

Revival and Reformation

Introduction

Study chapter 27 in the Great Controversy, pp. 461-478

More than one hundred years ago, Ellen White told us what are greatest need is:

“A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work.” Review and Herald, March 22, 1887

In another statement Ellen White explains that revival must be accompanied by reformation:

*“A revival and a reformation must take place, under the ministration of the Holy Spirit. Revival and reformation are **two different things** [yet inseparably linked]. Revival signifies a **renewal** of spiritual life, a **quickening** of the powers of mind and heart, a **resurrection** from spiritual death. Reformation signifies a **reorganization**, a change in ideas and theories [way of thinking], habits and practices [way of acting]. Reformation will not bring forth the good fruit of righteousness unless it is connected with the **revival of the Spirit**. Revival and reformation are to do their appointed work, and in doing this work they must **blend**.”
Review and Herald, February 25, 1902*

Conclusions that we can reach from this quotation:

- Revival without reformation is not genuine revival
- Reformation without revival is not true reformation
- Revival without reformation is mere emotionalism or sentimentalism
- Reformation without revival is legalism or fanaticism (like the Pharisees who were mere whited sepulchres)

Common denominators of true revival

Man Created Perfect

Man was originally **created perfect**. He was **spiritually alive** and this was reflected in **his conduct** which was in **perfect conformity** with God’s holy law.

Spiritually Dead

As a result of sin man **died spiritually** and for this reason he was **unable to live** in harmony with the law of God.

Ephesians 2:1, 2:

*“And you He made alive, who **were dead** [condition] in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world [conduct], according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience.”*

Colossians 2:13:

*“And you, [condition] **being dead** in your [conduct] trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has **made alive** together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses”*

A Deceitful Heart

Jeremiah 17:9:

“The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked; who can know it?”

The heart of the **unconverted** person is a powerful **rationalizer**. It does its utmost to **justify** and excuse sin. There is only one trustworthy detector of sin, God:

Jeremiah 17:10:

“I, the Lord, search the heart I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.”

God searches out sin and exposes it through His **Word** which is an expansion of the Ten Commandments.

The Word of God

The Holy Spirit and the Word are inseparably linked. According to Ephesians 6:17 the Spirit's sword is the Word of God. The Holy Spirit brings about true revival and reformation by means of the word of God. He never works independently of the Word.

Psalms 139:23, 24

*“**Search me**, Oh God, and **know** my heart; **try** me, and **know** my anxieties; ²⁴ And **see** if there is any wicked way in me, and **lead me** in the way everlasting.”*

Hebrews 4:12, 13: The sword with eyes

*“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a **discerner** of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from **His sight**, but all things are naked and **open to the eyes** of Him to whom we must give account.”*

There can be no true revival and reformation where God’s Word is not **prayerfully** studied or **preached** because the Word of God is the **great detector** of sin.

An eyewitness report by **L. D. Fleming** concerning the preaching of **William Miller** in **Portland, Maine**:

“Things here are moving powerfully. Last evening about two hundred requested prayers, and the interest seems constantly increasing. The whole city seems agitated. Bro. Miller's lectures have not the least effect to frighten people; they are far from it. The great alarm is among those who do not come near them. Many who stay away and oppose, seem excited, and perhaps alarmed; but those who candidly hear are far from excitement or alarm.

“The interest awakened by his lectures is of the most deliberate and dispassionate kind; though this is the greatest revival I ever saw, yet there is the least passionate excitement about it. It seems to take a deep hold on the main part of the community. What produces the effect is this: Bro. Miller simply takes the sword of the Spirit, unsheathed, and lays its sharp edge on the naked heart, and it cuts; that is all. Before the edge of this mighty weapon, infidelity falls and Universalism withers; false foundations vanish, and Babel's merchants wonder. It seems to me that this must be a little the nearest to apostolic revivals of anything that modern times have witnessed.” RH, November 25, 1884

*“The worldliness in the church, which is the great cause of spiritual death, is attributable to the influence of selfish, ease-loving members. The progress of this **deadly malady** must be checked. The **surgeon's knife** cuts deep when it is necessary to remove **festerings, pestilential matter**; so the word of God, sharper than any two-edged sword, must be made to **cut to the heart**, or the evil will never be removed.” Signs of the Times, May 17, 1883*

An example: Let’s suppose that someone has problems with pornography. One day, that person is Reading in Matthew 5:27, 28 where Jesus says: “Whoever looks upon a woman to covet her, has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” This Scripture then speaks to the person saying: “That’s you.”

If you don’t come to the Bible with a sincere heart with a sincere heart and a desire to practice what you learn, you will justify all sorts of sinful practices such as eating pork, going to Church on Sunday, going to the movies, living a gay lifestyle, dressing immodestly, listening to worldly music, etc.

Jesus and the Law

Psalm 19:7: *“The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul.”*

“It is only as the law of God is restored to its rightful position that there can be a revival of primitive faith and godliness among His professed people.” The Great Controversy, p. 478

The law of God is a written reflection of the character of Jesus, of who He is in His person.

*“He was the **embodiment** of the law of God, which is the **transcript** of His character.” 5BC 1131*

When we look in the law of God we see in it a reflection of the character of Jesus. We see His holiness and purity and in contrast we see our own filthiness and wickedness. In this sense, the law is spiritual when it shows us the holiness of a person. We then come to the point of hating sin and wanting to reflect the character of Jesus. We cry out with the apostle Paul: “Who can deliver me from this body of death?”

Along with the prophet Isaiah we will exclaim: “I am undone” and with the apostle Peter we will cry out: “depart from me for I am a sinful man.”

Vision of the Cross

A vision of the holiness and purity of Jesus as revealed in the law not only shows me my excessive sinfulness but it also leads me to the cross. It leads me to understand the immense love of Jesus who suffered the cruel punishment that I deserve. This leads me to hate sin for what it did to Jesus.

This will lead me to repent from sin and to confess it and to trust in the merits of Christ’s righteousness for forgiveness. It will also lead me to have a profound desire to reflect the character of Jesus, to be like Him, to be holy as He is holy.

Conversion or Revival

Titus 3:5

*“But when the **kindness** and the **love** of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of **regeneration** [palinguenesia] and **renewing** [koinotes] of the Holy Spirit.”*

Romans 6:4:

*“Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should **walk** in **newness** [kainotes] of life.”*

Reformation Flows from Revival

“There is no evidence of genuine repentance unless it works reformation.” The Great Controversy, p. 462

“The things they once hated they now loved, and the things they once loved they hated. The proud and self-assertive became meek and lowly of heart. The vain and supercilious became serious and unobtrusive. The profane became reverent, the drunken sober, and the profligate pure. The vain fashions of the world were laid aside.” The Great Controversy, p. 462

II Corinthians 3:18:

“But we all, with unveiled face, **beholding** as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are **being transformed** [*metamorphoo*] into the **same image** from glory to glory, just as by the **Spirit** of the Lord.”

As we behold Jesus day by day we are transformed into His image. Every day I hate sin more and more and love Jesus more and more. Every day I wish to reflect in my life the holiness of Jesus. And the Holy Spirit, whom I received at conversion, provides the power to make this possible.

When I have this experience the pastor will no longer have to tell me how to dress, what to eat, what programs on television not to watch, what music not to listen to. My life will not change because I fear being lost or because I want a heavenly reward. The motivating factor will simply be that I want to be like Jesus!

Illustration of the word Metamorphoo

When I was a child living in Venezuela, I became quite a proficient butterfly collector. I learned so much about butterflies that I practically became an amateur entomologist.

The Caterpillar stage:

- A beautiful butterfly actually has two births
- The first birth is from an egg as a caterpillar
- The Caterpillar slowly drags itself along the branches of the tree where the eggs were laid
- The Caterpillar eats from one source, it grows and then it buries itself in a cocoon.

The butterfly stage:

- Inside the cocoon a spectacular miracle takes place. A transformation occurs which is one of the great marvels of the natural world. The caterpillar is transformed into a beautiful butterfly. I don't think anyone can explain how it happens but we can see that it does by the results
- This process of transformation we call a metamorphosis
- Even the name of the creature changes. It used to be called a caterpillar and now we call it a butterfly
- Do its habits change? Does its appearance change? Does what it eats change? Does the place it lives change? Yes! Everything is new and different.

How did it Change?

- The change did not come about because the caterpillar made an effort to change. The change came as a result of a miracle of God. The caterpillar became a new creation by a miracle of God!!
- A butterfly is not a caterpillar with wings. A butterfly is a totally new creation:
- The change did not come about because the caterpillar made an effort to change. The change came as a result of a miracle of God. The caterpillar became a new creation by a miracle of God!!

- **2 Corinthians 5:17:** “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”
- You cannot see the power that transformed the caterpillar into a butterfly but you can see the results of that power in the beautiful butterfly. Jesus taught a similar lesson when He told Nicodemus that we cannot see the wind but we can see the effects of the wind.

“He who is trying to reach heaven by his own works in keeping the law is attempting **an impossibility**. There is no safety for one who has merely a **legal religion**, a **form of godliness**. The Christian's life is not a **modification** or **improvement** of the old, but a **transformation of nature**. There is a death to self and sin, and a **new life altogether**. This change can be brought about only by the effectual working of the **Holy Spirit**.” DA 172

Abiding in Jesus

- We must abide in Jesus because the great hunter is on the loose
- Speak of the process of catching butterflies in **Guamitas**. I discovered their weakness and they were easy prey.
- We must abide in Christ if we want to be safe and secure
- The butterflies that left the refuge became easy prey and were dead

Counterfeit Revivals

Sometimes our churches feel that in order to experience revival they must adopt the worship practices of other Christians. They think that if they use their music and methods of evangelism (mimes, dramatic presentations, continental breakfasts), their congregations will experience revival and, their congregations will experience revival and numerical growth.

