sanctification of the whole being. The Spirit will take the things of God and stamp them on the soul. By His power the way of life will be made so plain that none need err therein.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 52.

#### **8. What other important work will the Holy Spirit do for God's people? John 14:26, 1 Corinthians 2:13.**

NOTE: 'At all times and in all places, in all sorrows and in all afflictions, when the outlook seems dark and the future perplexing, and we feel helpless and alone, the Comforter will be sent in answer to the prayer of faith. Circumstances may separate us from every earthly friend; but no circumstance, no distance, can separate us from the heavenly Comforter. Wherever we are, wherever we may go, He is always at our right hand to support, sustain, uphold, and cheer. The Comforter is called "the Spirit of truth." His work is to define and maintain the truth. He first dwells in the heart as the Spirit of truth, and thus He becomes the Comforter. There is comfort and peace in the truth, but no real peace or comfort can be found in falsehood. Through the Scriptures the Holy Spirit speaks to the mind, and impresses truth upon the heart.' *The Faith I Live By*, page 56.

### **'The Spirit suffered them not'**

#### **9. How did the Holy Spirit choose the appropriate people for God's work? Acts 13:1-4.**

NOTE: 'Both Paul and Barnabas had already received their commission from God Himself, and the ceremony of the laying on of hands added no new grace or virtual qualification. It was an acknowledged form of designation to an appointed office and a recognition of one's authority in that office. By it the seal of the church was set upon the work of God... When the divine commission given at that time was to be more fully carried out, the Holy Spirit, again bearing witness concerning Paul as a chosen vessel to bear the gospel to the Gentiles, laid upon the church the work of ordaining him and his fellow labourer.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 161-163.

#### **10. What other examples of the Holy Spirit's leadership of the church's work is given? Acts 16:6-10, Acts 8:26,39.**

NOTE: 'Christ has promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to His church, and the promise belongs to us as much as to the first disciples. But like every other promise, it is given on conditions. There are many who believe and profess to claim the Lord's promise; they talk about Christ and about the Holy Spirit, yet receive no benefit. They do not surrender the soul to be guided and controlled by the divine agencies. We cannot use the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is to use us. Through the Spirit God works in His people "to will and to do of His good pleasure." But many will not submit to this. They want to manage themselves. This is why they do not receive the heavenly gift. Only to those who wait humbly upon God, who watch for His guidance and grace, is the Spirit given. The power of God awaits their demand and reception. This promised blessing, claimed by faith, brings all other blessings in its train. It is given according to the riches of the grace of Christ, and He is ready to supply every soul according to the capacity to receive.' *Desire of Ages*, page 672.

### **'Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost'**

#### **11. How does the Holy Spirit communicate with the church? 2 Peter 1:21.**

NOTE: 'When the Bible is made the study book, with earnest supplication for the Spirit's guidance, and with a full surrender of the heart to be sanctified through the truth, all that Christ has promised will be accomplished. The result of such Bible study will be well-balanced minds. The understanding will be quickened, the sensibilities aroused. The conscience will become sensitive; the sympathies and sentiments will be purified; a better moral atmosphere will be created; and new power to resist temptation will be imparted. Teachers and students will become active and earnest in the work of God.' *Counsels to Teachers, Parents & Students*, page 357.

#### **12. What promises are we given that the Holy Spirit will provide the words needed by God's people? Mark 13:11, Luke 12: 11-12.**

NOTE: 'The servants of Christ are to prepare no set speech to present when brought to trial for their faith. Their preparation is to be made day by day, in treasuring up in their hearts the precious truths of God's Word, in feeding upon the teaching of Christ, and through prayer strengthening their faith; then, when brought into trial, the Holy Spirit will bring to their remembrance the very truths that will reach the hearts of those who shall come to hear. God will flash the knowledge obtained by diligent searching of the Scriptures, into their memory at the very time when it is needed.' *Maranatha*, page 255.

'Not for Himself, but for others, [Jesus] lived and thought and prayed. From hours spent with God He came forth morning by morning, to bring the light of heaven to men. Daily He received a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit. In the early hours of the new day the Lord awakened Him from His slumbers, and His soul and His lips were anointed with grace, that He might impart to others. His words were given Him fresh from the heavenly courts, words that He might speak in season to the weary and oppressed. "The Lord God hath given Me," He said, "the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: He wakeneth morning by morning, He wakeneth Mine ear to hear as the learned." Isa. 50:4.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 139.

## **Lesson 11: 'Be instant in season, out of season'**

MEMORY VERSE: 'Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.' 2 Timothy 4:2.

STUDY HELP: *Evangelism*, pages 431-455.

### **Introduction**

'To be instant "out of season" is to be ready, when at the fireside, in the field, by the wayside, in the market, to turn the minds of men, in a suitable manner, to the great themes of the Bible, with tender, fervent spirit urging upon them the claims of God. Many, many such opportunities are allowed to slip by unimproved, because men are persuaded that it is out of season. But who knows what might be the effect of a wise appeal to the conscience?' *Gospel Workers*, pages 186-187.

### **'In every house they ceased not to teach'**

#### **1. How did Peter show his readiness to respond to those seeking for truth? Acts 10:29.**

NOTE: 'If one half of the sermonising were done, and double the amount of personal labour given to souls in their homes and in the congregations, a result would be seen that would be surprising.' *Evangelism*, page 430.

