

“Who is He That Gave Thee This AUTHORITY ? ”

(Luke 20:2)

A Study on the Authority and Importance of the Spirit of Prophecy

by Paul Rahoi

“Some have stumbled over the fact that I said I did not claim to be a prophet and they have asked, Why is this?

“I have had no claims to make, only that *I am instructed that I am the Lord’s messenger*; that He called me in my youth to be His messenger, to receive His word, and to give a clear and decided message in the name of the Lord Jesus.

“Early in my youth I was asked several times, Are you a prophet? I have ever responded, I am the Lord’s messenger. I know that many have called me a prophet, but I have made no claim to this title. **MY SAVIOUR declared me to be HIS MESSENGER.** “Your work,” **He instructed me,** “is to bear My word. Strange things will arise, and in your youth I set you apart to bear the message to the erring ones, to carry the word before unbelievers, and with pen and voice to reprove from the Word actions that are not right. Exhort from the Word. I will make My Word open to you. It shall not be as a strange language. In the true eloquence of simplicity, with voice and pen, the messages that I give shall be heard from one who has never learned in the schools. My Spirit and My power shall be with you.

“Be not afraid of man, for My shield shall protect you. It is not you that speaketh: it is the Lord that giveth the messages of warning and reproof. Never deviate from the truth *under any circumstances*. Give the light I shall give you. The messages for these last days shall be written in books, and shall stand immortalized, to testify against those who have once rejoiced in the light, but who have been led to give it up because of the seductive influences of evil.”

“Why have I not claimed to be a prophet?—Because in these days many who boldly claim that they are prophets are a reproach to the cause of Christ; and because my work includes much more than the word “prophet” signifies.” *Ellen G. White, Selected Messages Volume 1, pg 31-32*

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Introduction

Within Adventism there are generally two fundamental positions that are held in regard to the authority and importance of the writings of Ellen G. White.

The first position might be enumerated as follows:

1) Because Sister White fulfills all the qualifications of a Biblical prophet, and because her writings have been found, and continue to be found in perfect harmony with the God’s law and the teachings of the Holy Bible, and constantly direct the mind towards this most Holy Book, it must be concluded that they too are “given by inspiration of God and are profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” 2Tim 3:16.

2) While the testimonies should not be considered a substitute for the Bible, nor an addition to it, their existence in the “last days” has been foretold by the Bible, and as people are convinced that they have been inspired by the same Spirit, they are to be considered “scriptural” in nature and of equal authority with other Scriptures which were inspired by that same Spirit until it can be shown that these writings have been originated by Satan rather than God.

3) After having opportunity to see the beauty, harmony, power and high moral tone which emanates from the Spirit of Prophecy in contrast with our own feeble, distorted, wretched, miserable ideas and opinions, it would be utter foolishness to trust to our own thoughts and opinions about Biblical teachings and principles when God has been pleased to send contrary light through His chosen agency.

4) It is imperative to humbly, earnestly and continually study these writings, putting aside pride and preconceived notions, carefully comparing testimony with testimony, and learning at the feet of Jesus the messages that He has been pleased to send His children - the “testimony of Jesus” Rev 19:10.

5) All whose tendency is to lessen their importance and authority in the eyes of Gods people, which God in His mercy has been pleased to send as a blessing to His church and the world, are offering insult to the God of heaven, and unless they repent, will someday have to face God and meet the record of their baleful influence.

The second position, held by a majority of Seventh-day Adventists, is a conglomeration of ideas and opinions, which fall short of the clarity and firmness of the first position and in a variety of ways deny its truthfulness. Thus are the testimonies of Gods Spirit steadily and rapidly being made of “none effect” as was prophesied a hundred years ago.

It is the purpose of this booklet to clearly show that the pen of inspiration forcibly and explicitly sustains the first position, and to call Seventh-day Adventists who have had abundant opportunities to become familiar with the Spirit of Prophecy to make a firm stand one way or another, and to direct their lives accordingly.

A full exploration into the subject of the prophetic gift, a perusal of its many dimensions and relationships with other doctrines is beyond the scope of this paper. Our focus will center upon two primary aspects: authority and importance. For a more comprehensive study on the Spirit of Prophecy, the following references will prove beneficial:

Introduction to *Spiritual Gifts Volume I*, pp 5-16, by Roswell F. Cottrell,
Introduction to *Spirit of Prophecy Volume I*, pp 7-16, by James White,
Introduction to *Patriarchs and Prophets* by Uriah Smith,
Introduction to *Great Controversy* by Ellen White,
Selected Messages Book Three, pp 28-124, and
Testimonies for the Church Volume 5, pp 654-691, from the writings of Ellen White,
Notes and Papers Concerning Ellen G. White and the Spirit of Prophecy,
The Spirit of Prophecy Treasure Chest and *Witness of the Pioneers Concerning the Spirit of Prophecy* by the EGW Estate,
Ellen G. White Messenger to the Remnant by Arthur L. White,
The Testimony of Jesus by F.M. Wilcox,
A Prophet Among You by T. Housel Jemison and
Divine Predictions Fulfilled by F.C. Gilbert.

The messages that God has sent through his servant have encompassed a broad spectrum of subjects. Yet there are some topics, which are consistently met with objection and even outright hostility. These would include, but are not limited to: health reform (unhealthful foods, gluttony, use of drug medications...etc), dress reform (jewelry, immodesty, worldly fashions ...etc), worldly entertainment (television, movies, literature, music ...etc), competitive sports (participating, watching ...etc).

The counsel on these subjects is in complete harmony with the principles of the Bible, yet it is often rejected or simply ignored as being “outdated”, because it strikes right to the core of our selfish, world loving hearts. There is abundant evidence that God expects us to make practical application of these messages to our daily lives, but excuses and justification abound at all levels within the church. Yet if Ellen G. White was God’s messenger, bearing God’s message, then to reject her counsel on these (and similar) subjects is to reject Almighty God Himself.

“And the LORD said unto Samuel [His prophet]....they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them” 1Sam 8:7. Continued obstinacy eventually wore out Divine patience, until there was “no remedy” 2Chr 36:16. It would be well for the reader to carefully ponder these things while reading this little booklet.

Quotations in this booklet are primarily from the Bible or Spirit of Prophecy unless explicitly earmarked, “*Comment -*”, which will hopefully prove to be of assistance to the reader. In-line bracketed comments [*like this*], have also been inserted within the text to provide enhanced clarity. Italicized words, which are not comments were either emphasized by Ellen White, or the EGW Estate. All emphasis in the form of bolding, underlining and capitalization of entire words is mine.

It is my sincere belief that the tenor of this publication is in harmony with that of the teachings of the Spirit of Prophecy. However, it is your DUTY to be like the faithful Berean who, “....searched the scriptures daily, [to see] whether those things were so.” Acts 17:11. In some cases, passages have been condensed using dots [...], as in the passage from Acts that you just read. While this practice has been violently abused by some, others have used it conscientiously to great advantage, including Ellen White when quoting the Bible, and even her own writings.

Spirit of Prophecy quotes have been selected from the most readily available books whenever possible; A special index has been provided to assist in the extended study of Spirit of Prophecy references cited in this booklet.

May God now bless the reading of the words that follow and lead His people into that sweet love and unity in the truth that Jesus prayed for in the seventeenth chapter of John. Amen.

1. The Gift of Prophecy Restored

And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make **war** with the **remnant** of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and **have** the **testimony of Jesus Christ**. *Rev 12:17*

....the **testimony of Jesus** is the **spirit of prophecy**. *Rev 19:10*

28 And it shall come to pass afterward [“*in the last days*” *Acts 2:17*], that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your **daughters shall prophesy**, your old men shall dream **dreams**, your young men shall see **visions**:

29 And also upon the servants and upon the **handmaids** in those days will I **pour out my spirit**. *Joel 2:28-29*

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, **prophets**; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the **perfecting** of the saints, for the work of the **ministry**, for the **edifying** of the body of Christ:

13 **Till** we all come in the **unity of the faith**, and of the **knowledge of the Son of God**, unto a **perfect man**, unto the **measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ**: *Eph 4:11-13*

4 I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;

5 That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge;

6 Even as the **testimony of Christ** was **confirmed** in you:

7 So that ye **come behind in no gift**; waiting for the **coming of our Lord Jesus Christ**: *1Cor 1:4-7*

Surely the Lord GOD will **do nothing**, but he **revealeth his secret** unto his servants the **prophets**. *Amos 3:7*

2. The “Bible and the Bible ONLY”?

I recommend to you, dear reader, the **Word of God** as the **RULE** of your faith and practice. By that Word we are to be judged. God has, **IN THAT WORD**, promised to give **VISIONS** in the “**last days**”; not for a new rule of faith, but for the comfort of His people, and to correct those who err from Bible truth. Thus God dealt with Peter when He was about to send him to preach to the Gentiles. *Ellen G. White, Early Writings, pg 78*

Comment - In this chapter we will draw largely from the works of the pioneers, in harmony with the following counsel:

God has given me light regarding our **periodicals**. What is it?—He has said that the **dead are to speak**. How?—Their works shall follow them [*Rev 14:13*]. **We are to repeat the words of the pioneers in our work**, who knew what it cost to search for the truth as for hidden treasure, and who labored to lay the foundation of our work. They moved forward step by step under the influence of the Spirit of God. *CW 28*

When men come in who would move one pin or pillar from the foundation which God has established **by His Holy Spirit**, let the aged men who were pioneers in our work speak plainly, and **let those who are dead speak also, by the reprinting of their articles in our periodicals**. Gather up the rays of divine light that God has given as He has led His people on step by step in the way of truth. This truth will stand the test of time and trial. *RY 21*

Comment - These pioneers were NOT inspired. Yet with clarity and force they revealed the harmonious relationship between the “the Bible and the Bible only” and the “Spirit of Prophecy”, while at the same time exposing the false reasoning of those who opposed the work of God’s messenger. Therefore, as their words are in complete harmony with Inspiration, it would be well for us to “gather up the rays of divine light” as instructed.