When I went to pastor the Fresno Central Church about 15 years ago attendance had dwindled to about 150 on Sabbaths in a Church that had over one thousand members. A small but influential group in the Church suggested that a way to increase Church attendance was to revamp the worship service. Instead, we focused on preaching the word of God and He has blessed the Church abundantly!

“Popular revivals are too often carried by appeals to the **imagination**, by exciting the **emotions**, by gratifying the love for what is **new and startling**. Converts thus gained have **little desire** to listen to Bible truth, **little interest** in the testimony of prophets and apostles. Unless a religious service has something of a **sensational character**, it has no attractions for them. A message which appeals to **unimpassioned reason** awakens no response. The plain warnings of God's word, relating directly to their eternal interests, are **unheeded**.” GC 463

“The power of godliness has well-nigh departed from many of the churches. Picnics, church theatricals, church fairs, fine houses, personal display, have banished thoughts of God. Lands and goods and worldly occupations engross the mind, and things of eternal interest receive hardly a passing notice.” GC 463, 464

We don't need a reform but rather a revival that leads to reform. If the life has not changed we are not alive but rather spiritually dead.

*“Notwithstanding the widespread declension of faith and piety, there are **true followers** of Christ in these churches. Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a **revival of primitive godliness** as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The **Spirit and power of God** will be poured out upon His children. 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.*

Notice that Satan wishes to prevent what God is planning to do among His people. He will do this by introducing a counterfeit and I believe that we are seeing this counterfeit in the religious world today.

*“The enemy of souls desires to **hinder** this work; and **before** the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavor 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 [**thousands attending, great emphasis on love, huge facilities, great emotional experience**]; there will be manifest what is thought to be **great religious interest**. **Multitudes** will exult that God is working marvelously 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**.” GC
464*

The Omnipresence of God

Introductory Statements

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

“By angel messengers, earth is connected with heaven, and all the deeds of men, whether good or evil, are open to the eye of Infinite Justice.” AA 494

“We have an Advocate pleading in our behalf. The Holy Ghost is continually engaged in beholding our course of action. We need now keen perception that by our own practical godliness the truth may be made to appear truth as it is in Jesus. The angelic agencies are messengers from heaven, actually ascending and descending, keeping earth in constant connection with the heaven above. These angel messengers are observing all our course of action. They are ready to help all in their weakness, guarding all from moral and physical danger according to the providence of God. And whenever souls yield to the softening, subduing influence of the Spirit of God under these angel ministrations, there is joy in heaven; the Lord Himself rejoices with singing.” 1SM 96

“The angel messengers will expel sin from the heart, unless the door of the heart is padlocked and Christ is refused admission. Christ will withdraw Himself from those who persist in refusing the heavenly blessings that are so freely offered them.” TM 338

Examples from the Old Testament

Many acts that are attributed to God in the Old Testament were not performed by God personally. On repeated occasions we are told that God delegated the responsibility to the heavenly angels. When properly understood, neither the Bible nor the Spirit of Prophecy teaches that God is present everywhere in the universe in person.

Words of the LORD to Cain

According to Genesis 4:6, 7 the LORD God spoke to Cain

Ellen White affirms:

“God condescends to send an angel to Cain to converse with him. The angel inquires of him the reason of his anger, **and informs him** that if he does well and follows the directions God has given, He will accept him and respect his offering.” The Story of Redemption, p. 53

The Translation of Enoch

According to the testimony of Genesis 5:24 and Hebrews 11:5 God translated Enoch from earth to heaven

Ellen White states:

“God would not permit Enoch to die as other men but sent his angels to take him to Heaven without seeing death.” The Spirit of Prophecy, volume 1, p. 63.

The Message of Noah

According to Genesis 6:13-21 God warned Noah about His plans to send the flood upon the earth

Ellen White explained that angels explained God’s plan to Noah:

“He sent His angels to Noah to tell him what His purpose was in regard to the inhabitants of the old world. That faithful preacher of righteousness [Noah] declared the message to the inhabitants that one hundred twenty years would be the end of their probation.” (Manuscript 86, 1886) In Christ Triumphant, p. 39

Closing and Opening the Door of the Ark

According to Genesis 7:16 and 8:15 God closed the **door of the ark** and then opened it again

Ellen White concurs:

“God had closed the door, the only entrance, and shut Noah in and the ungodly out. He alone could open the door.” The Story of Redemption, p. 68.

But Ellen White also states that an angel was sent to close the door:

“Notwithstanding the solemn scenes which they had witnessed--the beasts and birds entering the ark, and the angel of God closing the door--they still continued their sport and revelry, even making a jest of these signal manifestations of God's power.” Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 99.

Does Ellen White contradict herself when in one place she says that God closed the door and in another she says that an angel closed it? Absolutely not! God closed the door through the instrumentality of an angel.

Ellen White also states that an angel opened the door and commanded Noah and his family to go forth:

“At last an angel descended from heaven, opened the massive door and bade the patriarch and his household go forth upon the earth and take with them every living thing.” Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 106

Did **Ellen White** forget what she had written in the first statement when she wrote the second?

The Tower of Babel

Genesis 11:7, 8 says that God confused the languages at the Tower of Babel and scattered the inhabitants upon the earth

Ellen G. White explained what happened at the Tower:

“They had built their tower to a lofty height, when the Lord sent two angels to confound them in their work. Men had been appointed for the purpose of receiving word from the workmen at the top of the tower, calling for material for their work, which the first would communicate to the second, and he to the third, until the word reached those upon the ground. As the word was passing from one to another in its descent, the angels confounded their language.” The Story of Redemption, p. 73.

The Expulsion of Ishmael

According to Genesis 21:9-13 God instructed Abraham to follow the counsel of his wife and expel Hagar and Ishmael from the household

Ellen White explains how God imparted this counsel to Abraham:

“The Lord, through a holy angel, directed him to grant Sarah's desire; his love for Ishmael or Hagar ought not to stand in the way, for only thus could he restore harmony and happiness to his family. And the angel gave him the consoling promise that though separated from his father's home, Ishmael should not be forsaken by God; his life should be preserved, and he should become the father of a great nation. Abraham obeyed the angel's word, but it was not without keen suffering. The father's heart was heavy with unspoken grief as he sent away Hagar and his son.” PP 146, 147

Joseph's Prophetic Dreams

It cannot be doubted that God gave Joseph his twofold dreams about the sheaves and about the sun, moon and stars

Yet notice the words of Ellen White about Joseph's dreams:

“The angel of God instructed Joseph in dreams which he innocently related to his brethren.” Spirit of Prophecy, volume 1, p. 127

Moses and Circumcision

According to **Exodus 4:25** when Moses failed to circumcise his son the LORD met Moses on the way and threatened to kill him

But Ellen White explains how the Lord delivered the threat:

*“On the way from Midian, Moses received a startling and terrible warning of the Lord's displeasure. **An angel** appeared to him in a threatening manner, as if he would immediately destroy him. No explanation was given; but Moses remembered that he had disregarded one of God's requirements; yielding to the persuasion of his wife, he had neglected to perform the rite of circumcision upon their youngest son. He had failed to comply with the condition by which his child could be entitled to the blessings of God's covenant with Israel; and such a neglect on the part of their chosen leader could not but lessen the force of the divine precepts upon the people. Zipporah, fearing that her husband would be slain, performed the rite herself, and **the angel** then permitted Moses to pursue his journey.”* PP 255, 256

The Tenth Plague

According to Exodus 12:12, 29, God sent the **tenth plague upon Egypt**

Ellen White explains how the plague was poured out:

*“That the Israelites might be spared, they were directed to place upon their doorposts the blood of a slain lamb. Every house was to be marked, that when **the angel came** on his mission of death, he might pass over the homes of the Israelites.”* The Desire of Ages, p. 51.

The fact that God poured out the plague by the hand of an angel should not surprise us because the book of Revelation explains that the seven last plagues are the outpouring of **God's wrath** (Revelation 15:1) and yet they are poured out by **seven angels** (Revelation 16:1)

Wheels of Pharaoh's Chariots

According to **Exodus 14:24, 25** God took the wheels off of Pharaoh's chariots

Ellen White explains:

*“The Egyptians dared to venture in the path God had prepared for His people, and **angels of God** went through their host and removed their chariot wheels.”* The Story of Redemption, p. 124

Destruction of Jericho

According to **Joshua 6:16** God destroyed Jericho

Ellen G. White states:

*“But the **Captain** of the Lord's host came Himself from heaven to **lead the armies** of heaven in the attack upon the city. **Angels of God** laid hold of the massive walls and brought them to the ground.” Testimonies for the Church, volume 3, p. 264.*

Burial of Moses

Deuteronomy 34:6 explains that God buried the body of Moses

Ellen White, after quoting Deuteronomy 34:6, explains:

*“But **angels of God** buried the body of His faithful servant and watched over the lonely grave.” Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 478.*

Manna from Heaven

John 6:32 tell us that **God sent Manna** from heaven. Yet **Psalm 78:24, 25** says it was the food of angels.