'There are families who will never be reached by the truth of God's Word unless His servants enter their homes, and by earnest ministry, sanctified by the endorsement of the Holy Spirit, break down the barriers. As the people see that these workers are messengers of mercy, the ministers of grace, they are ready to listen to the words spoken by them. When such a worker offers prayer to God in the family where he is visiting, the hearts of the members are touched as they would not be by prayer offered in a public assembly. Angels of God enter the family circle with him; and the minds of the hearers are prepared to receive the Word of God: for if the messenger is humble and contrite, if he has a living connection with God, the Holy Spirit takes the Word, and shows it to those for whom he is labouring.' *Evangelism*, pages 435-436.

#### **2. Where did the early Christians teach the message of Jesus? Acts 5:42, Acts 20:20, Acts 28:30-31.**

NOTE: 'To all who are working with Christ I would say, Wherever you can gain access to the people by the fireside, improve your opportunity. Take your Bible, and open before them its great truths. Your success will not depend so much upon your knowledge and accomplishments, as upon your ability to find your way to the heart. By being social and coming close to the people, you may turn the current of their thoughts more readily than by the most able discourse. The presentation of Christ in the family, by the fireside, and in small gatherings in private houses, is often more successful in winning souls to Jesus than are sermons delivered in the open air, to the moving throng, or even in halls or churches.' *Evangelism*, page 436.

### **'On the Sabbath day we spake unto the women'**

#### **3. What opportunity for witness did Paul and Silas take? Acts 16:13.**

NOTE: 'Our Sabbath-schools are not what the Lord would have them to be, for there is altogether too much dependence placed upon form and machinery, while the life-giving power of God is not manifested for the conversion of souls, for whom Christ died. This order of things must be changed if our Sabbath-schools meet the purpose for which they exist. We must have consecrated teachers, who love God supremely and their neighbours as themselves. The Lord has made ample provision that teachers may have increased ability from Sabbath to Sabbath, that they may teach to some purpose, working as for time and eternity. We need in our schools young men and women who have vital godliness, not a cheap, superficial experience, but a deep inward piety that results from learning daily in the school of Christ, that they may impart to others the precious lessons which Christ has taught them.' *Testimonies on Sabbath School Work*, page 41.

#### **4. To what use did Paul put the Sabbath meetings? Acts 18: 4.**

NOTE: 'Some may be listening to the last sermon they will ever hear, and some will never again be so situated that they can have the chain of truth brought before them, and a practical application made of it to their hearts. That golden opportunity lost,

is lost forever. Had Christ and His redeeming love been exalted in connection with the theory of truth, it might have balanced them on His side. With an unction of the Holy Spirit upon him, giving him a burden for souls, [the preacher] will not dismiss a congregation without presenting before them Jesus Christ, the sinner's only refuge, making earnest appeals that will reach their hearts. He should feel that he may never meet these hearers again until the great day of God. In every discourse fervent appeals should be made to the people to forsake their sins and turn to Christ.' *Evangelism*, page 280.

### **'They talked together'**

#### **5. What opportunity did Jesus take to witness? Luke 24:15-17.**

NOTE: 'Paul bids [Timothy] preach the word, not the sayings and customs of men; to be ready to witness for God whenever opportunity should present itself, before large congregations and private circles, by the way and at the fireside, to friends and to enemies, whether in safety or exposed to hardship and peril, reproach and loss.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 503.

'As a people we should cultivate kindness and courtesy in our association with those whom we meet. Let us avoid any abruptness of manner, and strive always to present the truth in an easy way. This truth means life, eternal life to the receiver. Study therefore to pass easily and courteously from subjects of a temporal nature to the spiritual and eternal. A most courteous manner characterised the work of the Saviour. Seek in the most gentle way to introduce your mission. While walking by the way, or seated by the wayside, you may drop into some heart the seed of truth.' *Counsels on Health*, page 435.

#### **6. How did Philip use an encounter on the road? Acts 8:27-30.**

NOTE: 'We should speak of Christ to those who know Him not. We should do as Christ did. Wherever He was, in the synagogue, by the wayside, in the boat thrust out a little from the land, at the Pharisee's feast or the table of the publican, He spoke to men of the things pertaining to the higher life. The things of nature, the events of daily life, were bound up by Him with the words of truth... Wherever we are, we should watch for the opportunities of speaking to others of the Saviour. If we follow Christ's example in doing good, hearts will open to us as they did to Him. Not abruptly, but with tact born of divine love, we can tell them of Him who is the "chiefest among ten thousand" and the One "altogether lovely". This is the very highest work in which we can employ the talent of speech.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, pages 338-339.

### **'Brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake'**

#### **7. How did the apostles speak when brought before rulers? Acts 4:8-12, 19-20, Acts 5:29-32.**

NOTE: 'We may know that if our life is hid with Christ in God, when we are brought into trial because of our faith, Jesus will be with us. When we are brought before rulers and dignitaries to answer for our faith, the Spirit of the Lord will illuminate our understanding, and we shall be able to bear a testimony to the glory of God. And if we are called to suffer for Christ's sake, we shall be able to go to prison trusting in Him as a little child trusts in its parents. Now is the time to cultivate faith in God.' *Our High Calling*, page 357.

#### **8. What counsel are we given for such occasions? Luke 12:11-12.**

NOTE: 'We have nothing to do with the government's actions. It is our duty to obey God, and when they arrest you, take no thought what you shall do. What you are to do is to follow Christ step by step. We need not commence weeks beforehand to examine the question and plan out what we will do when they do so and so, neither what we are to say. Study the truth, and the Spirit of the Lord will bring to your remembrance what you shall say.' *Manuscript Releases Volume 5*, page 68.

