

The people of the United States have been a favored people; but when they restrict religious liberty, surrender Protestantism, and give countenance to popery, the measure of their guilt will be full, and “national apostasy” will be registered in the books of heaven. The result of this apostasy will be national ruin.

{Mar 216.2}

The time is not far distant, when, like the early disciples, we shall be forced to seek a refuge in desolate and solitary places. As the siege of Jerusalem by the Roman armies was the signal for flight to the Judean Christians, so the assumption of power on the part of our nation, in the decree enforcing the papal sabbath, will be a warning to us. It will then be time to leave the large cities, preparatory to leaving the smaller ones for retired homes in secluded places among the mountains.--
Testimonies, vol. 5, pp. 464, 465. {ChS 161.1}

The man of sin thinks to change times and laws. He is exalting himself above God, in trying to compel the conscience. But God's people should work with persevering energy to let their light shine upon the people in regard to the law, and thus to withstand the enemies of God and his truth. When the law of God has been made void, and apostasy becomes a national sin, **the Lord will work in behalf of his people. Their extremity will be his opportunity. He will manifest his power in behalf of his church.** {RH, December 24, 1889 par. 5}

I was shown God's people waiting for some change to take place--a compelling power to take hold of them. But they will be disappointed, for they are wrong. They must act, they must take hold of the work themselves and earnestly cry to God for a true knowledge of themselves. The scenes which are passing before us are of sufficient magnitude to cause us to arouse and urge the truth home to the hearts of all who will listen. The harvest of the earth is nearly ripe. {1T 261.1}

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**The crisis is stealing gradually upon us. . . .
Satan sees that his time is short. He has set
all his agencies at work that men may be
deceived, deluded, occupied and entranced,
until the day of probation shall be ended,
and the door of mercy be forever shut.**

{DA 636.2} Desire of Ages p. 636

What shall I say to arouse the remnant people of God? I was shown that dreadful scenes are before us; Satan and his angels are bringing all their powers to bear upon God's people. **He knows that if they sleep a little longer he is sure of them, for their destruction is certain. I warn all who profess the name of Christ to closely examine themselves and make full and thorough confession of all their wrongs,** that they may go beforehand to judgment, and that the recording angel may write pardon opposite their names. My brother, my sister, if these precious moments of mercy are not improved, you will be left without excuse. {1T 263.1}

A great crisis awaits the people of God. . . . **In view of this, there must be, among God's commandment-keeping people, more spirituality and a deeper consecration to God, and a zeal in his work that has never yet been reached, to hold aloft the banner of God's truth. The law of God, the only standard of righteousness, must be prized in proportion as the professed Christian world manifest contempt for it. {RH, December 11, 1888 par. 1}**

... **“Search the Scriptures.” Examine your Bibles as you have never done before. Unless you arise to a higher, holier attitude in your religious life, you will not be ready for the appearing of our Lord. There are many who are not purifying their souls by obeying the truth.** As great light has been given them, God expects proportionate zeal, devotion, and faithfulness upon the part of his people. But there will be proportionate darkness, unbelief, and blindness as the truth is not appreciated and acted upon. {RH, December 11, 1888 par. 2}

Only those who have been diligent students of the Scriptures and who have received the love of the truth will be shielded from the powerful delusion that takes the world captive. By the Bible testimony these will detect the deceiver in his disguise. To all the testing time will come. By the sifting of temptation the genuine Christian will be revealed. Are the people of God now so firmly established upon His word that they would not yield to the evidence of their senses? Would they, in such a crisis, cling to the Bible and the Bible only? Satan will, if possible, prevent them from obtaining a preparation to stand in that day. He will so arrange affairs as to hedge up their way, entangle them with earthly treasures, cause them to carry a heavy, wearisome burden, that their hearts may be overcharged with the cares of this life and the day of trial may come upon them as a thief. {GC 625.3}

The season of distress and anguish before us **will require a faith that can endure weariness, delay, and hunger**,—a faith that will not faint, though severely tried. The period of probation is granted to all to prepare for that time. **Jacob prevailed because he was persevering and determined. His victory is an evidence of the power of importunate prayer. . . . {GC88 621.2}**

(continued)

All who will lay hold of God's promises, as he did, and be as earnest and persevering as he was, will succeed as he succeeded. Those who are unwilling to deny self, to agonize before God, to pray long and earnestly for his blessing, will not obtain it. Wrestling with God—how few know what it is! How few have ever had their souls drawn out after God with intensity of desire until every power is on the stretch. **When waves of despair which no language can express sweep over the suppliant, how few cling with unyielding faith to the promises of God. {GC88 621.2}**

Those who exercise but little faith now, are in the greatest danger of falling under the power of Satanic delusions and the decree to compel the conscience. And even if they endure the test, they will be plunged into deeper distress and anguish in the time of trouble, because they have never made it a habit to trust in God. The lessons of faith which they have neglected, they will be forced to learn under a terrible pressure of discouragement. {GC88 621.3}

We should now acquaint ourselves with God by proving his promises. Angels record every prayer that is earnest and sincere. We should rather dispense with selfish gratifications than neglect communion with God. The deepest poverty, the greatest self-denial, with his approval, is better than riches, honors, ease, and friendship without it. We must take time to pray. If we allow our minds to be absorbed by worldly interests, the Lord may give us time by removing from us our idols of gold, of houses, or of fertile lands. {GC88 622.1}

Jacob prevailed because he was persevering and determined. His experience testifies to the power of importunate prayer. It is now that we are to learn this lesson of prevailing prayer, of unyielding faith. **The greatest victories to the church of Christ or to the individual Christian are not those that are gained by talent or education, by wealth or the favor of men. They are those victories that are gained in the audience chamber with God, when earnest, agonizing faith lays hold upon the mighty arm of power. {PP 203.1}**