Ellen White explains:

*“In the words of the psalmist, God gave them "of the corn of heaven. Man did eat angels' food" (Psalm 78:24, 25)--that is, food provided for them **by the angels**.” Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 297*

Victory over the Philistines

According to **I Samuel 14:6, 10, 23** God delivered the children of Israel from the hands of the Philistines

Notice the words of Ellen White:

*“**Angels of heaven** shielded Jonathan and his attendant, **angels fought by their side**, and the Philistines fell before them. The **earth trembled** as though a great multitude with horsemen and chariots were approaching. Jonathan recognized the **tokens of divine aid** and even the Philistines knew that **God was working** for the deliverance of Israel. Great fear seized upon the host, both in the field and in the garrison. In the confusion, mistaking their own soldiers for enemies, the Philistines began to slay one another.” PP 623*

Plans for Solomon’s Temple

Who gave David the plans for the construction of Jerusalem’s temple?

I Chronicles 28:11-13, 19 appears to provide an ambivalent answer to this question

Verse 19 explains that **the LORD** gave David the plans

“‘All this,’ David said, ‘I have in writing from the hand of the Lord upon me, and he gave me understanding in all the details of the plan.’” New International Version

Verse 12 (NIV) states that the **Spirit of God** gave him the plans:

*“He [David] gave him [Solomon] the plans of all that **the Spirit had put in his mind** for the courts of the temple of the Lord and all the surrounding rooms, for the treasuries of the temple of God and for the treasuries for the dedicated things.”*

Ellen White adds the following testimony:

*“The Lord, **through His angel**, instructed David, and gave him a pattern of the house which Solomon should build for Him. **An angel** was commissioned to **stand by David** while he was writing out, for the benefit of Solomon, the important directions in regard to the arrangements of the house.” The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, volume 3 pp. 1128, 1129*

Sin of Uzzah

2 Samuel 6:7

*“Then the anger of the Lord was aroused against Uzzah, and **God struck him there** for his error; and he died there by the ark of God.”*

*“**Angels** who attended the ark struck down Uzzah for presuming impatiently to put his hand upon the ark of God.” ISP 410*

Handwriting on the Wall

All Bible scholars are agreed that the watcher who wrote upon the wall of the Babylonian palace was an angel (see **Daniel 4:13, 17, 23**)

Ellen White has some very interesting statements about the hand that wrote upon the wall of Belshazzar’s palace (see Daniel 5:5 and compare with Exodus 31:18 and Deuteronomy 33:2)

*“Little did Belshazzar think that there was a **heavenly Witness** to his idolatrous revelry; that **a divine Watcher**, unrecognized, looked upon the scene of profanation, heard the sacrilegious mirth, beheld the idolatry. But soon the **uninvited Guest** made His presence felt. When the revelry was at its height a bloodless hand came forth and traced upon the walls of the palace **characters that gleamed like fire**--words which, though unknown to the vast throng, were a portent of doom to the now conscience-stricken king and his guests.” PK 524*

*“A **light like the lightning** followed the forming of every letter, and lingered there, making them living characters of awful and terrible significance to all who looked upon them.” TM 436*

*“But these men are no more able to interpret the mystic characters traced **by the hand of an angel of God** than they were to interpret the dream of Nebuchadnezzar.” The Truth about Angels, pp. 140, 141*

*“At the moment in which Christ died, there were priests ministering in the temple before the veil which separated the holy from the most holy place. Suddenly they felt the earth tremble beneath them, and the veil of the temple, a strong rich drapery that had been renewed yearly, was rent in twain from top to bottom by the **same bloodless hand** that wrote the words of doom upon the walls of Belshazzar’s palace.” SR 226*

“A **guardian angel** is appointed to every follower of Christ. These **heavenly watchers** shield the righteous from the power of the wicked one.” The Great Controversy, p. 512

“When men and women are in the busy activities of life and are pressed with numerous cares, they cannot live upon their knees. But even in the market place there is **a watcher** constantly present to witness every transaction, and the books of heaven record every penny of unlawful gain as fraud. While men cannot live upon their knees in the market place, yet the silent heart's earnest desire presented to heaven **finds access to the Father through the watchers**.” In Heavenly Places, p. 84

Examples from the New Testament

Calling Jesus from the Tomb

According to **Acts 2:24** God resurrected Jesus

Ellen White explains the method that God used:

“By **raising Christ from the dead, the Father** glorified His Son before the Roman guard, before the satanic host, and before the heavenly universe. A **mighty angel**, clothed with the panoply of heaven, descended, scattering the darkness from his track, and, breaking the Roman seal, rolled back the stone from the sepulcher as if it had been a pebble, undoing in a moment the work that the enemy had done. The **voice of God was heard**, calling Christ from His prison house. The Roman guard saw heavenly angels falling in reverence before Him whom they had crucified, and He proclaimed above the rent sepulcher of Joseph, “I am the resurrection, and the life.” Can we be surprised that the soldiers fell as dead men to the earth?” Lift Him Up, p. 102

“**One** of the **angelic host** who had witnessed the scene of Christ's humiliation, and was watching His resting place, **joined the angel from heaven**, and **together** they came down to the sepulcher. . . . **One of the angels** laid hold of the great stone and rolled it away from the door of the sepulcher and seated himself upon it. The other entered the tomb and unbound the napkin from the head of Jesus. Then **the angel from heaven**, with a voice that caused the earth to quake, **cried out**, “Thou Son of God, **Thy Father calls Thee!** Come forth.” Death could hold dominion over Him no longer. Jesus arose from the dead, a triumphant conqueror.” Early Writings, pp. 181-182.

“When the **voice of the angel** was heard saying, **Thy Father calls thee,**’ He who had said, ‘I lay down my life, that I might take it again,’ ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up,’ came forth from the grave to **life that was in Himself**. Deity did not die. Humanity died, but Christ now proclaims over the rent sepulcher of Joseph, “I am the resurrection, and the life.” In **His divinity Christ possessed the power** to break the bonds of death. He declares that He had life in Himself to quicken whom He will.” 5BC 1113

“He who died for the sins of the world was to remain in the tomb for the allotted time. He was in that **stony prison house** as a **prisoner of divine justice**, and he was responsible to the Judge of the universe. He was bearing the sins of the world, and his **Father only could release him**.” The Youth’s Instructor, May 2, 1901

There are Biblical cases where God used human beings as instruments to resurrect other human beings. Two examples are:

- Elijah who was used by God to resurrect the son of the widow (I Kings 17:21, 22)
- Paul whom God used to resurrect Eutychus (Acts 20:9, 10)

Examples from Acts of the Apostles

Gamaliel's Wise Words

The wise words of Gamaliel were placed in his heart by the Holy Spirit and yet we are told by the Spirit of Prophecy:

“Then were those murderers enraged. They wished to imbrue their hands in blood again by slaying the apostles. They were planning how to do this, when an angel from God was sent to Gamaliel to move upon his heart to counsel the chief priest and rulers. Said Gamaliel: ‘Refrain from these men, and let them alone; for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to naught; but if it be of God ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God. The evil angels were moving upon the priests and elders to put the apostles to death; but God sent his angel to prevent it, by raising up a voice in favor of the disciples in their own ranks.”
Spiritual Gifts, volume 1, p. 85.

Peter and John Released from Prison

Acts 5:19, 20 describes how an angel released Peter and John from prison and told them to go to the temple to preach words of life.

Ellen White explains that God took matters into His own hands in releasing his servants from prison:

“But the God of heaven, the mighty Ruler of the universe, took this matter into His own hands; for men were warring against His work. He showed them plainly that there is a ruler above man, whose authority must be respected. The Lord sent His angel by night to open the prison doors, and he brought forth these men whom God had commissioned to do His work. The rulers said, Speak not "at all nor teach in the name of Jesus;" but the heavenly messenger sent by God said, "Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life." 5T 713

Ananias and Saul

In **Acts 9:10-16** we are told that the Lord instructed Ananias concerning Saul of Tarsus

Ellen White further explains:

*“An **angel** is sent to Ananias, directing him to go to a certain house where Saul is praying to be instructed in what he is to do next. Saul's pride is gone. A little before he was self-confident, thinking he was engaged in a good work for which he should receive a reward; but all is now changed. He is bowed down and humbled to the dust in penitence and shame, and his supplications are fervent for pardon. Said **the Lord, through His angel**, to Ananias: "Behold, he prayeth." **The angel** informed the servant of God that he had revealed to Saul in vision a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him that he might receive his sight. Ananias can scarcely credit the words of **the angel**, and repeats what he has heard of Saul's bitter persecution of the saints at Jerusalem. But the command to Ananias is imperative: 'Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto **Me**, to bear **My** name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel.' Ananias was obedient to the direction of **the angel**.” Testimonies for the Church, Volume 3, p. 430, 431*

Phillip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

There is an interesting interplay between the Spirit and the angel in the case of the Ethiopian eunuch.

- In **Acts 8:26** we find an angel commanding Phillip to meet the Ethiopian
- In **Acts 8:29** the Spirit is now speaking to Phillip
- In **Acts 8:39** the Spirit catches away Phillip.

Verse 26: *“Now **an angel of the Lord** spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”*

Verse 29: *“Then **the Spirit said to Philip**, "Go near and overtake this chariot.”*

Verses 30-38: Phillip explains Isaiah 53 to the Ethiopian and baptizes him

Verse 39: The Spirit catches away Phillip

What is meant by the Spirit catching Phillip away?