#### **9. What opportunity did Paul find for witness even in prison? Acts 16:25, 30-34.**

NOTE: 'Consider Luther in his Wartburg prison. His enemies exulted in his absence; for the light of the gospel seemed about to be extinguished. But instead of this the Reformer was filling his lamp from the storehouse of truth; and its light was to shine forth with brighter radiance. While in prison Luther's pen was never idle. While his enemies flattered themselves that he was silenced, they were astonished and confused by tangible proof that he was still alive. A host of tracts, issuing from his pen, circulated throughout Germany. He also performed a most important service for his countrymen by translating the New Testament into the German tongue., *Advent review & Sabbath Herald*, May 30, 1912.

### **'I will pour out My Spirit'**

#### **10. What promise of divine help is given to God's people? Acts 2:17-20.**

NOTE: 'In the time of the end, when God's work in the earth is closing, the earnest efforts put forth by consecrated believers under the guidance of the Holy Spirit are to be accompanied by special tokens of divine favour. Under the figure of the early and the latter rain, that falls in Eastern lands at seedtime and harvest, the Hebrew prophets foretold the bestowal of spiritual grace in extraordinary measure upon God's church. The outpouring of the Spirit in the days of the apostles was the beginning of the early, or former, rain, and glorious was the result. To the end of time the presence of the Spirit is to abide with the true church.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 54.

#### **11. In order to receive the Holy Spirit's power, what must we do? Zechariah 10:1. See James 5:7-8.**

NOTE: 'We are called to proclaim the special truths for this time. For all this the outpouring of the Spirit is essential. We should pray for it. The Lord expects us to ask Him. We have not been wholehearted in this work.' *Testimonies to Ministers*, page 511.

“Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain.” Do not rest satisfied that in the ordinary course of the season, rain will fall. Ask for it. The growth and perfection of the seed rests not with the husbandman. God alone can ripen the harvest. But man’s co-operation is required. God’s work for us demands the action of our mind, the exercise of our faith. We must seek His favours with the whole heart if the showers of grace are to come to us. We should improve every opportunity of placing ourselves in the channel of blessing. Christ has said, “Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst.” The convocations of the church, as in camp meetings, the assemblies of the home church, and all occasions where there is personal labour for souls, are God’s appointed opportunities for giving the early and the latter rain... Let us, with contrite hearts, pray most earnestly that now, in the time of the latter rain, the showers of grace may fall upon us. At every meeting we attend our prayers should ascend, that at this very time God will impart warmth and moisture to our souls. As we seek God for the Holy Spirit, it will work in us meekness, humbleness of mind, a conscious dependence upon God for the perfecting latter rain. If we pray for the blessing in faith, we shall receive it as God has promised.’ *Testimonies to Ministers*, page 508.

## **12. What was the reaction of many when the Holy Spirit was first poured out? Acts 2:12-13.**

NOTE: ‘Only those who are living up to the light they have will receive greater light. Unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of the active Christian virtues, we shall not recognise the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it.’ *Testimonies to Ministers*, page 507.

‘Those who make no decided effort, but simply wait for the Holy Spirit to compel them to action, will perish in darkness. You are not to sit still and do nothing in the work of God.’ *The Southern Watchman*, December 1, 1903.

‘Are we hoping to see the whole church revived? That time will never come. There are persons in the church who are not converted, and who will not unite in earnest, prevailing prayer. We must enter upon the work individually. We must pray more, and talk less.’ *Selected Messages Book 1*, page 122.

## **Lesson 12: ‘He that goeth forth and weepeth’**

MEMORY VERSE: ‘From that time many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?’ John 6:66-67.

STUDY HELP: *Christian Service*, pages 257-265.

### **Introduction**

‘When we give ourselves wholly to God and in our work follow His directions, He makes Himself responsible for its accomplishment. He would not have us conjecture as to the success of our honest endeavours. Not once should we even think of failure. We are to co-operate with One who knows no failure. We should not talk of our own weakness and inability. This is a manifest distrust of God, a denial of His word. When we murmur because of our burdens, or refuse the responsibilities He calls upon us to bear, we are virtually saying that He is a hard master, that He requires what He has not given us power to do.’ *Christ’s Object Lessons*, page 363.

### **‘Will ye also go away?’**

#### **1. What discouraging experience did Jesus have in His work? John 6:60-66.**

NOTE: ‘With a yearning heart, Jesus saw those who had been His disciples departing from Him, the Life and the Light of men. The consciousness that His compassion was unappreciated, His love unrequited, His mercy slighted, His salvation rejected, filled Him with sorrow that was inexpressible. It was such developments as these that made Him a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.’ *Desire of Ages*, page 393.

‘How grievous a thing it is to refuse the Lord’s message or His messengers. To reject the Lord’s servants is to reject Christ Himself.’ *Desire of Ages*, page 489.

#### **2. When was Paul’s witness not accepted? Acts 24:24-25, Acts 26:27-30.**

NOTE: ‘Felix felt that Paul’s words were true. Memory went back over the guilty past. With terrible distinctness there came up before him the secrets of his early life of profligacy and bloodshed, and the black record of his later years. He saw himself licentious, cruel, rapacious. Never before had the truth been thus brought home to his heart. Never before had his soul been so filled with terror. The thought that all the secrets of his career of crime were open before the eye of God, and that he must be judged according to his deeds, caused him to tremble with dread. But instead of permitting his convictions to lead him to repentance, he sought to dismiss these unwelcome reflections. The interview with Paul was cut short. “Go thy way for this time,” he said; “when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.” How wide the contrast between the course of Felix and that of the jailer of Philippi!’ *Acts of the Apostles*, pages 425-426.