The **Bible is a perfect and complete revelation**. It is **OUR ONLY RULE** of faith and practice. But this is **NO REASON** why God may not show the past, present, and future fulfillment of His Word, in these *last days*, by **DREAMS** and **VISIONS**, according to Peter’s testimony. **True visions are given to lead us to God, and His Written Word**; but those that are given for a new rule of faith and practice, separate from the Bible, cannot be from God, and should be rejected. *James White, Word to the Little Flock, pg 13*

The position that **the Bible, and the Bible ALONE**, is the rule of faith and duty, does **NOT shut out the GIFTS** which God set in the church. **TO REJECT THEM IS SHUTTING OUT THAT PART OF THE BIBLE WHICH PRESENTS THEM**. We say, Let us have a **WHOLE BIBLE**, and let **THAT**, and **THAT ALONE**, be **OUR RULE** of faith and duty. Place the gifts where they belong, and all is harmony. *James White, Editor, Review and Herald, October 5, 1854*

I still say that the **Bible is my RULE** of faith and practice, and in saying this, **I do NOT reject the Holy Spirit** in its diversities of operations. *James White, Editor, Review and Herald, February 14, 1856*

“The Bible, and the Bible alone,” “The Bible in its purity,” “The Bible a sufficient and only reliable rule of life,” etc., etc., is now the great cry of those who are **giving vent to their opposition to the visions**, and are working with their might to **prejudice others** against them...

The protestant principle, of “the Bible and the Bible alone,” is of itself **good and true**; and we stand upon it **AS FIRMLY AS ANYONE CAN**; but when re-iterated in connection with outspoken denunciations of the visions, it has specious appearance for evil. So used it contains a

covert insinuation, most effectually calculated to warp the judgment of the unguarded, **that to believe the visions is to leave the Bible, and to cling to the Bible is to discard the visions....**

When we claim to stand on the Bible and Bible alone, **we bind ourselves to receive**, unequivocally and fully, **ALL THAT THE BIBLE TEACHES**. *Uriah Smith, Editor, Review and Herald, January 13, 1863*

Comment - Before reading the following passage, it should be noted that the author had memorized the entire New Testament. How easily he could have rejected the necessity for guidance by the Spirit of Prophecy and trusted to his own understanding! Hear now the wise and humble counsel of this man so mighty in knowledge.

While therefore we do heartily accept the **Scriptures** as teaching **mans WHOLE duty** toward God, we do **NOT deny the Holy Spirit that place in the church WHICH THE SCRIPTURES ASSIGN TO IT....**

Now it is **PLAIN** that **those who reject the work of the Spirit of God** under the plea that the Scriptures are sufficient, do **DENY** and **REJECT** all that part of **THE BIBLE** which reveals the office and work of the Holy Spirit....

The object of spiritual gifts is to maintain the living work of God in the church.... In short, their work is to **unite** the people of God in the **same mind** and in the **same judgment** upon the **MEANING OF THE SCRIPTURES**. Mere human judgment, with no direct instruction from heaven, can never search out hidden iniquity, nor adjust dark and complicated church difficulties nor prevent **DIFFERENT AND CONFLICTING INTERPRETATIONS OF THE SCRIPTURES**. It would be sad indeed if God could not still converse with His people. *J.N. Andrews, Editor, Review and Herald, February 15, 1870*

It is again objected that the **Bible ALONE is sufficient**, because Paul tells us, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." If **ALL** Scripture is profitable, we suppose those portions are [*profitable*] **WHICH TEACH THE PERPETUITY OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS**, and that tell us they will be **in the church in the last days**, and tell us how to distinguish between the false and genuine. **THESE** [*portions of Scripture*] **PROVE THE VISIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION TO BE OF THE RIGHT STAMP**. *G.I. Butler, General Conference President, Review and Herald, February 15, 1870*

3. The "Elijah" Prophet

Behold, I will send you **Elijah the prophet** before the coming of the **great** and **dreadful** day of the LORD: *Mal 4:5*

13and thou shalt call his name John.

17 And he shall go before Him [the Lord] in the **spirit and power of Elijah**. *Luke 1:13,17*

[*Partial fulfillment in Christ's day*] But I say unto you, That **Elijah is come already**, and they **knew him not** [*they failed to recognize John as the "Elijah" prophet*].... *Matt 17:12*

24 And when the messengers of John were departed, he began to speak unto the people concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness for to see? A reed shaken with the wind....?

26 But what went ye out for to see? A **PROPHET**? **Yea**, I say unto you, and **MUCH MORE** than a prophet. *Luke 7:24,26*

As the **Messiah's herald**, John was "**MUCH MORE** than a prophet." *DA 220*

[Perfect fulfillment of Mal 4:5 in these "last days" by another "Messiah's herald"] I am now **instructed** that I am not to be hindered in my work by those who engage in suppositions regarding its nature, whose minds are struggling with so many intricate problems connected with the supposed work of a prophet. **MY COMMISSION embraces the work of a PROPHET**, but it does not end there. **It embraces MUCH MORE than the minds of those who have been sowing the seeds of unbelief can comprehend.** *ISM 36*

And they asked him, What then? **Art thou Elijah**? And he [John] saith, **I am not.** *John 1:21*

Comment - Was John lying by denying the claim to be the "Elijah" prophet? No - But in the true spirit of humility he abstained from claiming any "title". Yet he unflinchingly appealed to the authority of God's word in explanation of his mission:

He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, **as said the prophet Isaiah** [*Isa 40:3*]. *John 1:23*

Behold, I will send **MY MESSENGER**, and he shall prepare the way before me.... *Mal 3:1*

Comment - Was Ellen White lying by denying the claim to be a "prophet"? No - But in the true spirit of humility she abstained from claiming any "title". Yet she unflinchingly appealed to the authority of God's word in explanation of her mission:

During the discourse, **I said that I did not claim to be a prophetess.** Some were surprised at this statement, and as much is being said in regard to it, I will make an explanation. Others have called me a prophetess, but I have never assumed that **title**. I have not felt that it was my duty thus to **designate myself**. Those who boldly assume that they are prophets in this our day are often a reproach to the cause of Christ.

My work includes **MUCH MORE** than this name signifies. I regard myself as a **MESSENGER**, entrusted by the Lord with **messages** for His people. *ISM 35-36*

Comment - Notice from the following two verses that the terms "Lord's messenger" and "prophet" are interchangeably applied to the prophet Haggai:

Then spake Haggai the **LORD'S messenger** in the **LORD'S message** unto the people.... *Hag 1:13*

....and they prospered through the **prophesying** of Haggai the **prophet** and Zechariah the son of Iddo.... *Ezra 6:14*

Why have I not claimed to be a prophet?—Because in these days many who boldly claim that they are prophets are a reproach to the cause of Christ; and because **my work includes MUCH MORE** than the word "**prophet**" signifies. *ISM 32*

To claim to be a prophetess is something that I have never done. **If others call me by that name, I have no controversy with them.** But my work has covered so many lines that I cannot call myself other than a **MESSENGER**, sent to bear a message from the Lord to His people, and to take up work in any line that He points out.

When I was last in Battle Creek, I said before a large congregation that I did not claim to be a prophetess. Twice I referred to this matter, intending each time to make the statement, “I do not claim to be a prophetess.” If I spoke otherwise than this, let all now understand that **what I had in mind to say was that I do not claim the TITLE of prophet or prophetess.** *ISM 34-35*

[Why “much more” ?] I am very busy with my writing. Early and late, I am writing out the matters that the Lord opens before me. The **burden of my work** is to **prepare a people to STAND** in the **day of the Lord** [the “....great and dreadful day of the Lord” - *Mal 4:5*]. *3SM 49*

1 Behold, I will send **MY MESSENGER**, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and **who shall STAND when he appeareth?** [Who will have heeded the message that was sent to “prepare a people to STAND?”] *Mal 3:1-3*

4. Unwavering Confidence in God’s Calling

Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a **trumpet**, and **shew** my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins. *Isa 58:1*

One stood by my side and said: ‘**God has raised you up and has given you words to speak to the people and to reach hearts as He has given to no other one.** He has shaped your testimonies to meet cases that are in need of help. You must be unmoved by scorn, derision, reproach, and censure. In order to be God’s special instrument you should lean to no one, but hang upon Him alone and, like the clinging vine, let your tendrils entwine about Him. He will make you a means through which to communicate His light to the people. You must daily gather strength from God in order to be fortified, that your surroundings may not dim or eclipse the light that He has permitted to shine upon His people through you. It is Satan’s special object to prevent this light from coming to the people of God, who so greatly need it amid the perils of these last days.

‘Your success is in your simplicity. As soon as you depart from this and fashion your testimony to meet the minds of any, your power is gone. Almost everything in this age is glossed and unreal. The world abounds in testimonies given to please and charm for the moment and to exalt self. Your testimony is of a different character. It is to come down to the minutiae of life, keeping the feeble faith from dying and pressing home upon believers the necessity of shining as lights in the world.

‘God has given you your testimony, to set before the backslider and the sinner his true condition and the immense loss he is sustaining by continuing a life of sin. God has impressed this upon you by opening it before your vision as He has to no other one now living, and according to the light He has given you will He hold you responsible. “Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.” “Lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sin.” *2T 607-608*

The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and His word was in **my tongue**. *2Sam 23:2*

....enriched by Him, in **all utterance**, and in all knowledge. *1Cor 1:5*

“I will give you tongue and utterance.” Of all the precious assurances God has given me regarding my work, none has been more precious to me than this, that He would give me tongue and utterance wherever I should go. In places where there was the greatest opposition, every tongue was silenced. I have spoken the plain message to our own people and to the multitude, and my words have been accepted as coming from the Lord. *3SM 72*

3 And he said unto me, Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel, to a **rebellious nation** that hath rebelled against me: they and their fathers have transgressed against me, even unto this very day.