*“This Ethiopian was a man of good standing and of wide influence. **God saw** that when converted he would give others the light he had received and would exert a strong influence in favor of the gospel. **Angels of God** were attending this seeker for light and he was being **drawn** to the Savior. By the ministration of the **Holy Spirit** the Lord brought him into touch with one who could lead him to the light.” Acts of the Apostles, p. 107.*

*“An **angel guided** Phillip 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 Phillip 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, p. 109.*

*“**Angels** of God were taking notice of this seeker for light. The Ethiopian could not understand the prophecy that he read: and **the Spirit** directed Philip to go and teach him. . . Today, as then, **angels are leading and guiding** those who will be led and guided. The **angel sent to Philip** could himself have done the work for the Ethiopian, but this was not God's way of working. As God's instruments, men must work for others.*

*When **God pointed out** to Philip his work, the disciple did not say, as many are saying today, God does not mean that. I will not be too confident, or I shall make a mistake. Philip that day learned a lesson of conformity to **God's will** that was worth everything to him. He learned that every soul is precious in the sight of God, and that **angels will bring light** to those who are in need of it. Through the **ministration of angels**, God sends light to his people, and through his people this light is to be given to the world. The **Holy Spirit will guide and instruct men and women** if they will show themselves willing to be guided, by placing themselves in a position where they can communicate the light received.” The Youth's Instructor, February 14, 1901*

Catching Away in the Spirit

How are we to understand the ‘taking away of Philip’?

Catching away in the Spirit can mean two things in the Bible. These two things are illustrated by **2 Corinthians 12:2-4** where the apostle Paul refers to someone (probably himself) who was caught away to the third heaven. He was not sure whether it was in the body (that is, in person) or out of the body (that is, in his mind).

We know that the apostle John was **caught away in the Spirit** to distant places, **not physically but in his mind**. But it was not the Holy Spirit who personally ‘caught away’ John to those distant places but rather the Spirit through an angel (**Revelation 17:1, 3; 21:9-10**; see also **Ezekiel 11:1; 24, 25**).

But the expression ‘caught away’ can also refer to being taken physically. **I Thessalonians** we are told that those who are in Christ shall be **caught away** to meet the Lord in the air. This will be a physical removal of God's people from planet earth to heaven as Jesus was taken by the angels to heaven when he ascended (**Revelation 12:5**). But notice in **Matthew 24:31** that God's people will be caught up to meet Jesus by the angels.

Notably, the same phenomenon took place with **Ellen G. White** when she was in vision. She was inspired by the Holy Spirit but she was caught up to heaven by the angel:

“As inquiries are frequently made as to my state in vision, and after I come out, I would say that when the Lord sees fit to give a vision, I am taken into the presence of Jesus and angels, and am entirely lost to earthly things. I can see no farther than the angel directs me. My attention is often directed to scenes transpiring upon earth.”
Selected Messages, volume 1, p. 36.

God's Modus Operandi

Revelation 1:1, 2 reveals that in the heavenly kingdom there is an administrative **order**. The Father works through the Son, the Son operates through the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit carries on His work through the ministration of the **angels**. And the angels are waiting for us to cooperate with them. None of the persons of the Trinity are **present everywhere** in person.

“The angel from heaven came to John in majesty, his countenance beaming with the excellent glory of God. He revealed to John scenes of deep and thrilling interest in the history of the church of God and brought before him the perilous conflicts which Christ's followers were to endure. John saw them passing through fiery trials, made white and tried, and, finally, victorious overcomers, gloriously saved in the kingdom of God. The countenance of the angel grew radiant with joy and was exceeding glorious, as he showed John the final triumph of the church of God.” Early Writings, p. 230

2 Peter 1:20, 21 explains that holy men of God spoke as they were inspired by the Holy Spirit but the information was given by the Holy Spirit to impart to John.

God's Omnipresence

Explain: God is omnipresent through His omniscience (God has an infinite mind. He does not need to be personally present everywhere to know what is taking place everywhere. He remains in active communication with his creation through angels.

We are taught to pray: “*Our Father who art everywhere.*” Is that how we are taught to pray? No. We pray: “*Our Father who art in heaven.*” Read **I Kings 8:26 (fills heaven and earth), 28 (eyes may be opened) 30 (hear from heaven)** and **Jeremiah 23:23-24 (a text about God's omniscience)** in this context.

Jesus has a body and therefore must occupy a certain space.

The Holy Spirit is the general who sits at the **command and control center** and the angels are His **foot soldiers**. The Holy Spirit remains in communication with all the created order through the **ministry of the angels**.

I like to think of the Holy Spirit as the person who sits in the **command and control center** of the universe and the angels are his foot soldiers. That is to say, the Holy Spirit is the **Central Intelligence officer** who knows all because he has an infinite mind, he knows the past, the present and the future. He knows all things, he has an omniscient mind and therefore knows everything that is happening in the universe, simultaneously and when there is a prayer to be answered, the Holy Spirit sends an angel to fulfill what the person is praying for.

*“They [God's people] are to contend with supernatural forces, but they are assured of supernatural help. All the **intelligences of heaven** are in this army. And **more than angels** are in the ranks. The **Holy Spirit**, the representative of the Captain of the Lord's host, **comes down to direct** the battle. Our infirmities may be many, our sins and mistakes grievous; but the grace of God is for all who seek it with contrition. The power of Omnipotence is enlisted in behalf of those who trust in God.” The Desire of Ages, p. 352*

This is the picture of **Ezekiel 1:12, 13, 20, 24**). The wheels represent the wheels of history. The **angels** move the wheels but the **hands** of a man are under the wings (**Ezekiel 10:8**) Then we are told that the **spirit** is in them. They are full of eyes because they have the wisdom of God (**Ezekiel 10:12**). It is by a numberless host of angels that the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit perform their work. (Notice the number in **Revelation 5:11**).

The process of **Revelation and inspiration: II Peter 1:20-21**: Holy men spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

But in **Revelation 1:1-2** we are told that the angel (Gabriel) gave Jesus the information.

Ellen White was given her information by her angels. She constantly called him **“My accompanying angel”**

“I saw an angel flying swiftly to me. He quickly carried me from the earth to the Holy City. In the city I saw a temple, which I entered. I passed through a door before I came to the first veil. This veil was raised, and I passed into the holy place. Here I saw the altar of incense, the candlestick with seven lamps, and the table on which was the showbread. After viewing the glory of the holy, Jesus raised the second veil and I passed into the holy of holies.” Early Writings, p. 32

Zechariah 4:2: You have seven lamps which according to Revelation represent the **seven spirits** [Revelation 4:5; 5:6]. Notice **Zechariah 4:6**: Not by might nor by power but by my spirit. Then in **verse 10** we are told that the seven are the **eyes of the Lord** which scan the whole earth.

*“From the two olive trees, the golden oil was emptied through golden pipes into the bowl of the candlestick and thence into the golden lamps that gave light to the sanctuary. So **from the holy ones that stand in God's presence, His Spirit is imparted** to human instrumentalities that are consecrated to His service. The mission of the two anointed ones is to communicate light and power to God's people. It is to **receive blessing** for us that they stand in God's presence. As the olive trees empty themselves into the golden pipes, so the **heavenly messengers** seek to communicate all that they receive from God. The whole heavenly treasure awaits our demand and reception; and as we **receive the blessing**, we in our turn are to impart it. Thus it is that the holy lamps are fed, and the church becomes a light bearer in the world.”* Testimonies to Ministers, p. 510.

*“The angels of God are ever passing from earth to heaven and from heaven to earth. The miracles of Christ for the afflicted and suffering were wrought by the power of God through the ministration of the angels. And it is through Christ, by the ministration of His **heavenly messengers**, that **every blessing** comes from God to us.”* The Desire of Ages, p. 143

“There is one blessing that all may have who seek for it in the right way. It is the **Holy Spirit of God**, and this is a blessing that brings **all other blessings in its train.**” In Heavenly Places, p. 113

Angels the Holy Spirit and prayer

- In Romans 8:26, 27 we are told that the Holy Spirit helps us in our prayer life.
- On the **veil of the sanctuary** there were angels ascending and descending upon the veil (Exodus 26:31).
- On the **ladder Jacob saw** there were angels ascending and descending (John 1:51).
- *“The angels of God are **ascending**, bearing the prayers of the needy and distressed to the Father above, and **descending**, bringing blessing and hope, courage, help, and life, to the children of men.”* The

Desire of Ages, p. 142, 143

- When **Daniel** prayed fervently, an angel was sent to answer his prayer (Daniel 9). It is the angels who bear our prayers to heaven and bring back God's answers.
- But someone might ask: **Can angels read the mind when we pray secretly?** The answer is no. But they are given **delegated omniscience** like Peter was given to read the minds of Ananias and Sapphira.

Psalm 139 has been called the Psalm of God's **omnipresence** but it is really the Psalm of His **omniscience**. This Psalm makes it abundantly clear that God is **everywhere present** through His **infinite knowledge**. In other words, He is **omnipresent through His omniscience**. Psalm **139:1-6** explains that God has infinite knowledge and then verses **7-10** underlines that through that infinite knowledge God is everywhere!

*"O Lord, You have searched me and **known** me. 2 You **know** my sitting down and my rising up; you **understand** my thought **afar off**. 3 You **comprehend** my path and my lying down and are **acquainted** with all my ways. 4 For there is not a word on my tongue but behold, O Lord, You **know it** altogether. 5 You have hedged me behind and before and laid Your hand upon me. 6 Such **knowledge** is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it. 7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? 8 If I ascend into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. 9 If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, 10 Even there Your hand shall lead me and Your right hand shall hold me."*

*'The psalmist represents the presence of the Infinite One as pervading the universe. "If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there." [Ps. 139:8.] We can never find a solitude where God is not. **The ever watchful eye of Omniscience** is upon all our works, and although He can marshal the armies of heaven to do His will, He condescends to accept the services of frail, erring mortals'* (ST July 14, 1881). The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, volume 3, pp. 1153-1154

*"The Bible shows us God in His **high and holy place**, not in a state of inactivity, not in silence and solitude, but surrounded by ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands of holy beings, all waiting to do His will. **Through these messengers He is in active communication with every part of His dominion**. By His **Spirit** He is everywhere present. Through the agency of His **Spirit and His angels** He ministers to the children of men."* The Ministry of Healing, p. 417.