### **‘I, even I only, am left’**

#### **3. What picture are we given of Elijah’s discouragement and how did God treat him? 1 Kings 19: 4, 9-13, 18.**

NOTE: ‘If, under trying circumstances, men of spiritual power, pressed beyond measure, become discouraged and desponding, if at times they see nothing desirable in life, that they should choose it, this is nothing strange or new. Let all such remember

that one of the mightiest of the prophets fled for his life before the rage of an infuriated woman. Those who, while spending their life energies in self-sacrificing labour, are tempted to give way to despondency and distrust, may gather courage from the experience of Elijah.' *Conflict & Courage*, page 216.

'Christ did not fail, neither was He discouraged; and the disciples were to show a faith of the same enduring nature. They were to work as He had worked, depending on Him for strength. Though their way would be obstructed by apparent impossibilities, yet by His grace they were to go forward, despairing of nothing and hoping for everything.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 23.

**4. What lesson may we learn from the story of Jonah? Jonah 1:1-3, 3:1-5.**

NOTE: 'As the prophet [Jonah] thought of the difficulties and seeming impossibilities of this commission, he was tempted to question the wisdom of the call... While he hesitated, still doubting, Satan overwhelmed him with discouragement... In the charge given him, Jonah had been entrusted with a heavy responsibility; yet He who had bidden him go was able to sustain His servant and grant him success.' *Prophets and Kings*, page 266.

**'Leap for joy!'**

**5. What response did Jesus recommend in times of persecution? Luke 6:22-23.**

NOTE: 'Shall we, then, seek for the glory and honour of the world? I thank God that we must renounce the love of the world, and pride of heart, and everything which tends to idolatry, in order to be followers of the Man of Calvary. I present before you, my brethren and sisters, His self-denying life. Why are we so sensitive to trial and reproach, to shame and suffering, when our Lord has given us such an example? Who would wish to enter into the joy of their Lord while they were unwilling to partake of His sufferings? What! the servant unwilling to bear the suffering and shame which the Master unselfishly bore for him! Shall the servant shrink from a life of sacrifice by which he may secure eternal happiness in the Paradise of God? The language of my heart is, "Let me be a partaker with Christ of his sufferings, that I may finally share with him in his glory." *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, May 26, 1885.

**6. What example of rejoicing in a time of persecution are we given? Acts 16:25.**

NOTE: 'In every condition of trial, we may have the consolation of His presence. We may live in the very atmosphere of heaven. Our enemies may thrust us into prison, but prison walls cannot cut off the communication between Christ and our souls. One who sees our every weakness, who is acquainted with every trial, is above all earthly powers; and angels can come to us in lonely cells, bringing light and peace from heaven. The prison will be as a palace, for the rich in faith dwell there; and the gloomy walls will be lighted up with heavenly light, as when Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises at midnight in the Philippian dungeon. Bunyan was confined in Bedford jail; and thence issued a light that has illuminated the pathway to the celestial city.' *Gospel Workers*, 1892 ed. page 424.

**'Jesus Christ and Him crucified'**

**7. What approach did Paul use in witnessing to the philosophers of Athens and with what result? Acts 17:22-34.**

NOTE: 'Among those who encountered Paul in the market place were "certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoics;" but they, and all others who came in contact with him, soon saw that he had a store of knowledge even greater than their own. His intellectual power commanded the respect of the learned; while his earnest, logical reasoning and the power of his oratory held the attention of all in the audience. His hearers recognised the fact that he was no novice, but was able to meet all classes with convincing arguments in support of the doctrines he taught. Thus the apostle stood undaunted, meeting his opposers on their own ground, matching logic with logic, philosophy with philosophy, eloquence with eloquence.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 235.

**8. What lesson did Paul learn from his experience at Athens? 1 Corinthians 2:1-4.**

NOTE: 'In preaching the gospel in Corinth, the apostle followed a course different from that which had marked his labours at Athens. While in the latter place, he had sought to adapt his style to the character of his audience; he had met logic with logic, science with science, philosophy with philosophy. As he thought of the time thus spent, and realised that his teaching in Athens had been productive of but little fruit, he decided to follow another plan of labour in Corinth in his efforts to arrest the attention of the careless and the indifferent. He determined to avoid elaborate arguments and discussions, and "not to know anything" among the Corinthians "save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified." He would preach to them "not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.'" *Acts of the Apostles*, page 244.

**'Because of your unbelief'**

**9. What failure did the disciples experience and for what reason? Matthew 17:14-21.**

NOTE: '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.' *Desire of Ages*, page 431.

**10. What results will follow the exercise of faith? Acts 11:24.**

NOTE: '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 can not 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.' *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, October 18, 1898.

### **'Bringing his sheaves with him'**

#### **11. When our witness is rejected, whom are men really rejecting? 1 Samuel 8:7.**

NOTE: 'True missionary work can be done only in the spirit of the first Missionary who visited our world. He was often in prayer to His Father, and at times presented His petitions with strong crying and tears, pleading that the power of God might save those who knew not that they needed salvation. We must have the spirit that actuated Christ, that led Him to entreat and persuade the rebellious to come unto Him. Even when men turn away from us in hardness of heart, refusing the gift of eternal life, we are to imitate the example of Christ. He did not look with indifference upon those who slighted and rejected Him.' *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, July 4, 1893.