4 For they are **impudent** children and **stiffhearted**. I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD.

5 And they, **whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear**, (for they are a rebellious house,) **yet shall [they] KNOW that there hath been a PROPHET among them.**
Ezek 2:3-5

When the Lord last presented your case before me, and made known to me that you had not regarded the light which had been given you, I was bidden to speak to you plainly in His name, for His anger was kindled against you. These words were spoken to me: **‘Your work is appointed you of God. Many will not hear you, for they refused to hear the Great Teacher; many will not be corrected, for their ways are right in their own eyes. Yet bear to them the reproofs and warnings I shall give you, whether they will hear or forbear.’**

....**Said the Lord**,—Many know not at what they stumble. They heed not the voice of God, but follow the sight of their own eyes, and the understanding of their own hearts. Unbelief and skepticism have taken the place of faith. **They have forsaken ME.** *PH117 56*

....they have **forsaken me**, the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water. *Jer 2:13*

To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their **ear is uncircumcised**, and they cannot hearken: behold, **THE WORD OF THE LORD** is unto them a **reproach**; they have no delight in it. *Jer 6:10*

Permit me to express my mind, and yet not my mind, but **THE WORD OF THE LORD.** *CW 112*

And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and **he knoweth that he saith true**, that ye might **believe**. *John 19:35*

I am now looking over my diaries and copies of letters written for several years back. . . . I have the most precious matter to reproduce and place before the people in testimony form. While I am able to do this work, the people must have things to revive past history, **that they may see** that there is **ONE STRAIGHT CHAIN OF TRUTH, WITHOUT ONE HERETICAL SENTENCE, in that which I have written**. This, I am instructed, is to be a living letter to all in regard to my faith [*Strong faith indeed!!!*]. *3SM 52*

I speak the TRUTH in Christ, and lie not.... *1Tim 2:7*

And to this **agree** the words of the prophets.... *Acts 15:15*

The Bible must be your counselor. Study it **AND** the **TESTIMONIES** God has given; for they **NEVER CONTRADICT HIS WORD**. *3SM 32*

That ye may be **mindful** of the words which were spoken before by the **holy prophets**, **AND** of the **commandment of us the apostles** of the Lord and Saviour: *2Pet 3:2*

The **HOLY GHOST** is the **AUTHOR** of the Scriptures **AND** of the **SPIRIT OF PROPHECY**. These are not to be **twisted and turned** to mean what man may want them to mean, to carry out man's ideas and sentiments, to carry forward man's schemes at all hazards. "Many shall follow their **pernicious ways**, by reason of whom **the WAY OF TRUTH shall be EVIL SPOKEN OF**, and through covetousness shall with feigned words make merchandise of you" [2 Pet. 2:2]. *3SM 30*

For I will give you a **mouth and wisdom**, which all your adversaries shall **not be able to gainsay nor resist**. *Luke 21:15*

What a battle I am obliged to fight! My brethren seem to judge me as taking positions that are not necessary. They do not see that **God in His own wisdom** has made revelations to me which **CANNOT successfully be CONTRADICTED or DISPUTED**. Nothing can rub out that which has been presented to me and **imprinted on the tablets of my soul**. All the opposition or **gainsaying** to make my testimony of none effect only compels from me, by the urgency of the Spirit of God, a **more decided repetition**, and to stand on the light revealed with all the force of the strength God has given me. All the arguments of men, all their opposing influence, is of no force to me. Whatever may be the position or the doctrines of these men, and however firm may have been my confidence in them heretofore, when they take false positions, all their arguments against what I know the Lord has shown me to be truth, **are vain**. [*Confidence?*] **The words spoken to me of God are as if IMBEDDED IN THE ROCK FOREVER**. All the experiences and the wise assertions of the best and wisest men, men who have been exalted to positions of influence, cannot change or alter the ideas which God has written on my soul. Let God be true and every man a liar.

EVERY WORD SPOKEN IS IN HARMONY WITH THE LIVING ORACLES, and it is only by **wresting the Scriptures** from their true meaning, by **misapplying** and **misinterpreting** them **and the testimonies** which God has given me, that this can be **gainsaid**. Those who do this are like the impenitent Jews, who had eyes but saw not, ears had they, but they heard not, neither would they understand. Why? Lest they should be **converted** and have to **acknowledge that not all their ideas were correct**. This they were **too proud** to do, and therefore persisted in rejecting God's counsel and the **light** and **evidence** which had been given. Thus they deluded their own souls and the souls of others. *13MR 239*

The greatest tirade may be made against me, but it will not change in the least my mission or my work. We have had this to meet again and again. The Lord gave me the message

when I was only 17 years old. . . . **The message the Lord has given me to bear has been in a STRAIGHT LINE FROM LIGHT TO LIGHT, upward and onward from TRUTH TO ADVANCED TRUTH.** 3SM 74

To the law and to the testimony: **if they speak not according to this word,** it is because there is **no light in them.** Isa 8:20

....what communion hath **light** with **darkness?** And what concord hath **Christ** with **Belial?** 2Cor 6:14-15

And now, brethren, I entreat you not to interpose between me and the people, and turn away the light which God would have come to them. Do not by your criticisms take out all the force, all the point and power, from the *Testimonies*. **Do not feel that you can dissect them to suit your own ideas, claiming that God has given you ability to discern what is LIGHT from heaven and what is the expression of mere HUMAN wisdom. IF THE TESTIMONIES SPEAK NOT ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF GOD, REJECT THEM** [all of them]. **Christ and Belial cannot be united.** For Christ's sake do not confuse the minds of the people with human sophistry and skepticism, and **make of none effect** the work that the Lord would do. Do not, by your **lack of spiritual discernment,** make of this agency of God a rock of offense whereby many shall be caused to stumble and fall, "and be snared, and be taken." 5T 691

God is either teaching His church, reproving their wrongs and strengthening their faith, or He is not. **This work** is of **GOD,** or it is **NOT.** God does nothing in partnership with Satan. **My work** for the past thirty years bears the stamp of **GOD** or the stamp of the **ENEMY.** There is **NO HALFWAY WORK** in the matter [all or nothing]. The **TESTIMONIES** are of the **SPIRIT OF GOD,** or of the **DEVIL.** In arraying yourself against the servants of God **YOU** are doing a work either for **GOD** or for the **DEVIL.** "By their **FRUITS** ye shall know them." 4T 229

15 **Beware of false prophets,** which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

16 **Ye SHALL** [not may, but SHALL] **know them by their FRUITS.** Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

20 **Wherefore by their fruits ye SHALL know them.** Matt 7:15-20

Christ warned His disciples: [Matt 7:15-20 quoted]. **Here is a TEST, and, Brother G, YOU CAN APPLY IT IF YOU WILL.** You need not go in uncertainty and doubt. Satan is at hand to suggest a variety of doubts, but if you will open your eyes in faith you will find **SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE** for **belief.** But God will never remove from any man all causes for

doubts. Those who love to dwell in the atmosphere of doubt and questioning unbelief can have the unenviable privilege. God gives **SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE** for the **candid mind** to **believe**; but he who turns from the weight of evidence because there are a few things which he cannot make plain to his finite understanding will be left in the **cold, chilling atmosphere of unbelief** and **questioning doubts**, and will make **shipwreck of faith**. You have seemed to consider it a virtue to be on the side of the doubting rather than on the side of the believing. **Jesus never praised unbelief; He never commended doubts.** 4T 232

...O thou of **little faith**, wherefore didst thou **doubt**? *Matt 14:31*

There are some who think they are able to measure the character and to estimate the importance of the work the Lord has given me to do. Their own mind and judgment is the standard by which they would weigh the testimonies.

My **Instructor** said to me, **Tell these men that God has NOT committed to them the work of measuring, classifying, and defining the character of the testimonies. Those who attempt this are sure to err in their conclusions.** The Lord would have men adhere to their appointed work. If they will keep the way of the Lord, they will be able to discern clearly that the work which He has appointed me to do is **NOT a work of human devising.**

Those who **CAREFULLY read the testimonies** as they have appeared from the early days, **need not be perplexed as to their origin.** The many books, written by the help of the Spirit of God, bear a living witness to the character of the testimonies. *ISM 49-50*

19 Quench not the Spirit.

20 **Despise not prophesyings.**

21 **Prove** all things; **hold fast** that which is **good.** *1Thes 5:19-21*

God has given SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE, so that all who desire to do so may satisfy themselves as to the character of the Testimonies; and, having acknowledged them to be from God, it is their duty to accept reproof, even though they do not themselves see the sinfulness of their course. If they fully realized their condition, what would be the need of reproof? Because they know it not, God mercifully sets it before them, so that they may repent and reform before it shall be too late. "Those who despise the warning will be left in **blindness** to become **self-deceived**; but those who heed it, and zealously go about the work of separating their sins from them in order to have the needed graces, will be **opening the door of their hearts** that the dear Saviour may come in and dwell with them." [3T 257] 5T 682

And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep **follow him**: for they **know his voice.** *John 10:4*

But ye **believe not**, because ye are **not of my sheep**.... *John 10:26*

The more self is exalted, the more will faith in the testimonies of the Spirit of God be lessened. Those who are the most closely connected with God are the ones who **know His voice** when He speaks to them. Those who are spiritual discern spiritual things. Such will feel grateful

that the Lord has pointed out their errors, while **those who trust wholly in themselves will see less and less of God in the testimonies of His Spirit.** 5T 134

The way of a fool is **right in his own eyes**: but he that hearkeneth unto **counsel** is wise. *Prov 12:15*

[The context is those who doubt the testimonies] If these persons do not humble their hearts before God, if they harbor the suggestions of Satan, doubt and infidelity will take possession of the soul, and they will **see everything in a false light**. Let the seeds of doubt once be sown in their hearts and they will have an abundant harvest to reap. **They will come to mistrust and disbelieve truths which are PLAIN and FULL OF BEAUTY to others who have not educated themselves in unbelief.** Those who train the mind to seize upon everything which they can use as a peg to hang a doubt upon, and suggest these thoughts to other minds, will always find occasion to doubt. 5T 689

Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an **evil heart** of **unbelief**...lest any of you be **hardened** through the **deceitfulness of sin**. *Heb 3:12-13*

There is in our world a spirit of belief and also a spirit of unbelief. In the latter days some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. We expect that those who refuse to harmonize with Christ will develop into a warring element; but we should not think that this will do us harm. We must remember that they that are for us are more than they that can be against us. This is my hope and strength and power. I believe in God. I know in whom I believe. I believe the messages that God has given to His remnant church. **From childhood I have had many, many experiences that have strengthened my faith in the work that God has given me to do.**

Early in my public labors I was bidden by the Lord, "**Write, write the things that are revealed to you.**" At the time this message came to me, I could not hold my hand steady. My physical condition made it impossible for me to write. But again came the word, "**Write the things that are revealed to you.**" I obeyed; and as the result it was not long before I could write page after page with comparative ease. **Who told me what to write? Who steadied my right hand, and made it possible for me to use a pen? IT WAS THE LORD.**

When we come into right relation with Him, and give ourselves wholly to Him, we shall see the miracle-working power of God in word and deed.