The Holy Spirit, the Angels and Pentecost

Acts 2:1-4

*"Now when the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing **mighty wind**, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided **tongues, as of fire**, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."*

*"They had built their tower to a lofty height, when the Lord sent **two angels** to confound them. Men had been appointed for the purpose of receiving word from the workmen at the top of the tower, calling for material for their work, which the first would communicate to the second, and he to the third, until the message reached those upon the ground. As the word was passing from one to another in its descent, the **angels confounded** their language, and when the word reached the workmen upon the ground, material was called for which had not been required. And after the laborious process of getting the material to the workmen at the top of the tower, it was not that which they had wished for. Disappointed and enraged, they reproached those whom they supposed*

were at fault. After this, there was no harmony in their work. Angry with one another, and unable to account for the misunderstanding and strange words among them, they left the work, and scattered abroad in the earth. Up to this time, men had spoken but one language. Those who could understand one another associated together and thus originated various nations speaking different languages.” Signs of the Times, March 20, 1879

Psalm 104: 3, 4:

“He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters, who makes the **clouds** [**angels** because Jesus comes with clouds] His **chariot**, who walks on the **wings of the wind**, 4 who makes His angels spirits [**ruach**, **pneuma**], His ministers a flame of **fire**.”

Hebrews 1:7

“And of the angels He says: "Who makes His angels spirits [**winds**] and His ministers a flame of fire."

Psalms 68:17

“The **chariots** of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of thousands; the Lord is among them as in Sinai, in the Holy Place.”

2 Kings 6:17-18

“And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and **chariots of fire** all around Elisha.”

Ezekiel 1:12-13

“As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning **coals of fire**, and like the appearance of **torches**. **Fire** was going back and forth among the living creatures; the **fire** was bright, and out of the **fire** went lightning. 14 And the living creatures ran back and forth, in appearance like a flash of lightning.”

Acts 2:2, 3

“And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty **wind**, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of **fire**, and one sat upon each of them.”

“When the truth in its simplicity is lived in every place, then God will work **through His angels** as He worked on the **day of Pentecost**, and hearts will be changed so decidedly that there will be a manifestation of the influence of genuine truth, as is represented in the descent of the Holy Spirit.” My Life Today, p. 58

“When the **angels of heaven** come among us and work through human agents, there will be solid, substantial conversions, after the order of the conversions after the day of **Pentecost**.” Selected Messages, volume 2, p. 57

“All heaven is interested in your salvation, and **angels of God** are waiting to do for you what they did for the early disciples on the day of **Pentecost**.” Manuscript Releases, volume 10, p. 112

On the Day of Pentecost, **Jesus unleashed the host** of heavenly angels to invade the **territory of Satan** because the apostles met the conditions and asked for the **Holy Spirit**. At the end the same will happen.

*“Before the work is closed up and the sealing of God's people is finished, we shall receive the outpouring of the **Spirit of God**. Angels from heaven will be in our midst.”* Maranatha, p. 212

*“After the **outpouring of the Holy Spirit**, thousands were converted. **Angels of God** that excel in strength, clothed with the brightness of heaven, came to the **help of the church**, and swept back the forces of Satan. The work of the **Holy Spirit** was not limited to apostolic days; it is not confined to any church, large or small: the field of his ministration is the world. "He will convince the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." But the **instrumentalities through which the Holy Spirit works** are the members of Christ's body, those who believe in his name. It is through these light-bearers that the gospel is to be carried to all the nations of the earth.”* Review and Herald, January 20, 1891

Ellen G. White quotations on the relationship between the Holy Spirit and angels:

*‘Through the ministry of the **angels**, the **Holy Spirit is enabled** to work upon the mind and heart of the human agent, and **draw him to Christ**, who has paid the ransom money for his soul, that the sinner may be rescued from the slavery of sin and Satan.’* That I May Know Him, p. 57.

*‘The **angels of God** are ever passing from earth to heaven and from heaven to earth. The miracles of Christ for the afflicted and suffering were wrought by the power of God through the **ministration of the angels**. And it is through Christ, **by the ministration of His heavenly messengers, that every blessing comes from God to us.**’* The Desire of Ages, p. 143

*‘Words and actions and motives are recorded; but how little do these light, superficial heads and hard hearts realize that an **angel of God** stands writing down the manner in which their precious moments are employed. **God will bring** to light every word and every action. **He is in every place**. **His messengers**, although unseen, are visitors in the workroom and in the sleeping apartment. The hidden works of darkness will be brought to light. The thoughts, the intents and purposes of the heart, will stand revealed. All things are naked and open to the **eyes of Him** with whom we have to do.’* Testimonies for the Church, volume 4, pp. 589-590.

*“Satan is gratified to have the attention of youth attracted by anything to divert their minds from God.... They are not aware that the **heavenly Artist** is taking **cognizance** of every act, every word, ... and that even the thoughts and intents of the heart stand faithfully delineated. . . . Those vain, frivolous words are all written in the book. Those false words are written. Those deceptive acts, with the motives concealed from human eyes, but discerned by the **all-seeing eye of Jehovah**, are all written in living characters. Every selfish act is exposed. The young generally conduct themselves as though the precious hours of probation, while mercy lingers, were one grand holiday, and that they are placed in this world simply for their own amusement.”* Our High Calling, p. 283.

The Holy Spirit is connected with the Word (Ephesians 6:17). You must face the remedial eyes and sword now (Revelation 1:14, 16) or else face the retributive eyes and sword later (Revelation 19:12, 15). Hebrews 4:12-13 is the key verse about the omniscient omnipresence of God. How can we overcome. Not by focusing on sin but

by looking unto Jesus. Not by looking at others but by looking unto Jesus (Hebrews 12:1-3). The Bible is like a surgeon who detects the cancer and then cuts it out (Mark 9:43-48). Surgery is painful but it is worth it!!

One final point: Ellen G. White attributes to angels what the Holy Spirit does:

*“. . . angels of God are now **moving upon the hearts** of His honest children to **enlighten** their understanding as to the present truth, that they may lay hold upon it and live.” Early Writings, p. 98.*

*“Angels are **watching over** and **guarding** us; we often **grieve** these angels by indulging in trifling conversation, jesting, and joking, and also by sinking down into a careless, stupid state.” Early Writings, p. 111.*

*“There is too much mocking the Lord, too much praying that is no praying and that **wearies angels** and displeases God, too many vain, unmeaning petitions.” Early Writings, p. 115.*

*“Then Jesus would commission another angel to descend to **encourage, watch over,** and try to **keep them** from going out of the narrow path; but if they did not take heed to the **watchful care** of these angels, and would not be **comforted** by them, but continued to go astray, the angels would look sad and weep. They would bear the tidings upward, and all the angels in the city would weep, and then with a loud voice say, "Amen." But if the saints fixed their eyes upon the prize before them and glorified God by praising Him, then the angels would bear the glad tidings to the city, and the angels in the city would touch their golden harps and sing with a loud voice, "Alleluia!" and the heavenly arches would ring with their lovely songs.*

*“To those who in humility of heart seek for divine guidance, **angels of God** draw near. The **Holy Spirit** is given to open to them the rich treasures of the truth.” Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 59.*

*“While **angels of heaven** endeavor to **impress hearts** with the word of God, the enemy is on the alert to make the word of no effect. With an earnestness equaled only by his malice, he tries to **thwart the work of the Spirit of God**. While **Christ is drawing** the soul by His love, Satan tries to turn away the attention of the one who is moved to seek the Savior.” Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 44.*

*“The Pharisee felt no conviction of sin. The **Holy Spirit** could not work with him. His soul was encased in a self-righteous armor which the arrows of God, barbed and true-aimed by **angel hands**, failed to penetrate.” Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 158.*

*“In heaven it is said by the ministering **angels**: The ministry which we have been commissioned to perform we have done. We **pressed back** the army of evil angels. We **sent brightness and light** into the souls of men, **quickenning their memory** of the love of God expressed in Jesus. We **attracted their eyes** to the cross of Christ. Their hearts were **deeply moved** by a sense of the sin that crucified the Son of God. They were **convicted** [according to John 16:13, this work is done by the Holy Spirit]. They saw the steps to be taken in conversion; they felt the **power of the gospel**; their hearts were **made tender** as they saw the sweetness of the love of God. They beheld the beauty of the character of Christ. But with the many it was all in vain. They would not surrender their own habits and character. They would not put off the garments of earth in order to be clothed with the robe of heaven. Their hearts were given to covetousness. They loved the associations of the world more than they loved their God.” Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 318.*

*“His angels are appointed to watch over us, and if we put ourselves under their guardianship, then in every time of danger they will be at our right hand. When unconsciously we are in danger of exerting a wrong influence, the angels will be by our side, **prompting us** to a better course, **choosing our words for us** [according to Mark 13:11, this work is done by the Holy Spirit], and **influencing** our actions.”* Christ’s Object Lessons, pp. 341-342.

“Let the worker for Christ remember that he is not to labor in his own strength. Let him lay hold of the throne of God with faith in His power to save. Let him wrestle with God in prayer, and then work with all the facilities God has given him. The Holy Spirit is provided as his efficiency. Ministering angels will be by his side to impress hearts.” Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 232.