#### **12. What promise of ultimate success is given to those who work in the Lord's harvest? Psalm 126:5-6.**

NOTE: 'Those who are impressed to enter the work, whether in the home field or in the regions beyond, are to go forward in the name of the Lord. If they depend on God for grace and strength, they will succeed. At the beginning their work may be small, but if they follow the Lord's plans, it will enlarge. God lives. He will work for the unselfish, self-sacrificing labourer, whoever and wherever he may be.' *Christian Service*, page 258.

'God will take men who do not appear to be so richly endowed, who have not large self-confidence, and He will make the weak strong, because they trust in Him to do for them that which they cannot do for themselves. God will accept the wholehearted service, and will Himself make up the deficiencies.' *Ministry of Healing*, page 150.

'Those who become co-labourers with God will increase in moral and spiritual power, while those who devote their time and energies to serving themselves will dwarf, and wither, and die. Christian women, the youth, the middle-aged, and those of advanced years, may have a part in the work of God for this time; and in engaging in this work as they have opportunity, they will obtain an experience of the highest value to themselves. In forgetfulness of self, they will grow in grace. By training the mind in this direction, they will learn how to bear burdens for Jesus, and will realise the blessedness of the service. And soon the time will come when "they that sow in tears shall reap in joy."' *Signs of the Times*, Sept. 16, 1886.

## **Lesson 13: 'Let us go again'**

MEMORY VERSE: 'And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do.' Acts 15:36.

STUDY HELP: *Evangelism*, pages 334-340.

### **Introduction**

'The work should not be left prematurely. See that all are intelligent in the truth, established in the faith, and interested in every branch of the work, before leaving them for another field. And then, like the apostle Paul, visit them often to see how they do. Oh, the slack work that is done by many who claim to be commissioned of God to preach His word, makes angels weep.' *Testimonies Volume 5*, page 256.

### **'See how they do'**

#### **1. What proposal did Paul put to Barnabas regarding those they had brought to Christ? Acts 15:36.**

NOTE: 'Both Paul and Barnabas had a tender regard for those who had recently accepted the gospel message under their ministry, and they longed to see them once more. This solicitude Paul never lost. Even when in distant mission fields, far from the scene of his earlier labours, he continued to bear upon his heart the burden of urging these converts to remain faithful, "perfecting holiness in the fear of God." 2 Corinthians 7:1. Constantly he tried to help them to become self-reliant, growing Christians, strong in faith, ardent in zeal, and wholehearted in their consecration to God and to the work of advancing His kingdom.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 201.

#### **2. How did Paul express his love for those he had brought to Christ? Philippians 4:1.**

NOTE: 'The "care of all the churches" still rested upon him. He deeply felt the danger that threatened those for whom he had laboured so earnestly, and he sought as far as possible to supply by written communications the place of his personal instruction. He also sent out authorised delegates to labour among the churches he had raised up, and also in fields which he had not visited. These messengers rendered him faithful service, and being in communication with them, he was informed

concerning the condition and dangers of the churches, and was enabled to exercise a constant supervision over them.' *Sketches from the Life of Paul*, page 281.

### **'Elders in every church'**

#### **3. In order to protect the congregations of new believers, what did the apostles do? Acts 14:23, Titus 1:5.**

NOTE: 'In all those places were many that believed the truth; and the apostles felt it their duty to strengthen and encourage their brethren who were exposed to reproach and bitter opposition. They were determined to securely bind off the work which they had done, that it might not ravel out. Churches were organised in the places mentioned, elders appointed in each church, and the proper order established there.' *Sketches from the Life of Paul*, page 62.

#### **4. What sort of person did Paul regard as fitted to oversee a church? 1 Timothy 3:1-7.**

NOTE: The word the King James Bible translates as 'bishop' means an overseer, an officer in charge of a church.

'In fulfilling your duties as an elder of the church, be true to God in the person of the erring ones in His church. Fail not, my brother, to heed the admonition of the Spirit of God to bring into your heart the kindness, the tenderness, the love that Christ ever manifested. Cherish not a cold, unsympathetic spirit. Let your words be carefully chosen. Speak and act in such a way that you will have an influence for good over the church-members. God desires you to avoid all harshness. Cover yourself with the robe of Christ's righteousness. By speaking the truth in love, you can bring a blessing to many hearts. Allow not a condemnatory spirit to prompt your words. May the Lord soften and subdue your heart, that your words shall be a blessing to the entire church.' *Atlantic Union Gleaner*, September 9, 1903.

### **'He continued there'**

#### **5. After a church had been established in Corinth, what did Paul do? Acts 18:11.**

NOTE: 'When men and women accept the truth, we are not to go away and leave them and have no further burden for them. They are to be looked after. They are to be carried as a burden upon the soul, and we must watch over them as stewards who must render an account.' *Evangelism*, page 345.

#### **6. When Paul planned to go to Macedonia, what work did he give to Timothy? 1 Timothy 1:3-4.**

NOTE: 'Our efforts are not to cease because public meetings have been discontinued for a time. So long as there are interested ones, we must give them opportunity to learn the truth. And the new converts will need to be instructed by faithful teachers of God's Word, that they may increase in a knowledge and love of the truth, and may grow to the full stature of men and women in Christ Jesus. They must now be surrounded by the influences most favourable to spiritual growth.' *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, February 14, 1907.