In the early days of the message, when our numbers were few, we studied diligently to understand the meaning of many Scriptures. At times it seemed as if no explanation could be given. My mind seemed to be locked to an understanding of the Word; but when our brethren who had assembled for study came to a point where they could go no farther, and had recourse to earnest prayer, **the Spirit of God would rest upon me, and I would be taken off in vision, and be instructed in regard to the relation of Scripture to Scripture.** These experiences were repeated over and over again. Thus many truths of the third angel's message were established, point by point.

THINK YOU THAT MY FAITH IN THIS MESSAGE WILL EVER WAVER?
Think you that I can remain silent, when I see an effort being made to sweep away the foundation pillars of our faith? **I am as thoroughly established in these truths as it is possible for a person to be.** I can never forget the experience I have passed through. God has confirmed my belief by many evidences of His power.

The light that I have received, I have written out, and much of it is now shining forth from the printed page. There is, throughout my printed works, a harmony with my present teaching.

Some of the instruction found in these pages was given under circumstances so remarkable as to evidence the wonder-working power of God in behalf of His truth. Sometimes while I was in vision, my friends would approach me, and exclaim, "Why, she does not breathe!" Placing a mirror before my lips, they found that no moisture gathered on the glass. It was while there was no sign of any breathing that I kept talking of the things that were being presented before me. **These messages were thus given to substantiate the faith of all, that in these last days we might have CONFIDENCE in the SPIRIT OF PROPHECY.**

I thank God that He has preserved my voice, which in my early youth physicians and friends declared would be silent within three months. The God of heaven saw that I needed to pass through a trying experience in order to be prepared for the work He had for me to do.

For the past half century my faith in the ultimate triumph of the third angel's message and everything connected with it, has been substantiated by the wonderful experiences through which I have passed. This is why I am anxious to have my books published and circulated in many languages. **I KNOW that the light contained in these books is the LIGHT OF HEAVEN.**

I ask you to **STUDY** the instruction that is written in these books. To John, the aged apostle, came the message, "Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter." **The Lord has bidden me write that which had been revealed to me.** This I have done, and it is now in printed form....

Amid the error that is overspreading the whole earth, let us strive to stand firm on the platform of eternal truth. Let us put on the whole armor of God; for we are told that in this time Satan himself will work miracles before the people; and as we see these things, we must be prepared to withstand their deceptive influence. Whatever is presented by the enemy as truth, ought not to influence us; for **we should be under the instruction of the great Author of all truth.** 3SM 37-39

5. The Voice of God or Human Opinion ?

For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the **word of God** which ye heard of us, ye received it **NOT AS THE WORD OF MEN**, but as it is in **TRUTH**, the **WORD OF GOD**, which effectually worketh also in you that believe. 1Thes 2:13

[In striking contrast....] The king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may enquire of the LORD: but **I HATE HIM**; for **he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil.** And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so. 1Kin 22:8

You have talked over matters as you viewed them, that the communications from Sister White are not all from the Lord, but **a portion is her own mind, her own judgment**, which is **no better than anybody else's judgment and ideas** [*probably theirs*]. This is one of **SATAN'S HOOKS** to hang your doubts upon to **deceive your soul and the souls of others** who will dare to draw the line in this matter and say, this portion which pleases me is from God, but that portion which points out and condemns my course of conduct is from Sister White alone, and bears not the holy signet. You have in this way **VIRTUALLY REJECTED THE WHOLE OF THE MESSAGES**, which God in His tender, pitying love has sent to you to save you from moral ruin.

God presents to you HIS will and ways which is in marked contrast, in just that way which your case requires, and you are hereby tested whether you will accept the reproof, fall on the Rock and be broken, or will you become **vexed over plain statements** that come close to your soul, because it is the truth and condemns you, and **then you feel at ENMITY with me.** Heb. 4:12. **There is one back of me which is the Lord who has prompted the message, which you now reject, and disregard, and dishonor.** By tempting God you have unnerved yourself, and confusion and blindness of mind has been the result. A **fierce determination** has sprung up in your heart in a **spirit of DEFIANCE** to brave it through. *TSB 153-154*

Am I therefore become your **enemy, because I tell you the truth?** *Gal 4:16*

After I wrote you the long letter which has been **belittled** by Elder H as **merely an expression of my own opinion,** while at the Southern California Camp Meeting, the Lord partially removed the restriction, and I write what I do. I dare not say more now, lest I go beyond what the Spirit of the Lord has permitted me.

When Professor I came, I put to him a few pointed questions, more to learn how he regarded the condition of things, than to obtain information. I felt that the crisis had come. Had Elder H, and those united with him, been standing in the light, they would have recognized the voice of warning and reproof; but **he calls it a human work, and casts it aside.** The work he is doing he will wish undone ere long. He is weaving a net around himself that he cannot easily break. **This is NOT MY OPINION.**

What voice will you acknowledge as the VOICE OF GOD? What power has the Lord in reserve to correct your **errors,** and show you **your course as it is?** What power to work in the church? You have, by your own course, closed every avenue whereby the Lord would reach you. **Will He raise one from the dead to speak to you?** *3SM 69-70*

And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the **prophets,** neither will they be persuaded, **though one rose from the dead.** *Luke 16:31*

They would [*have*] none of my counsel: they **despised** all my reproof. *Prov 1:30*

Yet now when I send you a testimony of warning and reproof, many of you declare it to be merely the **opinion of Sister White.** You have thereby **INSULTED the Spirit of God.** You **know** how the Lord has manifested Himself through the spirit of prophecy. Past, present, and future have passed before me. I have been shown faces that I had never seen, and years afterward I knew them when I saw them. I have been aroused from my sleep with a vivid sense of subjects previously presented to my mind; and I have written, at midnight, letters that have gone across the continent and, arriving at a crisis, have saved great disaster to the cause of God. This has been my work for many years. A power has impelled me to reprove and rebuke wrongs that I had not thought of. **Is this work of the last thirty-six years from above or from beneath?**

....If you seek to turn aside the counsel of God to suit yourselves, if you lessen the confidence of God's people in the testimonies He has sent them, **you are REBELLING AGAINST GOD as certainly as were Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.** You have their history. You know how stubborn they were in their own opinions. They decided that their judgment was better than that of Moses and that Moses was doing great injury to Israel. Those who united with them were so set in their opinions that, notwithstanding the judgments of God in a marked

manner destroyed the leaders and the princes, the next morning the survivors came to Moses and said: Ye have killed the people of the Lord.” We see what fearful deception will come upon the human mind. How hard it is to convince souls that have become imbued with a spirit which is not of God. As Christ’s ambassador, I would say to you: Be careful what positions you take. **This is GOD’S WORK, and you must render to Him an account for the manner in which you treat HIS MESSAGE.** 5T 64-66

He that walketh in his uprightness feareth the LORD: but he that is perverse in his ways **despiseth HIM.** *Prov 14:2*

If God has given me a message to bear to His people, those who would hinder me in the work and lessen the faith of the people in its truth are not fighting against the instrument, but **against God.** “It is not the instrument whom you slight and **insult,** but **GOD,** who has spoken to you in these warnings and reproofs.” [5T 235] **“It is hardly possible for men to offer a greater INSULT TO GOD than to DESPISE and REJECT the instrumentalities that He has appointed to lead them.”**[3T 355]. 5T 680

15 And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his **messengers,** rising up betimes, and sending; because he had **COMPASSION on his people,** and on his dwelling place:

16 But they **mocked the messengers of God,** and **despised HIS words,** and **misused HIS prophets,** until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was **NO REMEDY.** *2Chr 36:15,16*

In the testimonies sent to Battle Creek, I have given you the light God has given to me. **In no case have I given my own judgment or opinion.** I have enough to write of what has been shown me, without falling back on my own opinions. **You are doing as the children of Israel did AGAIN AND AGAIN.** Instead of repenting before God, **you reject His words, and attribute all the warnings and reproof to the messenger** whom the Lord sends. 3SM 70

Comment - Those with spiritual insight will see that these same evils exist 100 years later, only with greater intensity. There is nothing new under the sun.

Yet he sent **prophets** to them, to bring them **again** unto the LORD; and they testified against them: **but they would not give ear.** *2Chr 24:19*

And the LORD hath sent unto you all his servants the **prophets,** rising early and sending them; but ye have **not hearkened, nor inclined your ear to hear.** *Jer 25:4*

Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: **as your fathers did, SO DO YE.** *Acts 7:51*

What reserve power has the Lord with which to reach those who have cast aside His warnings and reproofs, and have **accredited the testimonies of the Spirit of God to no higher source than human wisdom?** In the judgment what can you who have done this offer to God as

an excuse for turning from the **EVIDENCES** He has given you that **GOD was in the work?** “By their fruits ye shall know them.” I would not now rehearse before you the evidences given in the past two years of the dealings of God by His chosen servants; but the present evidence of His working is revealed to you, and you are now under **obligation** to believe. You cannot **neglect** God’s messages of warning, and cannot **reject** them or treat them **lightly**, but at the **peril of infinite loss**. *TM 465-466*

Thus saith the LORD....speak....all the words that I command thee to speak unto them; **diminish not a word**: *Jer 26:2*

As the Lord liveth, what the Lord saith unto me, **that will I speak**. *1Kin 22:14*

For I have not shunned to declare unto you **all the counsel** of God. *Acts 20:27*

“Let none entertain the thought that I regret or take back any plain testimony I have borne to individuals or to the people. If I have erred anywhere, it is in not rebuking sin more decidedly and firmly. Some of the brethren have taken the responsibility of criticizing my work and proposing an easier way to correct wrongs. To these persons I would say: **I take God’s way and not yours**. What I have said or written in testimony or reproof has not been too plainly expressed....

“Those who would in any way **lessen the force** of the **sharp reproofs** which God has given me to speak, must meet their work at the judgment.... To those who have taken the responsibility to reprove me and, in their finite judgment, to propose a way which appears wiser to them I repeat: I do not accept your efforts. **Leave me with God, and let Him teach me. I will take the words from the Lord and speak them to the people.** I do not expect that all will accept the reproof and reform their lives, but I must discharge my duty all the same. I will walk in humility before God, doing my work for time and for eternity [5T 19-20]. *5T 677*

Making the **word of God** of **none effect** through your **tradition**.... *Mark 7:13*

Many times in my experience I have been called upon to meet the **ATTITUDE of a certain class**, who acknowledged that the testimonies were from God, **but took the position that this matter and that matter were Sister White’s opinion and judgment**. This suits those who do not love reproof and correction, and who, if their ideas are crossed, have occasion to **explain the difference between the human and the divine**.