*“Papers and books are the Lord's means of keeping the message for this time continually before the people. In enlightening and confirming souls in the truth the publications will do a far greater work than can be accomplished by the ministry of the word alone. The silent messengers that are placed in the homes of the people through the work of the canvasser will strengthen the gospel ministry in every way; for the **Holy Spirit** will impress minds as they read the books, just as He impresses the minds of those who listen to the preaching of the word. The **same ministry of angels** attends the books that contain the truth as attends the work of the minister.”* Testimonies for the Church, volume 3, p. 315

*“I ask you, dear Christian workers, to do what you can to circulate the books that the Lord has said should be sown broadcast throughout the world. . . Under divine guidance, go forward in the work, and look to the Lord for aid. The **Holy Spirit** will attend you. **Angels of heaven** will accompany you, preparing the way.”* Review and Herald, Jan. 7, 1903.

In the light of John 14:26

*“Temptations often appear irresistible because, through neglect of prayer and the study of the Bible, the tempted one cannot readily remember God's promises and meet Satan with the Scripture weapons. But **angels** are round about those who are willing to be taught in divine things; and in the time of great necessity they will **bring to their remembrance** the very truths which are needed. Thus, "when the enemy shall come in like a flood, the **Spirit of the Lord** shall lift up a standard against him." Isaiah 59:19. The Great Controversy, p. 600*

*“Ministering angels **open the eyes of the mind and heart** to see wonderful things in the divine law, in the natural world, and in the eternal things revealed by the **Holy Spirit**.”* My Life Today, p. 291

*“We should ever keep in mind that **unseen agencies** are at work, both evil and good, to take the **control of the mind**. They act with unseen yet effectual power. Good angels are ministering spirits, exerting a **heavenly influence upon heart and mind**; while the great adversary of souls, the devil, and his angels are continually laboring to accomplish our destruction.”* The Adventist Home, p. 405

*“When unconsciously we are in danger of exerting a wrong influence, the **angels** will be by our side, **prompting us** to a better course, **choosing our words** for us, and **influencing our actions**. Thus our influence may be a silent, unconscious, but **mighty power** in drawing others to Christ and the heavenly world.”* Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 341, 342

“God sent His angel to **move upon the heart** of a farmer [William Miller] who had not believed the Bible, to lead him to search the prophecies. **Angels of God** repeatedly visited that chosen one, to guide his mind and **open to his understanding** prophecies which had ever been dark to God's people.” Early Writings, p. 229

“It is impossible to give any idea of the experience of the people of God who shall be alive upon the earth when **celestial glory** and a repetition of the persecutions of the past are blended. They will walk in the light proceeding from the throne of God. **By means of the angels** there will be **constant communication** between heaven and earth.” Testimonies for the Church, volume 9, p. 16

“Those who labor for the good of others are working in union with the heavenly angels. They have their constant companionship, their unceasing ministry. Angels of light and power are ever near to **protect, to comfort, to heal, to instruct, to inspire.**” Testimonies for the Church, volume 6, pp. 307, 308

“Today, as verily as in the days of the apostles, heavenly messengers are passing through the length and breadth of the land, seeking to **comfort** the sorrowing, to **protect** the impenitent, to win the hearts of men to Christ. We cannot see them personally; nevertheless they are with us, **guiding, directing, protecting.**” Acts of the Apostles, pp. 152, 153

“Ministering angels are waiting about the throne to instantly **obey the mandate** of Jesus Christ to **answer every prayer** offered in earnest, living faith.” Selected Messages, volume 2, p. 377

“Let every man who enters the pulpit know that he has **angels** from heaven in his audience. And when these angels **empty from themselves the golden oil of truth** into the heart of him who is teaching the word, then the application of the truth will be a solemn, serious matter. The **angel messengers** will **expel sin from the heart**, unless the door of the heart is padlocked and Christ is refused admission. Christ will withdraw Himself from those who persist in refusing the heavenly blessings that are so freely offered them.” Testimonies to Ministers, p. 338

“**Heavenly intelligences** are looking on, and when, imbued with zeal for Christ's honor, we place ourselves in the channel of God's providence, these heavenly messengers **will impart to us a new spiritual power** so that we shall be able to combat difficulties and triumph over obstacles.” Testimonies for the Church, volume 6, p. 285

“. . . when you are in danger of unconsciously doing wrong and exerting an influence which will lead others to do wrong, your guardian angel will be by your side, **prompting you** to a better course, **choosing** your words for you, and **influencing** your actions.” Testimonies for the Church, volume 3, pp. 363, 364

“Do not stop to try to convert the one who is speaking words of reproach against your work; but let it be seen that you are inspired by the **Spirit of Jesus Christ**, and **angels of God** will put into your lips words that will reach the hearts of the opposers.” Testimonies for the Church, volume 9, pp. 148, 149

John 14:26 tells us that the Holy Spirit brings the words of Jesus to remembrance. But notice the following statement:

“**Heavenly angels** are commissioned to co-operate with those who seek to obey this instruction. It is the **divine intelligences** that make the **impressions on human hearts**. If we ask in humility and faith, God will impart to us wisdom and grace to work in harmony with these agencies. “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." The Review and Herald, October 25, 1898

*"A measure of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. Through the **ministry of the angels**, the **Holy Spirit is enabled** to work upon the **mind and heart** of the human agent, and draw him to Christ, who has paid the ransom money for his soul, that the sinner may be rescued from the slavery of sin and Satan. But the **Spirit of God** does not interfere with the freedom of the human agent."* The Youth's Instructor, July 5, 1894

Some have wondered how the Holy Spirit lives in us. Is it that the Holy Spirit jumps into us or is poured into us? The answer to this question is clearly answered in John 14:8-11 where Jesus stated that the Father is in Him and He is in the Father and that the Father dwells in Him. Does this mean that the Father personally was inside Jesus? If He was, why did Jesus pray to His Father in heaven? And why did His Father speak to Him from heaven at the baptism?

Chain of Command

Holy Spirit is a Person

It is difficult for us to conceive of the Holy Spirit as a person because of the **metaphors** that are used to describe His work, things like a **dove, rain, oil, fire and wind**. We almost come to think that the Holy Spirit is a **substance** that is **infused** or **poured into us** rather than a person outside of us who **loves, reasons, helps, guides, reproveth, talks, can be lied to**.

From a talk given to the students at **Avondale**:

*"We need to realize that the Holy Spirit, who is **as much a person as God is a person**, is walking through these grounds." Manuscript 66, 1899 found in Evangelism, p. 616*

*"**The Holy Spirit is a person**, for He beareth witness with our spirits that we are the children of God. When this witness is borne, it carries with it its own evidence. At such times we believe and are sure that we are the children of God. . . . **The Holy Spirit has a personality**, else He could not bear witness to our spirits and with our spirits that we are the children of God. He must also be **a divine person**, or else He could not search out the secrets which lie hidden in the mind of God. "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God."--Manuscript 20, 1906. Evangelism, p. 616, 617*

*"The prince of the power of evil can only be held in check by the power of God in the **third person** of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit." Special Testimonies, Series A, No. 10, p. 37. (1897) Evangelism, p. 617*

*"We are to co-operate with the **three highest powers** in heaven,--the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, --and these powers will work through us, making us workers together with God." Special Testimonies, Series B, No. 7, p. 51. (1905) Evangelism, p. 617*

*"Our sanctification is the work of the **Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit**. It is the fulfillment of the covenant God has made with those who bind themselves up with Him, to stand with **Him, His Son, and His Spirit** in holy fellowship. Have you been born again? Have you become a new being in Christ Jesus? Then cooperate with the **three great powers** of heaven who are working in your behalf (MS 11, 1901). 7BC 908*

*"It is not essential for us to be able to define just **what the Holy Spirit is**. Christ tells us that the Spirit is the Comforter, 'the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father.' It is plainly declared regarding the Holy Spirit that, in **His work** of guiding men into all truth, "He shall not speak of Himself." John 15:26; 16:13.*

*The **nature** of the Holy Spirit is a **mystery**. Men cannot explain it, because the Lord has **not revealed it to them**. Men having fanciful views may bring together passages of Scripture and put a human construction on them, but*

*the acceptance of these views will not strengthen the church. Regarding such mysteries, which are too deep for human understanding, **silence is golden.** AA 51, 52*

Adam's Original Dominion

Psalm 8:3-8: God gave man **dominion** and the **territory** of planet earth. The **expression** “beasts of the field, birds of the air and fish of the sea” = **All things** relating to planet earth

*“When I consider your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him and the son of man that You visit him? For you have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have **crowned him** with glory and honor. You have made him **to have dominion** over the works of your hands; You have **put all things under his feet**, all sheep and oxen--even the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea that pass through the paths of the seas.”*

Adam Lost Dominion

Romans 6:16: We are **slaves** of he whom we **choose to obey**. **Adam** chose to obey Satan and therefore became his **servant o slave**

“Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?”

Ellen White makes this perceptive comment:

*“At his creation Adam was placed **in dominion over the earth**. But by yielding to temptation, he was brought under the **power of Satan**. "Of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage." 2 Peter 2:19. When man became Satan's captive, the **dominion which he held, passed to his conqueror**. Thus Satan became "the god of this world." 2 Corinthians 4:4. He had **usurped that dominion** over the earth which had been **originally given to Adam**. But Christ, by His sacrifice paying the penalty of sin, would not only redeem man, but **recover the dominion** which he had forfeited. All that was lost by the first Adam will be restored by the second.’ PP 67*

Satan Laid Claim

Luke 4:5-7: **Satan laid claim** to what belonged to Adam. Basically he affirmed: “*Adam chose to obey me rather than you and therefore he is my subject, not yours.*”

*“Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, "All this authority **I will give You**, and their glory; for this **has been delivered to me**, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.”*

The Mission of Jesus

Jesus needed to live the **perfect life** that I should live and **die the death** that I should die so that receiving Him I might be included in what he did.