### **'Confirming the churches'**

#### **7. When Paul went back to the churches he had helped to establish, what work did he do among them? Acts 14:21-22, Acts 15:41.**

NOTE: 'Paul did not forget the churches thus established. The care of these churches rested on his mind as an ever-increasing burden. However small a company might be, it was nevertheless the object of his constant solicitude. He watched over the smaller churches tenderly, realising that they were in need of special care in order that the members might be thoroughly established in the truth and taught to put forth earnest, unselfish efforts for those around them.' *Acts of the Apostles*, page 186.

#### **8. When unable to visit his beloved churches, how did Paul express his care for them? 1 Corinthians 4:14, 2 Corinthians 2:9.**

NOTE: 'In his letter to "the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse," written while he was a prisoner in Rome, Paul makes mention of his joy over their steadfastness in the faith, tidings of which had been brought him by Epaphras, who, the apostle wrote, "declared unto us your love in the Spirit. For this cause," he continued, "we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and long-suffering with joyfulness.'" *Acts of the Apostles*, page 471.

### **'Collection for the saints'**

#### **9. How did Paul encourage new believers to care for other Christians? Romans 12:10 & 13.**

NOTE: 'The Lord does not need our offerings. We cannot enrich Him by our gifts. Says the psalmist: "All things come of Thee, and of Thine own have we given Thee." Yet God permits us to show our appreciation of His mercies by self-sacrificing efforts to extend the same to others. This is the only way in which it is possible for us to manifest our gratitude and love to God. He has provided no other.' *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, December 6, 1887.

#### **10. What spirit does God love to see in those who bring their offerings? 2 Corinthians 9:6-7.**

NOTE: 'God designs that the exercise of benevolence shall be purely voluntary, not having recourse even to eloquent appeals to excite sympathy. "God loveth a cheerful giver." He is not pleased to have His treasury replenished with forced supplies. The

loyal hearts of His people, rejoicing in the saving truth for this time, will, through love and gratitude to Him for this precious light, be earnest and anxious to aid with their means in sending the truth to others. The very best manner in which to give expression to our love for our Redeemer is to make offerings to bring souls to the knowledge of the truth. The plan of redemption was entirely voluntary on the part of our Redeemer, and it is the purpose of Christ that all our benevolence should be freewill offerings.' *Testimonies Volume 3*, page 413.

'Make this glorious theme plain to your children; and as their young hearts expand with love to God, let them present their little offerings, that they may act their part in sending the precious light of truth to others. Thus the children may become little missionaries for the Master. Their little offerings coming into the treasury like many tiny rivulets, may swell the stream to a river that shall refresh many souls who are thirsting for the truth of God; and even these children may see some souls saved in the kingdom of God as the result of their self-denial.' *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, December 11, 1888

### **'Come ye yourselves apart'**

#### **11. After they had been working for God, what provision did Jesus make for His disciples? Mark 6:30-31.**

NOTE: 'Today there is need that God's chosen workmen should listen to the command of Christ to go apart and rest awhile. Many valuable lives have been sacrificed, that need not have been, through ignorance of this command... Though the harvest is great and the labourers are few, nothing is gained by sacrificing health and life... There are many feeble, worn workmen who feel deeply distressed when they see how much there is to be done, and how little they can do. How they long for physical strength to accomplish more; but it is to this class that Jesus says, "Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest awhile.'" *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, November 7, 1893.

#### **12. What counsel should those who witness for the Lord heed? Psalm 46:10, first part.**

NOTE: 'All who are under the training of God need the quiet hour for communion with their own hearts, with nature, and with God. In them is to be revealed a life that is not in harmony with the world, its customs, or its practices; and they need to have a personal experience in obtaining a knowledge of the will of God. We must individually hear Him speaking to the heart. When every other voice is hushed, and in quietness we wait before Him, the silence of the soul makes more distinct the voice of God. He bids us, "Be still, and know that I am God." This is the effectual preparation for all labour for God. Amidst the hurrying throng, and the strain of life's intense activities, he who is thus refreshed, will be surrounded with an atmosphere of light and peace. He will receive a new endowment of both physical and mental strength. His life will breathe out a fragrance, and will reveal a divine power that will reach men's hearts.' *Ministry of Healing*, page 58.

#### **13. What balance must be achieved in the life of the effective worker for God? Exodus 34:21.**

NOTE: 'The Christian life is not made up of unceasing activity, or of continual meditation. Christians must work earnestly for the salvation of the lost, and they must also take time for contemplation, for prayer, and the study of the Word of God. It will not do to be always under the strain of the work and excitement, for in this way personal piety is neglected, and the powers of mind and body are injured.' *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, November 7, 1893.

## **Lesson 14: 'Prepared for the Lord'**

MEMORY VERSE: 'And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.' Matthew 24:14.

STUDY HELP: *Christian Service*, pages 266-275.

### **Introduction**

'It is the privilege of every Christian not only to look for but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, (2 Peter 3:12, margin). Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory, how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel. Quickly the last great harvest would be ripened, and Christ would come to gather the precious grain.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 69.

### **'To make ready a people'**

#### **1. What is the purpose of our witnessing? Luke 1:17.**

NOTE: 'The end is right upon us, and is it reasonable to think that there is no message to make ready a people to stand in the day of God's preparation? Why is there so little eyesight? So little deep, earnest, heartfelt labour? Why is there so much pulling back? Why is there such a continual cry of "peace and safety," and no going forward in obedience to the Lord's command? Is the third angel's message to go out in darkness, or to lighten the whole earth with its glory? Is the light of God's Spirit to be quenched, and the church to be left as destitute of the grace of Christ as the hills of Gilboa were of dew and rain?' *Manuscript Releases Volume 11*, page 295.