If the preconceived opinions or particular ideas of some are crossed in being reproved by testimonies, they have a burden at once to make plain their position to discriminate between the testimonies, defining what is Sister White’s human judgment, and what is the word of the Lord. Everything that sustains their cherished ideas is divine, and the testimonies to correct their errors are human—Sister White’s opinions. They make of **NONE EFFECT** the **COUNSEL OF GOD** by their **TRADITION**. *3SM 68*

When men venture to **criticize the Word of God**, they venture on sacred, holy ground, and had better fear and tremble and hide their wisdom as foolishness. God sets no man to pronounce judgment on His Word, selecting some things as inspired and discrediting others as

uninspired. **The testimonies have been treated in the same way; but GOD IS NOT IN THIS.**
ISM 23

Professing themselves to be **wise**, they became **fools**, *Rom 1:22*

You have evidenced your opinion of your own judgment—that it was more reliable than Sister White’s. Did you consider that Sister White has been dealing with just such cases during her life of service for the Master, that cases similar to your own and many varieties of cases have passed before her that should make her know what is right and what is wrong in these things? **Is a judgment that has been under the training of God for more than FIFTY YEARS [Seventy when she died] of no preference to those who have not had this discipline and education? Please consider these things.** *3SM 60*

The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth **understanding unto the simple.** *Ps 119:130*

With the light communicated through the study of His word, with the special knowledge given of individual cases among His people under all circumstances and in every phase of experience, can I now be in the same ignorance, the same mental uncertainty and spiritual blindness, as at the beginning of this experience? **Will my brethren say that Sister White has been so DULL A SCHOLAR that her judgment in this direction is no better than before she entered Christ’s school, to be trained and disciplined for a special work?** Am I no more intelligent in regard to the duties and perils of God’s people than are those before whom these things have never been presented? I would not dishonor my Maker by admitting that all this light, all the display of His mighty power in my work and experience, has been valueless, that it has not educated my judgment or better fitted me for His work. *5T 686*

Comment - There are Adventist theologians today who will question the theology expressed in the Spirit of Prophecy, reasoning that Sister White never attended seminary and therefore her Biblical positions are in need of some adjustment from those possessing higher “education.” No doubt they would have questioned the humble Carpenter’s theology had they been alive in His day. Such would do well to ponder the following statements from inspiration.

And this is the **condemnation**, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. *John 3:19*

If you, **my brethren**, who have been **acquainted with me and my work for many years**, take the position that my counsel is of **NO MORE VALUE** than the counsel of those who have not been specially educated for this work, then **DO NOT ASK ME TO UNITE WITH YOU IN LABOR**; for while you occupy this position, **you will inevitably counteract the influence of my work**. If you feel just as safe in following your own impulses as in following the light given by God’s delegated servant, the peril is your own; **YOU WILL BE CONDEMNED because you rejected the light which HEAVEN had sent you.**

While at ——, the Lord came to me in the **night season** and spoke precious words of encouragement concerning my work, repeating the same message that had been given me several

times before. With regard to those who have turned from the light sent them, He said: “**In slighting and rejecting the testimony that I HAVE GIVEN YOU TO BEAR, it is not you, but ME, YOUR LORD, that they have slighted.**” 5T 688

He that **rejecteth ME**, and **receiveth not MY words**, hath one that judgeth him: **THE WORD** that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. *John 12:48*

....the **testimony** of **JESUS**. *Rev 19:10*

Comment - The following quotation ties in with the last paragraph quoted from 5T 688 in which Jesus had given His messenger words of encouragement in the night season.

In the **night season** many things are passing before me. The Scriptures, full of grace and richness, are presented before me. **The word of the Lord to me is:** “Look on these things, and meditate on them. You may claim the rich grace of truth, which nourishes the soul. Have naught to do with controversy and dissension and strife, which bring darkness and discouragement to your soul. Truth is clear, pure, savory. **AVOID** all council meetings where there is dissension, and where men will neither **credit MY WORDS** and **obey MY LESSONS** nor **heed YOUR COUNSEL**. Speak the truth in faith and love, leaving the result with God. The work is not yours, but the Lord’s. **In ALL your communications, speak as one to whom the Lord has spoken. HE IS YOUR AUTHORITY,** and He will give you His sustaining grace.” 17MR 63

BUT the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: **neither can he know them,** because they are **spiritually discerned.** *1Cor 2:14*

A testimony for certain young men, first published in 1880, speaks of this point as follows: “A **prevailing skepticism** is continually increasing in reference to the *Testimonies* of the Spirit of God; and these youth encourage questionings and doubts instead of removing them, because they are **ignorant** of the **spirit** and **power** and **force** of the *Testimonies.*” [4T 437]

“I was shown that many had so **little spirituality** that they did not understand the **value** of the *Testimonies* or their **real object**. They talked flippantly of the Testimonies given by God for the benefit of His people, and passed judgment upon them, giving their opinion and criticizing this and that, when they would better have **placed their hands upon their lips,** and **prostrated themselves in the dust;** for they could not appreciate the spirit of the *Testimonies, **because they knew so little of the Spirit of God.**” [4T 443] 5T 672-673*

A **double minded man** is **unstable** in **all his ways.** *Jam 1:8*

One day you will stand in the pulpit and **strongly advocate** the testimonies which God has sent to his people; in a few days, **if you FEEL LIKE IT,** you do your best to **unsettle faith in them,** among those with whom you associate; and then in a day or two you are **advocating** the testimonies again. Now, my brother, are you anchored anywhere, or are you not more like the

waves of the sea, tossed to and fro, unstable, unreliable, **moved not by principle, but by EMOTION?** Will not your work be of the same character? Will it not ravel out? PH096 75

18 But as God is true, our word toward you was **NOT YEA and NAY** [*wavering back and forth like a reed in the wind*].

19 ...**but IN HIM WAS YEA** [*and Amen!*]. 2Cor 1:18-19

6. Defining Truth and Error

Howbeit when he, the **Spirit of TRUTH**, is come, **he will guide you into all TRUTH**: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will **shew you things to come**. John 16:13

We are to be established in the faith, in the light of the truth given us in our early experience. **At that time** [*after the 1844 disappointment*] **one error after another pressed in upon us; ministers and doctors brought in new doctrines**. We would search the Scriptures with much prayer, and the Holy Spirit would bring the truth to our minds. Sometimes whole nights would be devoted to searching the Scriptures and earnestly asking God for guidance. Companies of devoted men and women assembled for this purpose. **The POWER OF GOD would come upon me, and I was enabled clearly to DEFINE what is TRUTH and what is ERROR**.

As the **points of our faith** were **THUS ESTABLISHED**, our feet were placed upon a solid foundation [*Our doctrines were established by God Himself through the Holy Spirit who guided Sister White into all truth. How many have forgotten this and are departing from the faith that an infallible God has established!*]. **We accepted the TRUTH point by point, under the DEMONSTRATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**. I would be taken off in vision, and explanations would be given me. I was given illustrations of heavenly things, and of the sanctuary, so that we were placed where light was shining on us in clear, distinct rays. GW 302

But **the anointing** which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as **the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is TRUTH, and is no lie**, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. 1John 2:27

....When they came to the point in their study where they said, "We can do nothing more," **the Spirit of the Lord would come upon me. I would be taken off in vision, and a CLEAR EXPLANATION of the passages we had been studying would be given me, with instruction as to how we were to labor and teach effectively**. Thus light was given that helped us to understand the scriptures in regard to Christ, his mission, and his priesthood. A **line of TRUTH** extending from that time to the time when we shall enter the city of God, was **made plain to me**, and I gave to others the instruction that the Lord had given me.

During this whole time I could not understand the reasoning of the brethren. My mind was locked, as it were, and I could not comprehend the meaning of the scriptures we were studying. This was one of the greatest sorrows of my life. **I was in this condition of mind until all the principal points of our faith were made clear to our minds, in harmony with the Word of God**. The brethren knew that, when not in vision, I could not understand these matters, and they accepted, as light directly from heaven, the revelations given. ISM 206-207

For **HE established** a **testimony** in Jacob [*the church*].... *Ps 78:5*

The whole company of believers were united in the **TRUTH**. There were those who came in with **strange doctrines**, but we were never afraid to meet them. Our experience was **wonderfully ESTABLISHED by the revelation of the HOLY SPIRIT**.... *TDG 317*

WE ARE OF GOD: he that knoweth God **heareth us**; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby **KNOW WE** the spirit of **TRUTH**, and the spirit of **ERROR**. *1John 4:6*

These strange **differences of opinion** brought a heavy weight upon me, as it seemed to me that God was dishonored; and I fainted under the burden. Some feared that I was dying; but the Lord heard the prayers of His servants, and I revived. The light of heaven rested upon me, and I was soon lost to earthly things. **My accompanying angel presented before me some of the ERRORS of those present, and also the TRUTH in contrast with their ERRORS**. These discordant views which they claimed to be according to the Bible **were only according to THEIR OPINION OF THE BIBLE**, and they must yield their errors and unite upon the third angel's message. Our meeting closed triumphantly. Truth gained the victory. The brethren renounced their ERRORS, and united upon the third angel's message, and God greatly blessed them and added to their numbers. *IT 86*

And so were the churches **established in the faith**, and increased in number daily. *Acts 16:5*

I long daily to be able to do double duty. I have been pleading with the Lord for strength and wisdom to reproduce the writings of the witnesses who were confirmed in the faith and in the early history of the message. After the passing of the time in 1844 they received the light and walked in the light, and when the men claiming to have new light would come in with their wonderful messages regarding various points of Scripture, we had, **through the moving of the HOLY SPIRIT, TESTIMONIES** right to the point, which cut off the influence of such messages as Elder G has been devoting his time to presenting. This poor man has been working decidedly against the truth that the Holy Spirit has confirmed.