John 12:31-33: Satan was **cast out** as the **legal representative** of planet earth. **Jesus is now the king and representative** of planet earth

*“Now is the judgment of this world; now the **ruler** of this world will be **cast out**. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself. This He said, signifying by what **death he would die**.”*

*“Christ did not yield up His life till He had accomplished the work which He came to do, and with His parting breath He exclaimed, “It is finished.” John 19:30. **The battle had been won**. His right hand and His holy arm had **gotten Him the victory**. As a **Conqueror** He planted His banner on the eternal heights. Was there not joy among the angels? All heaven triumphed in the Savior's victory. **Satan was defeated, and knew that his kingdom was lost**.” DA 758*

Revelation 12:10-12 looks **backward** at the heavenly jubilation caused by this event but also looks forward to Satan’s **anger** against God’s people in the future.

*“Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the **kingdom** of our God, and the power of His Christ **have come**, for the accuser of our brethren, who **accused** them before our God day and night, **has been** cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Therefore, rejoice O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has **come down to you**, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a **short time**.”*

Victory on the Cross and Pentecost

There is a **close link** between Christ’s **victory on the cross** and the **outpouring of the Holy Spirit** on the Day of Pentecost. On the cross Jesus laid **legal claim** to kingship over the earth and **after Pentecost He was going to conquer** His **territory** back through **His people**.

- **John 12:24, 31-33:** Grain dies and bears much fruit
- **Exodus 17:1-6; Numbers 20:8-11:** Moses strikes the rock and water pours forth from it
- **I Corinthians 12:13:** The water represents the Holy Spirit
- **Galatians 3:13, 14:** Jesus suffered the curse so that the blessing of Abraham could come upon all those who believe (see verses **16 and 29**)
- **John 4:13, 14:** Come to me and drink
- **John 7:37-39:** The water we receive is the water we give

What really happened on the Day of Pentecost?

Acts 2:1-4: Notice the phenomena—wind and fire

*“Now when the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a **rushing mighty wind**, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided **tongues, as of fire**, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with **other tongues**, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”*

Who gave the languages at Babel?

Genesis 11:8, 9:

So the **Lord scattered them** abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. 9 Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the **Lord confused** the language of all the earth; and from there the **Lord scattered** them abroad over the face of all the earth.”

The passage says that **God came down and confused** their tongues. But, did God really **descend personally** to do this? Notice this telling statement from Ellen White:

“They had built their tower to a lofty height when **the Lord sent two angels to confound** them in their work. Men had been appointed for the purpose of receiving word from the workmen at the top of the tower, calling for material for their work, which the first would communicate to the second, and he to the third, until the word reached those on the ground. As the word was passing from one to another in its descent, **the angels confounded their language**, and when the word reached the workmen upon the ground, material was called for which had not been required. . . **Lightning from heaven**, as a token of God's wrath, broke off the top of their tower, casting it to the ground.” *The Story of Redemption*, p. 73

Psalm 104:1-4: Clouds, wind, fire

NKJV: “Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, You are very great: You are clothed with honor and majesty, 2 Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment, Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain. He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters, who makes the **clouds** His chariot, who walks on the **wings** of the **wind**, who makes His **angels spirits**, His **ministers** a flame of **fire**.”

NIV: “He wraps himself in light as with a garment; he stretches out the heavens like a tent and lays the beams of his upper chambers on their waters. He makes the **clouds** his chariot and **rides** on the wings of the wind. He makes **winds** his messengers [angels], **flames of fire** his servants.”

Hebrews 1:7

“And of the **angels** He says: “Who makes His angels **spirits** [*pneuma*; same word as in John 3 where Jesus compares the Holy Spirit with wind] and His ministers a **flame of fire**.”

Angels and the Day of Pentecost

“When the truth in its simplicity is lived in every place, then God will work **through His angels** as He worked on the **day of Pentecost**, and hearts will be changed so decidedly that there will be a manifestation of the influence of genuine truth, as is represented in the descent of the Holy Spirit.” *My Life Today*, p. 58

“**When** the **angels of heaven** come among us and work through human agents, there will be solid, substantial conversions, after the order of the conversions after the day of **Pentecost**.” *Selected Messages*, volume 2, p. 57

*“All heaven is interested in your salvation, and **angels of God** are **waiting to do for you** what they did for the early disciples on the day of **Pentecost**.” Manuscript Releases, volume 10, p. 112*

*“Through the ministry of the **angels**, the **Holy Spirit is enabled** to work upon the **mind and heart** of the human agent, and **draw him** to Christ, who has paid the ransom money for his soul, that the sinner may be rescued from the slavery of sin and Satan.” That I May Know Him, p. 57.*

The Chariots of God

Psalm 68:17:

*“The **chariots of God** are twenty thousand, even thousands of thousands; the Lord is among them as in Sinai, in the Holy Place.”*

2 Kings 6:17-18

*“And Elisha prayed, and said, “LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.” Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was **full of horses** and **chariots of fire** all around Elisha. 18 So when the Syrians came down to him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, and said, “Strike this people, I pray, with blindness.” And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.”*

*“On each side of the cloudy **chariot are wings**, and beneath it are living wheels; and as the chariot rolls upward, the **wheels cry**, “**Holy**,” and the **wings**, as they move, cry, “**Holy**,” and the retinue of angels cry, “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty.” And the redeemed shout, “Alleluia!” as the **chariot** moves onward toward the New Jerusalem.” GC 645*

Ezekiel 1:12-14

*“And each one went straight forward; they went wherever the spirit wanted to go, and they did not turn when they went. 13 As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning **coals of fire**, and like the appearance of **torches**. Fire was going back and forth among the living creatures; the fire was bright, and out of the **fire** went **lightning**. 14 And the living creatures ran back and forth, in appearance like a **flash of lightning**.”*

Who was impelling these wheels?

*“There were wheels within wheels in an arrangement so complicated that at first sight they appeared to Ezekiel to be all in confusion. But when they moved, it was with beautiful exactness and in perfect harmony. **Heavenly beings were impelling these wheels**, and, above all, upon the glorious sapphire throne, was the Eternal One; while round about the throne was the encircling rainbow, emblem of grace and love.” 5T 751*

*“The wheellike complications that appeared to the prophet to be involved in such confusion were under the guidance of an **infinite hand**. The **Spirit of God**, revealed to him as **moving and directing these wheels**, brought harmony out of confusion; so the **whole world was under His control**. **Myriads of glorified beings were ready** at His word to overrule the power and policy of evil men, and bring good to His faithful ones.” 5T 752*

“The tireless vigilance of the heavenly messengers, their unceasing employment in their ministry in connection with the beings of earth, shows us how God's hand is guiding the wheel within a wheel.” 4BC 1161

God's Modus Operandi

Revelation 1:1-5: There is a certain order that God follows in the administration of the universe, what I call the chain of command. The order is Father-Jesus-Spirit-Angel-John- Church-World

*“The Revelation of [2] Jesus Christ, which [1] God gave Him to show His servants — things which must shortly take place. (2:7): “He who has an ear, let him hear what the [3] Spirit says to the churches. And He sent and signified it by His [4] angel to His servant [5] John who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near. **John**, to the [6] seven churches which are in Asia.”*

Matthew 8:5-10: An example of how it works

*“Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, 6 saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.” And Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal him.” The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. 9 For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And **I say to this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.**” When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!”*

Ellen White's Incisive Remark about this event:

*“As I represent the power of Rome, and my soldiers recognize my authority as supreme, so dost Thou represent the power of the **Infinite God**, and all created things obey Thy word. Thou canst command the disease to depart, and it shall obey Thee. Thou canst summon Thy heavenly messengers, and they shall impart healing virtue. Speak but the word, and my servant shall be healed. DA 316*

“The angels of God are ever passing from earth to heaven and from heaven to earth. The [‘all’ 2SP 67, 68] miracles of Christ for the afflicted and suffering were wrought by the power of God through the ministration of the angels. And it is through Christ, by the ministration of His heavenly messengers, that every blessing comes from God to us.” The Desire of Ages, p. 143

“There is one blessing that all may have who seek for it in the right way. It is the Holy Spirit of God, and this is a blessing that brings all other blessings in its train.” In Heavenly Places, p. 113

*“**I have been shown angels of God** all ready to impart grace and power to those who feel their need of divine strength. But these heavenly messengers will not bestow blessings unless solicited. They have waited for the cry from souls hungering and thirsting for the blessing of God.” Our High Calling, p. 129*

Notice the relationship between the Holy Spirit, the prophets and the ministry of the angels in Acts 7:51-53 (see also Galatians 3:19):

*"You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist **the Holy Spirit**; as your fathers did, so do you. 52 Which of the **prophets** did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, 53 who have received the law **by the direction of angels** and have not kept it."*

Christ's Victory and Pentecost

Satan was **defeated at the cross**—it was **D-day** for him or the **decisive battle** in the war. But he is not going to simply **give up and surrender**. He will fight on to **hang on to every inch** of territory that **Jesus legally won** at the cross.

Our role is to **tell people** that Satan lost at the cross and that the world **now legally belongs to Him** and His followers. Those who **choose to stay with Satan's army** will lose with him. We are to call **souls to desert** from the army of Satan and **join the army of Jesus**. This is our **evangelistic task**. If you stay with Satan you will lose with him.

In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit is very seldom mentioned. The reason is that Jesus Himself carried on the work personally. Jesus did intervene in spectacular fashion in the Old Testament through the ministration of the angels. Every time that Jesus intervened Satan bitterly complained that He was illegally interfering in his territory. But now this territory has been recovered by Jesus and he can do in it whatever He wishes.