Those who are unwilling to forsake every sin and to seek earnestly for God's blessing, will not obtain it. But all who will lay hold of God's promises as did Jacob, and be as earnest and persevering as he was, will succeed as he succeeded. "Shall not God avenge His own elect, **which cry day and night unto Him,** though He bear long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily." Luke 18:7, 8.
{PP 203.2}

WRESTLE IN PRAYER UNTIL VICTORY COMES.—God will be to us everything we will let Him be. **Our languid, half-hearted prayers will not bring us returns from heaven.** Oh, we need to press our petitions! Ask in faith, wait in faith, receive in faith, rejoice in hope, for everyone that seeketh findeth. Be in earnest in the matter. Seek God with all the heart. **People put soul and earnestness into everything they undertake in temporal things, until their efforts are crowned with success. With intense earnestness learn the trade of seeking the rich blessings that God has promised, and with persevering, determined effort you shall have His light and His truth and His rich grace. {Pr 75.3}**

In sincerity, in soul hunger, cry after God. Wrestle with the heavenly agencies until you have the victory. Put your whole being into the Lord's hands, soul, body, and spirit, and resolve to be His loving, consecrated agency, moved by His will, controlled by His mind, infused by His Spirit. {Pr 75.4}

Tell Jesus your wants in the sincerity of your soul. **You are not required to hold a long controversy with, or preach a sermon to, God,** but with a heart of sorrow for your sins, say, **“Save me, Lord, or I perish.”** **There is hope for such souls.** They will seek, they will ask, they will knock, and they will find. When Jesus has taken away the burden of sin that is crushing the soul, **you will experience the blessedness of the peace of Christ.** —(Our High Calling, 131.) {Pr 75.5}

At this time--a time of overwhelming iniquity--
**a new life, coming from the Source of all life, is
to take possession of those who have the love of
God in their hearts, and they are to go forth to
proclaim with power the message of a crucified
and risen Saviour. They are to put forth
earnest, untiring efforts to save souls. Their
example is to be such that it will have a telling
influence for good on those around them. They
are to count all things but loss for the excellency
of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord.**

{9T 44.1}

Intense earnestness should now take possession of us. Our slumbering energies should be aroused to **untiring effort**. Consecrated workers should go forth into the field clearing the King's highway, and gaining victories in new places. **My brother, my sister, is it nothing to you to know that every day souls are going down into the grave unwarned and unsaved, ignorant of their need of eternal life and of the atonement made for them by the Saviour?** Is it nothing to you that soon the world is to meet Jehovah over His broken law? Heavenly angels marvel that those who for so many years have had the light, **have not carried the torch of truth into the dark places of the earth.** {9T 44.2}

Among professing Christians of today **there is a fearful lack of the sympathy that should be felt for souls unsaved. Unless our hearts beat in unison with the heart of Christ, how can we understand the sacredness and importance of the work to which we are called by the words, “Watch for . . . souls, as they that must give account“?** We talk of Christian missions. The sound of our voices is heard; but do we feel Christ’s tender heart-longing for souls? {RH, January 12, 1911 par. 1}

The Holy Spirit is waiting for channels through whom to work . . . The Spirit of God will be poured out upon the church just as soon as the vessels are prepared to receive it. That I May Know Him p. 330.

Heavenly angels have long been waiting for human agents--the members of the church--to co-operate with them in the great work to be done. They are waiting for you. So vast is the field, so comprehensive the design, that every sanctified heart will be pressed into service as an instrument of divine power.

{RH, January 12, 1911 par. 9}

It is not a conclusive evidence that a man is a Christian because he manifests spiritual ecstasy under extraordinary circumstances. Holiness is not rapture: it is an entire surrender of the will to God; it is living by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God; it is doing the will of our heavenly Father; it is trusting God in trial, in darkness as well as in the light; it is walking by faith and not by sight; it is relying on God with unquestioning confidence, and resting in His love.

{AA 51.2}

We should pray as earnestly for the descent of the Holy Spirit as the disciples prayed on the day of Pentecost. If they needed it at that time, we need it more today. Moral darkness, like a funeral pall, covers the earth. All manner of false doctrines, heresies, and satanic deceptions are misleading the minds of men. Without the Spirit and power of God it will be in vain that we labor to present the truth.

{5T 158.1}

It is by contemplating Christ, by exercising faith in Him, by experiencing for ourselves His saving grace, that we are qualified to present Him to the world. If we have learned of Him, **Jesus will be our theme; His love, burning upon the altar of our hearts, will reach the hearts of the people. The truth will be presented, not as a cold, lifeless theory, but in the demonstration of the Spirit. {5T 158.2}**

Christ does not bid His followers strive to shine. He says, **Let your light shine. If you have received the grace of God, the light is in you. Remove the obstructions, and the Lord's glory will be revealed.** The light will shine forth to penetrate and dispel the darkness. You cannot help shining within the range of your influence. {COL 420.1}

Wonderfully were these words fulfilled.
After the descent of the Holy Spirit, the disciples were so filled with love for Him and for those for whom He died, that hearts were melted by the words they spoke and the prayers they offered. They spoke in the power of the Spirit; and under the influence of that power, thousands were converted.

{AA 22.2}

Mark this point with care: Those who receive the pure mark of truth, wrought in them by the power of the Holy Ghost, represented by a mark by the man in linen, are those “that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done” in the church. Their love for purity and the honor and glory of God is such, and they have so clear a view of the exceeding sinfulness of sin, that they are represented as being in agony, even sighing and crying. Read the ninth chapter of Ezekiel.
{3T 267.1}

**The class who do not feel
grieved over their own spiritual
declension, nor mourn over the
sins of others, will be left without
the seal of God. . . . {Maranatha
(1976) 240.3}**