When the power of God testifies as to what is truth, that truth is to STAND FOREVER AS THE TRUTH. No after suppositions contrary to the light God has given are to be entertained. Men will arise with interpretations of Scripture which are to them truth, but which are not truth. The truth for this time God has given us as a foundation for our faith. **HE HIMSELF has taught us what is TRUTH**. One will arise, and still another, with new light, **which contradicts the light that God has given under the DEMONSTRATION OF HIS HOLY SPIRIT**. A few are still alive who passed through the experience gained in the establishment of this truth. God has graciously spared their lives to repeat, and repeat till the close of their lives, the experience through which they passed even as did John the apostle till the very close of his life. And the standard bearers who have fallen in death are to speak through the reprinting of their writings. I am instructed that thus their voices are to be heard. They are to bear their testimony as to what constitutes the truth for this time.

We are not to receive the words of those who come with a message that contradicts the special points of our faith. They gather together a mass of Scripture, and pile it as proof

around their asserted theories. This has been done over and over again during the past fifty years. And while the Scriptures are God's word, and are to be respected, the application of them, if such application moves one pillar from the foundation that God has sustained these fifty years, is a great mistake. He who makes such an application knows not the **WONDERFUL DEMONSTRATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** that gave **POWER** and **FORCE** to the **PAST MESSAGES** that have come to the people of God.

Elder G's proofs are not reliable. If received, they would destroy the faith of God's people in the truth that has made us what we are.

We MUST be DECIDED on this subject; for the points that he is trying to prove by Scripture, are not sound. They do not prove that the past experience of God's people was a fallacy. **We had the TRUTH; we were directed by the ANGELS OF GOD.** It was under the **guidance of the HOLY SPIRIT** that the presentation of the sanctuary question was given. It is eloquence for every one to keep silent in regard to the features of our faith in which they acted no part. **GOD NEVER CONTRADICTS HIMSELF.** Scripture proofs are misapplied if forced to testify to that which is not true. Another and still another will arise and bring in supposedly great light, and make their assertions. **But we stand by the old landmarks.** {1 John 1:1-10 quoted.}

I am **instructed** to say that these words [1Jn 1:1-10] we may use as appropriate for this time, for the time has come when **SIN must be called by its right name.** We are hindered in our work by men who are not converted, who seek their own glory. They wish to be thought originators of **new theories**, which they present claiming that they are truth. **But if these THEORIES are received, they will lead to a denial of the TRUTH that for the past fifty years God has been giving to His people, substantiating it by the DEMONSTRATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.** 1SM 160-162

Comment - Today, many theories are being accepted by Seventh-day Adventists which deny the truths which God has established in our early experience. It should be noted however that Jones and Waggoner presented truths which the other brethren considered to be "theories" that supposedly contradicted the "pillars of our faith". Ellen White sternly rebuked this lack of spiritual discernment on the part of those opposing Jones and Waggoner. We must study humbly and carefully, lest we rehearse the abominations of 1888.

Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in **remembrance** of these things, though ye know them, and be **established** in the **present truth.** 2Pet 1:12

I am thankful that the instruction contained in my books **ESTABLISHES PRESENT TRUTH** for this time. These books were written under the **DEMONSTRATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.** I praise the Lord with heart and soul and voice, and I pray that He will **lead into ALL truth THOSE WHO WILL BE LED.** I praise Him that He has so wonderfully spared my life up to this time, to bear the same message upon the important points of our faith that I have borne for half a century. 8MR 321

And **thine ears** shall hear **a word** behind thee, saying, **This is the way, walk ye in it,** when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left. Isa 30:21

I have kept in all my journeys that should come before the people if essential, even if I did not write another line. I want that which is deemed worthy to appear, for the **Lord has given me much light that I want the people to have;** for there is instruction that the Lord has given me for His people. It is light that they should have, line upon line, precept upon precept, here a

little and there a little. This is now to come before the people, **because it has been given to CORRECT SPECIOUS ERRORS and to SPECIFY WHAT IS TRUTH. The Lord has revealed many things pointing out the truth, thus saying, "THIS IS THE WAY, WALK YE IN IT."** 3SM 32

...To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. **Every one that is of the TRUTH heareth my voice.** John 18:37

It has been presented to me that, so far as possible, I am to impart instruction in the language of the Scriptures; for there are those whose spiritual discernment is confused, and when their errors are reproved, they will misinterpret and misapply what I might write, and thus make of none-effect the words of warning that the **Lord** sends. **HE DESIRES** that the **MESSAGES HE SENDS** shall be **recognized** as the **WORDS OF ETERNAL TRUTH.** 5MR 151

Comment - Does He desire that the messages He has sent shall be "recognized as eternal truth" even to the public?

Elder Simpson endeavors to avoid entering into controversy with opponents. He presents the Bible so clearly that it is evident that any one who differs, must do so in opposition to the Word of God.

Friday evening and Sabbath forenoon, December 15 and 16, **Elder Simpson spoke [publicly] upon the subject of Spiritual Gifts,** dwelling especially upon the **spirit of prophecy.** Those who were present at these discourses say that he treated the subject in a **clear, forceful manner.** RH 02/07/07

...that....I may speak **boldly,** as I **ought to speak.** Eph 6:20

Brother Simpson's *[public]* meetings were largely attended, and the people listened to his words with **spellbound interest;** the interest continued from first to last. With his Bible in his hand, and basing all his arguments on the word of God, Brother Simpson traced out before them the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation. His own words were few; he made the Scriptures themselves explain the truth to the people. After giving them the truth, Elder Simpson would draw an expression of opinion from his congregation. "Now," he would say, "those who see the truth of what I am saying, raise your hands;" and in response many hands would be raised. **I can only poorly represent to you the interest his work has created.**

In his teaching *[publicly]*, Elder Simpson showed that the **Spirit of prophecy** has an **important part** to act in the **ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TRUTH.** When binding off his work, he called for me to go to Oakland to speak to the people. PC 99

And *[pray]* for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may **open my mouth boldly,** to make known the mystery of the gospel. Eph 6:19

Comment - Elder Simpson did not “quote” the testimonies as an authoritative source to those who, at that time, had not ample opportunity to judge their character. Yet he boldly showed their importance using the Bible to validate everything.

*[In striking contrast with Brother Simpson....] There are some occupying positions of responsibility who have had little experience in the working of the Holy Spirit. They do not appreciate the light in warnings, reproofs, and encouragement given to the church in these last days, because their hearts and minds have not been receiving the Spirit of divine grace. These persons are disposed to **CONCEAL** the fact that in connection with the work of the third angel’s message **the Lord through the SPIRIT OF PROPHECY has been communicating to His people a knowledge of His will**. They think that the **TRUTH** will be received more readily if this fact is **NOT MADE PROMINENT**. But this is mere human reasoning. The very fact that this light coming to the people is not presented as having originated with human minds will make an **impression** upon a large class who believe that the gifts of the Spirit are to be manifested in the church in the last days. The **attention** of many will thus be **arrested**, and they will be **convicted** and **converted**. **MANY will thus be impressed who would not otherwise be reached** [I can testify to the validity of this assertion and with my whole heart praise God that these writings were not concealed from me. Praise the Lord!] 1888 808*

Comment - While on one hand we should not be timidly hauling down our colors as some are disposed to do, we should likewise be prudent and tactful to present truth clearly and attractively to those not of our faith, rather than in ways that tend to prejudice and offend. Thus a favorable and lasting impression will be made upon those who are receptive to the truth.

7. Does “Lesser Light” Mean Lesser Authority ?

The Lord has sent His people much instruction, line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little, and there a little. Little heed is given to the Bible, and **the Lord** [who? *The Lord*] has given a **lesser light** to **lead men and women** to the **greater light**. Oh, how much good would be accomplished if the books containing this light were read with a determination to carry out the principles they contain! There would be a thousandfold greater vigilance, a thousandfold more self-denial and resolute effort. And many more would now be rejoicing in the light of present truth. *CM 125*

Comment - Can the lesser light of the Spirit of Prophecy be of lesser authority than the Bible if the same “Lord” gave the light in both cases? Obviously, No! The only question we have to settle in our minds is: “Was it really the Lord who has given an authoritative lesser light to point us to the greater light?” If so, then the Spirit of Prophecy is nothing less than the omnipotent voice of God, speaking to us today. Shall we question His authority?

Why is the word “lesser” used to describe the Spirit of Prophecy? Because the Bible, in its literary style, is much more intense than the Spirit of Prophecy, and in this sense is considered “greater.” One potent verse from the Bible can spawn thousands of Divine revelations when properly understood. But because our minds are feeble, and we have neglected our Bibles, God has given us messages which have begun to unfold deep truths, and are intended to further stimulate this spawning process in our own minds.

Have there been other “lesser lights” and do they have authority?

And he [John] shall go before Him [Jesus] in the **SPIRIT** and **POWER** of **Elijah**....
Luke 1:17

The **prophet John** [the first “Elijah” prophet] was the connecting link between the two dispensations. As **God’s representative** he stood forth to show the relation of the law and the prophets to the Christian dispensation. He was the **LESSER LIGHT**, which was to be followed by **a greater**. The mind of John was **illuminated by the Holy Spirit**, that he might shed light upon his people; but no other light ever has shone or ever will shine so clearly upon fallen man as that which emanated from the teaching and example of Jesus. DA 220

Comment - If we reject or ignore the “lesser light” of Ellen White, then to be consistent we would have (in the days of Christ) rejected or ignored the “lesser light” of John the Baptist, who also pointed his hearers to Christ, who was the “greater light”. The Pharisees rejected the authority of the Baptist’s message in preference to their own opinions; John’s response to their position may be found in Matt 3:7. Jesus was not deceived about the authority of His forerunners mission:

Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath **not risen a greater** than John the Baptist. Matt 11:11

Comment - Continuing in this train of thought, can we safely reject the authority of the Old Testament because it was a “lesser light” which pointed to the “greater light” revealed in the New Testament - the life and teaching of Jesus Christ? Answer:

With the first advent of Christ there was ushered in an era of **GREATER LIGHT** and glory; but it would indeed be **SINFUL INGRATITUDE** to **despise** and **ridicule** the **LESSER LIGHT** because a fuller and **more glorious light** had dawned. Those who despise the blessings and glory of the Jewish age are **not prepared to be benefited by the preaching of the gospel**. The brightness of the Father’s glory, and the excellence and perfection of His sacred law, are only understood through the atonement made upon Calvary by His dear Son; but even the atonement **loses its significance** when the law of God is rejected [In like manner, the Bible loses its significance when the Spirit of Prophecy is rejected]. TDG 246

Comment - The New Testament was not given to supersede nor take the place of the Old Testament, but rather to expand upon it, and bring us to a clearer understanding of its types and figures. Yet we do not hesitate to ascribe equal authority to the teachings of the New Testament because we find that they perfectly complement the light given in the Old Testament. Then should we not ascribe equal authority to the Testimony of Jesus, which likewise perfectly complements the teachings of both Old and New Testaments, and so clearly and beautifully brings us to this most precious Word?