Now the **Holy Spirit** is the **representative** of Jesus and **commands the heavenly hosts**.

On the Day of **Pentecost** all the heavenly hosts were **unleashed** on planet earth because this **territory now belongs to Jesus** territory of Jesus because of His victory on the cross.

Christ's Army

A **preparation of Christ's** army was necessary at Pentecost. They had been received basic **training** (three and a half years earlier) and now they were going to go out in **hand to hand combat** against the enemy. They **prayed, studied, invested and laid all their personal agendas aside**. They were **ready to follow** the **unquestioning** orders of their commander. They were **ready to face** the enemy.

The disciples became the **earthly soldiers** of Jesus. A soldier must make a **total and unquestioning surrender of his will** to his **commanding officer** and or else he **cannot be useful**.

As long as the soldier is **looking out for his own skin** or is willing to **act independently** of his commander's orders, he is **totally useless** to his commanding officer. They were covered with the **whole armor** of God or with Christ and they could be **used powerfully**.

Unfortunately the chain of command **breaks down** between the angels and us!

*"There is no line of work in which it is possible for the youth to receive greater benefit. All who engage in ministry are **God's helping hand**. They are co-workers **with the angels**; rather, they are the human agencies through whom **the angels accomplish** their mission. **Angels speak** through their voices, and work by their hands. And the human workers, **co-operating with heavenly agencies**, have the benefit of their education and experience. As a means of education, what "university course" can equal this? With such an army of workers*

as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Savior might be carried to the whole world! How soon might the end come—the end of suffering and sorrow and sin! How soon, in place of a possession here, with its blight of sin and pain, our children might receive their inheritance where “the righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein forever;” where “the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick,” and “the voice of weeping shall be no more heard.” Psalm 37:29; Isaiah 33:24; 65:19. 100” Ellen G. White, *A Call to Stand Apart*, p. 66

The Candlestick Illustration

“From the two olive trees, the **golden oil** was emptied through golden pipes into the bowl of the candlestick and thence into the golden lamps that gave light to the sanctuary. So **from the holy ones** that stand in God's presence, **His Spirit is imparted** to **human instrumentalities** that are consecrated to His service. The mission of the two anointed ones is to communicate light and power to God's people. It is to **receive blessing for us** that they stand in God's presence. As the olive trees empty themselves into the golden pipes, so the **heavenly messengers seek to communicate all that they receive from God**. The whole heavenly treasure awaits our demand and reception; and as we receive the blessing, we in **our turn are to impart it**. Thus it is that the holy lamps are fed, and the **church becomes a light bearer in the world**.” *TM* 510

“The **golden oil** is not manufactured by any human skill. It is the unseen power of the **heavenly messengers** who wait before the throne of God to communicate to all who are in darkness, that they may **diffuse heaven's light**. Into the hearts of those united to God by faith, his golden oil of love flows freely, to flow forth again in good works, in real, heartfelt service for God. These souls become a blessing to their fellow men, and thus are enabled to shine.” *Review and Herald*, September 21, 1897

The Final Outpouring of the Holy Spirit

On the Day of Pentecost, **Jesus unleashed the host** of heavenly angels to invade the **territory that Satan claimed as his own**. The territory had legally been restored to its rightful owner, Jesus. This has not changed; Jesus is **still the legal owner**. There was another factor involved in the unleashing of the heavenly hosts. The apostles **met the conditions** and asked for the **Holy Spirit**. At the end the same will happen. There will be a new Pentecost for the finishing of the work of God on earth. The final battle in the drama will take place, the **Battle of Armageddon**.

“Before the work is closed up and the sealing of God's people is finished, we shall receive the outpouring of the **Spirit of God**. **Angels** from heaven will be in our midst.” *Maranatha*, p. 212

“After the **outpouring of the Holy Spirit**, thousands were converted. **Angels of God** that excel in strength, clothed with the brightness of heaven, came to the **help of the church**, and swept back the forces of Satan. The work of the **Holy Spirit** was not limited to apostolic days; it is not confined to any church, large or small: the field of his ministration is the world. “He will convince the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.” But the **instrumentalities through which the Holy Spirit works** are the members of Christ's body, those who believe in his name. It is through these light-bearers that the gospel is to be carried to all the nations of the earth.” *Review and Herald*, January 20, 1891

The Restrainer

“The restraining Spirit of God is even now being withdrawn from the world. Hurricanes, storms, tempests, fire and flood, disasters by sea and land, follow each other in quick succession. Science seeks to explain all these. The signs thickening around us, telling of the near approach of the Son of God, are attributed to any other than the true cause. Men cannot discern the sentinel angels restraining the four winds that they shall not blow until the servants of God are sealed; but when God shall bid His angels loose the winds, there shall be such a scene of strife as no pen can picture.” Testimonies for the Church, volume 6, p. 408

“When unconsciously we are in danger of exerting a wrong influence, the angels will be by our side, prompting us to a better course, choosing our words for us, and influencing our actions. Thus our influence may be a silent, unconscious, but mighty power in drawing others to Christ and the heavenly world. Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 341, 342

“The Lord is in active communication with every part of His vast dominions. He is represented as bending toward the earth and its inhabitants. He is listening to every word that is uttered. He hears every groan; He listens to every prayer; He observes the movements of every one; He approves or condemns every action. The hand of Christ draws aside the veil which conceals from our eyes the glory of heaven; and we behold Him in His high and holy place, not in a state of silence and indifference to His subjects in a fallen world, but surrounded by all the heavenly host,--ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, all waiting to go at His bidding on errands of mercy and love.” Signs of the Times, November 17, 1898

“The Bible shows us God in His high and holy place, not in a state of inactivity, not in silence and solitude, but surrounded by ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands of holy beings, all waiting to do His will. Through these messengers He is in active communication with every part of His dominion. By His Spirit He is everywhere present. Through the agency of His Spirit and His angels He ministers to the children of men.

Above the distractions of the earth He sits enthroned; all things are open to His divine survey; and from His great and calm eternity He orders that which His providence sees best.” The Ministry of Healing, p. 417

Another Example of how it Works

“So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum. 47 When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. 48 Then Jesus said to him, “Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe.” 49 The nobleman said to Him, “Sir, come down before my child dies!” 50 Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your son lives.” So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way. 51 And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told him, saying, “Your son lives!” 52 Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better. And they said to him, “Yesterday at the seventh hour [one o’clock in the afternoon] the fever left him.” 53 So the father knew that it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, “Your son lives.” And he himself believed, and his whole household.”

“Cana was not so far from Capernaum but that the officer might have reached his home on the evening after his interview with Jesus; but he did not hasten on the homeward journey. It was not until the next morning that he

reached Capernaum. What a homecoming was that! When he went to find Jesus, his heart was heavy with sorrow. The sunshine seemed cruel to him, the songs of the birds a mockery. How different his feelings now! All nature wears a new aspect. He sees with new eyes. As he journeys in the quiet of the early morning, all nature seems to be praising God with him. While he is still some distance from his own dwelling, servants come out to meet him, anxious to relieve the suspense they are sure he must feel. He shows no surprise at the news they bring, but with a depth of interest they cannot know he asks at what hour the child began to mend. They answer, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." At the very moment when the father's faith grasped the assurance, "Thy son liveth," divine love touched the dying child." DA 199

"Instead of going to Capernaum, Jesus, by a flash of divine telegraphy, sends the message of healing to the bedside of the suffering son." 2SP 155

"And the power of the words of the Redeemer flashes like lightning from Cana to Capernaum, and the child is healed. The nobleman shows his faith by not insisting on the presence of Jesus, and immediately the power of Satan is rebuked. The dying boy feels the joy of restoration." The Youth's Instructor, December 4, 1902

"The nobleman wanted to see the fulfillment of his prayer **before he should believe**; but he had to **accept the word** of Jesus that his request was heard and the blessing granted. This lesson we also have to learn. **Not because we see or feel that God hears us are we to believe. We are to trust in His promises.** When we come to Him in faith, every petition enters the heart of God. When we have asked for His blessing, we should **believe that we receive it**, and thank Him that we **have received it**. Then we are to go about our duties, assured that the blessing will be realized when we need it most. When we have learned to do this, we shall know that our prayers are answered." DA 200

An Interesting Editor's Comment

"In the second epistle of Peter 1:21 it is said that 'holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.' The books of Revelation and Daniel reveal the fact that angels have revealed truth to the prophets. From these facts some have concluded that the Holy Ghost was an angel or angels; and that any other view makes the Bible contradict itself. That this is not so, one simple principle will show, and borne in mind will enable our readers to solve similar problems. It is this, that because a principal is responsible for all the acts of his agents or subordinates, the acts or work of his agents may properly be said to be his acts. For instance, we say, 'That house was built by Mr. Jones,' or "That printing press was made by Mr. Hoe,' although Mr. Jones never did any work on the house nor Mr. Hoe on the press. But they caused the work to be done; therefore it was their work. Thus the Father created the world through the Son. God spake unto the fathers, but he did it by the prophets. Hebrews 1:1

So God has revealed his will to men. Sometimes through angels, sometimes through men. But in both cases the Spirit of God fitted the messenger for his work, gave power to his message, and prepared the heart of the individual to whom it was sent to receive the truth spoken. The Father, the Son, or the Holy Spirit, or rather the perfect oneness of all three, was the principal; the angel or the man was the agent. Now to say that the Spirit was an angel would prove by the same rule that the Spirit was a human being. But neither is true. The angel was only the messenger of God, the power—the all—was furnished by the Spirit of God, who is above and before all angels and all creatures." Signs of the Times, September 23, 1889

Additional information by Pastor Stephen Bohr may be obtained at:



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