#### **2. What message is God's people to give to the entire world? Revelation 14:6-12.**

NOTE: 'Let our prayers ascend to God that the four angels may still hold the four winds, that they may not blow to injure or destroy until the last warning has been given to the world. Then let us work in harmony with our prayers. Let nothing lessen

the force of the truth for this time. The present truth is to be our burden. The third angel's message must do its work of separating from the churches a people who will take their stand on the platform of eternal truth.' *Testimonies Volume 6*, page 61.

'The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love. The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 415.

'In *The Great Controversy*, the last message of warning to the world is given more distinctly than in any of my other books.' *Colporteur Ministry*, page 127.

## **'The sheep and the goats'**

### **3. What will be the outcome of the Gospel work? Matthew 13:30.**

NOTE: 'There are only two classes in the world today, and only two classes will be recognised in the Judgement, those who violate God's law, and those who keep His law. Two great opposing powers are revealed in the last great battle. On one side stands the Creator of heaven and earth. All on His side bear His signet. They are obedient to His commands. On the other side stands the Prince of darkness, with those who have chosen apostasy and rebellion.' *Advent Review & Sabbath Herald*, May 7, 1901.

'There are two classes. To one the apostle gives these encouraging words: "Ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief." 1 Thessalonians 5:4. Some will be ready when the Bridegroom comes, and will go in with Him to the marriage. How precious is this thought to those who are waiting and watching for His appearing! Christ "loved the church, and gave Himself for it; that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." Ephesians 5:25-27. Those whom God loves enjoy this favour because they are lovely in character. The great, grand work of bringing out a people who will have Christlike characters, and who will be able to stand in the day of the Lord, is to be accomplished.' *Testimonies Volume 6*, page 129.

### **4. How will the message of the three angels divide the people of the earth into these two groups? Revelation 14:9-12**

NOTE: 'God has called His church in this day, as He called ancient Israel, to stand as a light in the earth. By the mighty cleaver of truth, the messages of the first, second, and third angels, He has separated them from the churches and from the world to bring them into a sacred nearness to Himself. He has made them the depositories of His law and has committed to them the great truths of prophecy for this time. Like the holy oracles committed to ancient Israel, these are a sacred trust to be communicated to the world. The three angels of Revelation 14 forth as His agents to sound the warning throughout the length and breadth of the earth.' *Testimonies Volume 5*, page 455.

## **'His wife hath made herself ready'**

### **5. How are those described who are ready for the coming of Christ? Revelation 14:1-5. Compare Revelation 7:1-4.**

NOTE: 'One of the marked features in the representation of the 144,000 is that in their mouth there was found no guile. The Lord has said, "Blessed is the man... in whose spirit there is no guile." They profess to be children of God, and are represented as following the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. They are prefigured before us as standing on Mount Zion, girt for holy service, clothed in white linen, which is the righteousness of the saints. But all who follow the Lamb in heaven will first have followed Him on earth, in trustful, loving, willing obedience, followed Him not fretfully and capriciously, but confidently, truthfully, as the flock follows the shepherd.' *Selected Messages Book 3*, page 424.

'Those who are living upon the earth when the intercession of Christ shall cease in the sanctuary above are to stand in the sight of a holy God without a mediator. Their robes must be spotless, their characters must be purified from sin by the blood of sprinkling. Through the grace of God and their own diligent effort they must be conquerors in the battle with evil. While the investigative judgement is going forward in heaven, while the sins of penitent believers are being removed from the sanctuary, there is to be a special work of purification, of putting away of sin, among God's people upon earth. This work is more clearly presented in the messages of Revelation 14. When this work shall have been accomplished, the followers of Christ will be ready for His appearing.' *Great Controversy*, page 425.

### **6. What picture of the church ready for Christ's coming does Paul give? Ephesians 5:25-27.**

NOTE: 'One brother said to me, "Sister White, do you think the Lord will come in ten years?" [I replied] "What difference does it make to you whether He shall come in two, four, or ten years?" "Why," said he, "I think I would do differently in some things than I now do if I knew the Lord was to come in ten years." "What would you do?" said I. "Why," said he, "I would sell my property and begin to search the Word of God and try to warn the people and get them to prepare for His coming, and I would plead with God that I might be ready to meet Him." "Then," said I, "if you knew that the Lord was not coming for twenty years would you live differently?" Said he, "I think I would."' *Sermons & Talks Volume 2*, page 28.

'[Jesus] showed what it means to watch for His coming. The time is to be spent, not in idle waiting, but in diligent working. This lesson He taught in the parable of the talents.' *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 325.

## **'Whom shall I send?'**

### **7. What sort of people will give the final message? Isaiah 52:6-8.**

NOTE: 'God help us to put on the armour and to act as if we were in earnest, as if the souls of men and women were worth saving. Let us seek a new conversion. We need the presence of the Holy Spirit of God with us, that our hearts may be softened and that we may not bring a harsh spirit into the work. I pray that the Holy Spirit may take full possession of our hearts. Let us act like children of God who are looking to Him for counsel, ready to work out His plans wherever presented. God will be glorified by such a people, and those who witness our zeal will say: Amen and amen.' *Testimonies Volume 9*, page 107.