The Spirit was NOT given— nor can it ever be bestowed—to SUPERSEDE the Bible; for the Scriptures explicitly state that the Word of God is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested....Isaiah declares, “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” 3SM 30

The Lord desires you to study your Bibles. He has **NOT** given any additional light to **TAKE THE PLACE** of His Word. This light is to **bring confused minds TO HIS WORD**, which, if eaten and digested, is as the life-blood of the soul. Then good works will be seen as light shining in darkness. *3SM 29*

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and **lean not unto thine own understanding**.
Prov 3:5

“Brother J would confuse the mind by seeking to make it appear that the light God has given through the *Testimonies* is **AN ADDITION** to the Word of God, but in this he presents the matter in a **false light**. God has seen fit in this manner to **bring the minds of His people TO HIS WORD**, to give them a **clearer understanding of it**.” [4T 246].

“The Word of God is sufficient to enlighten the most beclouded mind, and may be understood by those who have any desire to understand it. But notwithstanding all this, some who profess to make the Word of God their study are found living in direct opposition to its plainest teachings. Then, to leave men and women without excuse, **God gives plain and pointed TESTIMONIES, bringing them back to the Word that they have NEGLECTED to follow**.” [2T 455].

“The Word of God abounds in general principles for the formation of correct habits of living, and **the testimonies, general and personal**, have been calculated to **call their attention more especially to these principles**.” [4T 323]. *5T 663-664*

For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, **ye have need that one teach you again** which be the first principles of the oracles of God.... *Heb 5:12*

In the Scriptures God has set forth practical lessons to govern the life and conduct of all; but though He has given minute particulars in regard to our character, conversation, and conduct, yet in a large measure, His lessons are disregarded and ignored. **Besides the instruction in His Word**, the Lord has given **special testimonies** to His people, **NOT as a new revelation**, but that He may set before us the plain lessons of His Word, that **ERRORS may be corrected**, that the **RIGHT WAY may be pointed out**, that every soul may be without excuse. *3SM 30-31*

...my heart standeth in **awe** of thy word. *Ps 119:161*

The *Testimonies* are not to belittle the word of God, but to **exalt it** and **attract minds to it**, that the beautiful simplicity of truth may impress all [*Yea, verily!*]. *2T 605*

8. “If it Wasn’t Written to Me Then Why Can’t I Ignore It ?”

Them that sin rebuke before **all**, that **OTHERS also may fear**. *1Tim 5:20*

In a vision given me June 12, 1868, I was shown that which fully justified my course in publishing personal testimonies. “When the Lord singles out individual cases and specifies their wrongs, **OTHERS**, who have not been shown in vision, **frequently take it for granted that they are right, or nearly so.** If one is reproofed for a special wrong, brethren and sisters should carefully examine themselves to see wherein they have failed and wherein they have been guilty of the same sin. They should possess the spirit of humble confession. If others think them right, it does not make them so. God looks at the heart. He is proving and testing souls in this manner. **In rebuking the wrongs of ONE, He designs to correct MANY.** But if they fail to take the reproof to themselves, and flatter themselves that God passes over their errors because He does not especially single them out, they deceive their own souls and will be shut up in darkness and be left to their own ways to follow the imagination of their own hearts.

“Many are dealing falsely with their own souls and are in a great deception in regard to their true condition before God. He employs ways and means to best serve His purpose and to prove what is in the hearts of His professed followers. **He makes plain the wrongs of some that OTHERS may thus be warned and fear and shun those errors.** By self-examination they may find that they are doing the same things which God condemns in others. If they really desire to serve God, and fear to offend Him, they will not wait for their sins to be specified before they make confession and with humble repentance return unto the Lord. **They will forsake the things which have displeased God, according to the light given to OTHERS.** If, on the contrary, those who are not right see that they are guilty of the very sins that have been reproofed in others, yet continue in the same unconsecrated course because they have not been specially named, they endanger their own souls, and will be led captive by Satan at his will.”[2T 112-113]

“I was shown that in the wisdom of God the sins and errors of all would not be revealed. . . **ALL who are guilty are addressed in these individual testimonies, although their names may not be attached to the special testimony borne;** and if individuals pass over and cover up their own sins because their names are not especially called, they will not be prospered of God. **They CANNOT ADVANCE in the divine life,** but will become darker and darker, until the light of heaven will be **ENTIRELY WITHDRAWN.**” [2T 447] 5T 659-660

....and being absent now I **write** to them which heretofore have sinned, **AND TO ALL OTHER,** that, if I come again, I will not spare: 2Cor 13:2

“I have been shown that unbelief in the testimonies of warning, encouragement, and reproof is shutting away the light from God’s people. Unbelief is closing their eyes so that they are ignorant of their true condition.” “**They think the testimony of the Spirit of God in reproof is uncalled for or that it DOES NOT MEAN THEM.** Such are in the **greatest need** of the grace of God and spiritual discernment, that they may discover their deficiency in spiritual knowledge.”[3T 255, 253, 254] 5T 674-675

That which you will be least inclined to receive is the very part most needed. 5T 98

In a recent dream I was brought before an assembly of people, some of whom were making efforts to remove the impression of a most solemn testimony of warning that I had given them. They said: “We believe Sister White’s testimonies; but when she tells us things that she has **not directly seen in vision** in the **particular case under consideration,** her words are of no

more account to us than the words of any other person.” The Spirit of the Lord came upon me, and **I arose and REBUKED THEM in the name of the Lord.** 5T 687

Has God ever revealed to these self-deceived ones that no reproofs or corrections from Him are to have any weight with them unless they come through direct vision? I dwell upon this point because the position that many are now taking upon it is a delusion of Satan to ruin souls. When he has ensnared and weakened them through his sophistry, so that when they are reproved they persist in making of none effect the workings of God’s Spirit, his triumph over them will be complete. 5T 690

Comment - There were times when Sister White became discouraged because her work for the salvation of others seemed to be ineffective and unappreciated. Yet God encouraged her by revealing that the Testimonies were not only for those addressed, but for others in like circumstances. The Bible passage below ties in nicely with the vision that follows:

10 Fear thou not; for I am with thee: **be not dismayed**; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness....

13 For I the LORD thy God will **hold thy right hand**, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee....

15 Behold, **I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth**: thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and shalt make the hills as chaff. *Isa 41:10-15*

I was **greatly encouraged** by the following dream:

“A person brought to me a **web of white cloth**, and bade me **cut it into garments for persons of all sizes and all descriptions of character and circumstances in life. I was told to cut them out and hang them up all ready to be made WHEN CALLED FOR.** I had the impression that many for whom I was required to cut garments were unworthy. I inquired if that was the last piece of cloth I should have to cut and was told that it was not; that as soon as I had finished this one, there were others for me to take hold of. I felt **discouraged** at the amount of work before me and stated that I had been engaged in cutting garments for others for more than twenty years, and my labors had not been appreciated, neither did I see that my work had accomplished much good. I spoke to the person who brought the cloth to me, of one woman in particular, for whom he had told me to cut a garment. I stated that she would not prize the garment and that it would be a loss of time and material to present it to her. She was very poor, of inferior intellect, and untidy in her habits, and would soon soil it.

“The person replied: ‘Cut out the garments. That is your duty. The loss is not yours, but mine. God sees not as man sees. He lays out the work that He would have done, and **you do not know which will prosper, this or that.**’ . . .

“I then held up my hands, calloused as they were with long use of the shears, and stated that I could but shrink at the thought of pursuing this kind of labor. The person again repeated:

“‘Cut out the garments. Your release has not yet come.’

“With feelings of great weariness I arose to engage in the work. Before me lay **NEW, POLISHED SHEARS** [A “new sharp threshing instrument having teeth”], which I commenced using. At once my feelings of weariness and **discouragement left me**, the shears seemed to cut

with hardly an effort on my part, and I cut out garment after garment with comparative ease.” [2T 10-12] 5T 657-658

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and **it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.**
Isa 55:11

I took the precious Bible and surrounded it with the several *Testimonies for the Church*, given for the people of God. Here, said I, the cases of nearly all are met. The sins they are to shun are pointed out. **The counsel that they desire can be found here, given for OTHER cases situated similarly to themselves.** God has been pleased to give you line upon line and precept upon precept. But there are not many of you that really know what is contained in the *Testimonies*. 5T 664-665

9. “Study” the Testimonies

Comment - The word “study” is defined as: “attentive scrutiny”, “careful examination”, “state of mental absorption”, “in-depth analysis”, “investigate”, “ponder” and “to apply ones mind purposefully.” To “study” inspired writings involves much, much more than simply reading.

...Never have **testimonies** been more clearly brought before the people than those that have recently been traced by my pen. **God bids me URGE** upon the **ATTENTION** of our people the **IMPORTANCE OF THEIR STUDY**. Let this work begin now. Then, whether I am permitted to labor or am laid away to rest until Jesus comes, these messages are immortalized.
ISM 56-57

Now all these things.... [are] for examples: and they are written for **our admonition**, upon whom the ends of the world are come. *1Cor 10:11*

I am **instructed** to say to our churches, **STUDY THE TESTIMONIES**. They are written for our admonition and encouragement, upon whom the ends of the world are come. **If God’s people will not study these messages that are sent to them from time to time, they are guilty of rejecting light.** Line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little, God is sending instruction to His people. Heed the instruction; follow the light. The Lord has a controversy with His people because in the past they have not heeded **HIS instruction** and followed **HIS guidance**. *3SM 358*

As the end draws near and the work of giving the last warning to the world extends, it becomes **more important** for those who accept present truth to have a **clear understanding of the nature and influence of the Testimonies**, which God in His providence has linked with the work of the third angel’s message from its very rise. *5T 654*

I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be **read** unto **all** the holy brethren. *1Thes 5:27*

“Many are going directly contrary to the light which God has given to His people, **because they DO NOT READ the books which contain the light and knowledge in cautions, reproofs, and warnings.** The cares of the world, the love of fashion, and the lack of religion have turned the attention from the light God has so graciously given, while books and periodicals containing error are traveling all over the country. Skepticism and infidelity are increasing everywhere. Light so precious, coming from the throne of God, is hid under a bushel. **God will make His people responsible for this neglect.** An account must be rendered to Him for every ray of light He has let shine upon our pathway, whether it has been improved to our advancement in divine things or rejected because it was more agreeable to follow inclination.” [4T 134]

“The volumes of *Spirit of Prophecy*, and also the *Testimonies*, should be introduced into every Sabbathkeeping family, and **the brethren should know their value and be URGED TO READ THEM.** It was not the wisest plan to place these books at a low figure and have only one set in a church. They should be in the library of **every family** and be **READ AGAIN AND AGAIN.** Let them be kept where they can be read by many.” [4T 391, 390] *5T 681*

Comment - While some neglect the messages from Jesus, others distort them to fit their own preconceived ideas.