#### **8. What sort of person does God choose for His work and why? 1 Corinthians 1:26-28.**

NOTE: 'We have before us a great work, the closing work of giving the last warning message to a sinful world. There are men who will be taken from the plough, from the vineyard, from various other branches of work, and sent forth by the Lord to give this message to the world.' *Evangelism*, page 48.

'The Lord Himself will call men, as of old He called the humble fishermen, and will Himself give them instruction regarding their field of labour and the methods they should follow. He will call men from the plough and from other occupations to give the last note of warning to perishing souls. There are many ways in which to work for the Master, and the Great Teacher will open the understanding of these workers, enabling them to see wondrous things in His word.' *Testimonies Volume 9*, page 170.

'Unexpected talent will be developed in those in the common walks of life. If men and women can only have the message of truth brought to them, many who hear will receive it. Those of every rank of life, high and low, rich and poor, will accept the truth for this time. Some who are regarded as uneducated will be called to the service of the Master, even as the humble, unlearned fishermen were called by the Saviour. Men will be called from the plough, as was Elisha, and will be moved to take up the work that God has appointed them. They will begin to labour in simplicity and quietness, reading and explaining the Scriptures to others. Their simple efforts will be successful. House-to-house work will be done by men and women who will realise that they can labour for the Lord because He has put His Spirit upon them. As they go forth in humble faith, Christ will impart to them grace that they will impart to others. The Lord will give them the same love for perishing souls that He gave to the disciples of old.' *This Day With God*, page 115.

### **'Times of refreshing'**

#### **9. What promise of divine power is given to those who follow the light they have been given? Hosea 6:3.**

NOTE: 'Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers. Satan also works, with lying wonders, even bringing down fire from heaven in the sight of men. Revelation 13:13. Thus the inhabitants of the earth will be brought to take their stand.' *Great Controversy*, page 612.

#### **10. What work must be done now in order to ensure a bountiful harvest? Psalm 126:5, 2 Corinthians 9:6.**

NOTE: 'The message will be carried not so much by argument as by the deep conviction of the Spirit of God. The arguments have been presented. The seed has been sown, and now it will spring up and bear fruit. The publications distributed by missionary workers have exerted their influence, yet many whose minds were impressed have been prevented from fully comprehending the truth or from yielding obedience. Now the rays of light penetrate everywhere, the truth is seen in its clearness, and the honest children of God sever the bands which have held them. Family connections, church relations, are powerless to stay them now. Truth is more precious than all besides. Notwithstanding the agencies combined against the truth, a large number take their stand upon the Lord's side.' *Great Controversy*, page 612.

'It is true that some who buy the books will lay them on the shelf or place them on the parlour table and seldom look at them. Still God has a care for His truth, and the time will come when these books will be sought for and read. Sickness or misfortune may enter the home, and through the truth contained in the books God sends to troubled hearts peace and hope and rest. His love is revealed to them, and they understand the preciousness of the forgiveness of their sins. Thus the Lord co-operates with His self-denying workers.' *Testimonies, Volume 6*, pages 313-314.

### **'The harvest truly is plenteous'**

#### **11. What prayer does Jesus call upon us to pray? Matthew 9:37-38. See John 4:35.**

NOTE: 'We are not, as a people, sufficiently aroused to the short time in which we have to work, and we do not understand the magnitude of the work for the time. The night soon cometh, in which no man can work. God calls for men and women to qualify themselves, by consecration to His will and earnest study of the Scriptures, to do His special work for these last days. He calls for men now who can work. As they engage in the work in sincerity and humility to do all they can, they will be obtaining a more thorough experience. They will have a better knowledge of the truth and better know how to reach souls and help them just where they need to be helped. Workmen are needed now, just now, to labour for God. The fields are already white for the harvest, and yet labourers are few.' *Life Sketches 1915 ed.*, page 211.

#### **12. What promise of ultimate success in the Lord's harvest field are we given? Psalm 126:6, Romans 9:28.**

NOTE: 'We need now to awake out of sleep, and to labour earnestly to warn those in the highways and in the byways. Soon the work will be finished, and now is our time to labour with intense energy and untiring industry. The judgements of God are in the earth, and, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, we must give the message of warning that he has entrusted to us. We must give this message quickly, line upon line, precept upon precept. Men will soon be forced to great decisions, and it is our duty to see that they are given an opportunity to understand the truth, that they may take their stand intelligently on the right

side. The Lord calls upon his people to labour, labour earnestly and wisely, while probation lingers.’ *Southern Watchman*, April 16, 1907.

### **Closing Words:**

When the third angel’s message closes, mercy no longer pleads for the guilty inhabitants of the earth. The people of God have accomplished their work. They have received “the latter rain,” “the refreshing from the presence of the Lord,” and they are prepared for the trying hour before them. Angels are hastening to and fro in heaven. An angel returning from the earth announces that his work is done; the final test has been brought upon the world, and all who have proved themselves loyal to the divine precepts have received “the seal of the living God.” Then Jesus ceases His intercession in the sanctuary above. He lifts His hands and with a loud voice says, “It is done;” and all the angelic host lay off their crowns as He makes the solemn announcement: “He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.” Revelation 22:11. Every case has been decided for life or death. Christ has made the atonement for His people and blotted out their sins. The number of His subjects is made up; “the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven,” is about to be given to the heirs of salvation, and Jesus is to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords.’ *Great Controversy*, page 613.