[Yet] in all his [her] epistles....are some things hard to be understood, which they that are **unlearned and unstable wrest**, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. *2Pet 3:16*

There are many who **interpret** that which I write in the light of **their own preconceived opinions.** You know what this means. A division in understanding and diverse opinions is the sure result....

One understands them as he thinks they should be, in accordance with his ideas. Another puts his construction upon the written matter, and **CONFUSION is the sure result.** *3SM 79-80*

Ever “learning”, and **never able** to come to the knowledge of **the truth.** *2Tim 3:7*

Comment - There is a solution to this dilemma, but few make proper application of the explicit counsel given below:

For **precept MUST be upon precept**, precept upon precept; **line upon line**, line upon line; **here a little**, and **there a little:** *Isa 28:10*

The Spirit of the Lord will be in the instruction, and doubts existing in many minds will be swept away. **The testimonies themselves will be the KEY that will explain the messages given, as scripture is explained by scripture.** Many will read with eagerness the messages reproving wrong, that they may learn what they may do to be saved. *ISM 42*

And I will give unto thee the **KEYS** of the **kingdom of heaven**.... *Matt 16:19*

Comment - The brother described below was in confusion about the nature of the testimonies, until God gave him a most startling dream:

He says he knew so little of the testimonies, he did not understand the relation they sustained to the cause. Some time since, while he was in perplexity, asking the Lord for light, he had a very striking dream. He saw Sister White in a boat riding on the billows, which were **sending the spray like light in every direction**. It came into the room where he was with many others; **he moved to get beyond its reach**, when a hand stretched out to him gave him a paper. The **paper was on fire**, and a voice said, "**Read quickly**." He put out the fire, and opened the paper. There was a testimony, and a key lying upon the testimony. The interpretation came to his mind with great force, "**THE KEY TO THE TESTIMONIES IS THE TESTIMONIES THEMSELVES**." He woke with the blessing of God upon him. Then he prayed, "Lord direct me to the testimony I should read to help my case." He took up testimony 31 and opened at the article, "The testimonies rejected." He read it through with intense interest and was deeply impressed that the testimonies were from God. *PC 149-150*

Comment - I want to be on the ship with God's prophet, spraying light in every direction. The vast majority of Seventh-day Adventists are indifferent to the instructions given in the Spirit of Prophecy, and yet they are lulled into believing they are on the right ship. What fearful horrors await them in the time of trouble unless they repent?

...he that **believeth not** shall be **damned**. *Mark 16:16*

That they **all** might be **damned** who **believed not the truth**, but had pleasure in unrighteousness. *2Thes 2:12*

I saw the state of some who stood on present truth [professed Adventists], but disregarded the visions—the way God had chosen to teach in some cases, those who ERRED FROM BIBLE TRUTH. I saw that in striking against the visions they did not strike against the worm—the feeble instrument that God spake through—but **against the Holy Ghost**. I saw it was a small thing to speak against the instrument, but it was dangerous to slight the words of God. I saw if they were in error and God chose to show them their errors through visions, and they **disregarded the teachings of God through visions**, they would be left to take their **own way**, and run in the way of error, and **THINK THEY WERE RIGHT**, until they would find it out **TOO LATE**. Then in the **TIME OF TROUBLE [last generation]** **I heard them cry to God in agony, "Why didst Thou not show us our wrong, that we might have got right and been ready for this time?"** Then an angel pointed to them and said, "**MY FATHER TAUGHT, BUT YOU WOULD NOT BE TAUGHT. HE SPOKE THROUGH VISIONS, BUT YOU DISREGARDED HIS VOICE, AND HE GAVE YOU UP TO YOUR OWN WAYS, TO BE FILLED WITH YOUR OWN DOINGS.**" *ISM 40*

Comment - Praise God that there is still time to be taught! Praise God for His merciful kindness! Praise God for loving entreaties!

Hear ye, O mountains, the LORD'S controversy, and ye strong foundations of the earth: **for the LORD hath a controversy with HIS PEOPLE, and he will PLEAD with Israel.** *Mic 6:2*

In ancient times God spoke to men by the mouth of prophets and apostles. In these days He speaks to them by the **Testimonies of His Spirit.** There was **NEVER A TIME** when God instructed His people **MORE EARNESTLY** than He instructs them **NOW** concerning **HIS WILL** and the course that He would have them pursue. *5T 661*

How shall we escape, if we NEGLECT so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was **confirmed unto us by THEM THAT HEARD HIM** [*Many times Ellen White heard Him*]. *Heb 2:3*

A wealth of moral influence has been brought to us in the last half century. Through His Holy Spirit the **VOICE OF GOD** has come to us continually in warning and instruction, to **CONFIRM THE FAITH** of the believers in the **SPIRIT OF PROPHECY.** Repeatedly the word has come, Write the things that I have given you to confirm the faith of My people in the position they have taken. Time and trial have not made void the instruction given, but through years of suffering and self-sacrifice have established the truth of the testimony given. The instruction that was given in the early days of the message is to be held as safe instruction to follow in these its closing days. **Those who are INDIFFERENT to this light and instruction MUST NOT EXPECT TO ESCAPE the SNARES which we have been plainly told will cause the rejecters of light to stumble, and fall, and be snared, and be taken.** If we study carefully the second chapter of Hebrews, we shall learn how important it is that we hold steadfastly to every principle of truth that has been given.

Soon EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT will be made to DISCOUNT and PERVERT the truth of the testimonies of God's Spirit. We must have in readiness the clear, straight messages that since 1846 have been coming to God's people. *ISM 41*

10. Working With the Devil

3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

4 In whom the **god of this world** hath **BLINDED the minds** of them which **believe not**.... *2Cor 4:3-4*

The **ENEMY** has made his masterly efforts to **UNSETTLE THE FAITH** of our own people in the **testimonies,** and when these errors [*contrary to the light given in the testimonies*] come in they claim to prove all the positions by the Bible, but they **misinterpret** the **Scriptures.** They make bold assertions, as did Elder Canright, and **misapply** the **prophecies** and the **Scriptures** to prove falsehood. And, after men have done their work in **WEAKENING THE CONFIDENCE** of our churches in the **testimonies,** they have torn away the barrier, that unbelief in the truth shall become widespread, and there is no voice to be lifted up to stay the force of error.

This is **JUST AS SATAN DESIGNED IT SHOULD BE,** and those who have been preparing the way for the people to pay no heed to the warnings and reproofs of the testimonies of

the Spirit of God will see that a tide of errors of all kinds will spring into life. They will claim Scripture as their evidence, and deceptions of Satan in every form will prevail. 3SM 83

[We ought to walk humbly...] Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for *[hopefully]* we are **NOT IGNORANT of his devices.** 2Cor 2:11

For some are **already turned aside after Satan.** 1Tim 5:15

Those who have helped souls to feel at liberty to specify what is of God in the Testimonies and what are the uninspired words of Sister White, will find that they were **HELPING THE DEVIL** in his **WORK OF DECEPTION.** 3SM 70

This “wisdom” descendeth not from above, but is earthly....**DEVILISH.** Jam 3:15

....O full of all **subtilty** and all **mischief**, thou **CHILD OF THE DEVIL**, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to **PERVERT** the **RIGHT WAYS of the Lord?** Acts 13:10

YE *[who by word and example subtilty undermine the confidence of others in the Spirit of Prophecy]* **ARE OF YOUR FATHER THE DEVIL**, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a **murderer** *[filled with hatred]* from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a **LIE**, he speaketh **OF HIS OWN:** for he is a **LIAR**, and the **FATHER OF IT.** John 8:44

There will be *[and now is]* a **HATRED KINDLED** against the **TESTIMONIES** which is **SATANIC.** The workings of Satan will be to **UNSETTLE THE FAITH** of the churches in them, for this reason: Satan cannot have so clear a track to bring in his **DECEPTIONS** and bind up souls in his **DELUSIONS** if the **warnings** and **reproofs** and **counsels** of the Spirit of God are heeded. 1SM 48

Comment - How does Satan work to “unsettle the faith“ of Gods people in the Spirit of Prophecy? What does it mean to “kindle“ hatred? What agencies are foremost to “kindle“ the passions of Gods people against the true testimony and the faithful messengers who are striving to uphold its principles?

UNSANCTIFIED MINISTERS are arraying themselves against God. They are praising Christ and the god of this world in the same breath....Let the son of deceit and false witness be entertained by a church that has had great light, great evidence, and **THAT CHURCH WILL DISCARD THE MESSAGE THE LORD HAS SENT**, and receive the most unreasonable assertions and false suppositions and false theories. Satan laughs at their folly, for he knows what truth is.

Many will stand in **OUR PULPITS** with the **TORCH OF FALSE PROPHECY** in their hands, **KINDLED FROM THE HELLISH TORCH OF SATAN.** If doubts and unbelief are cherished, the faithful ministers will be removed from the people who think they know so much.

“If thou hadst known,” said Christ, “even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.” *TM 409*

Where there is no vision, the people PERISH.... *Prov 29:18*

The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God. “Where there is no vision, the people perish” (*Prov. 29:18*). Satan will work **INGENIOUSLY**, in different ways and through different agencies, to **UNSETTLE THE CONFIDENCE** of God’s remnant people in the **true testimony**. *ISM 48*

Comment - Do you suppose that the “unsanctified ministers“ mentioned previously will carry out their baleful work openly, or do you suppose that they will work “ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies“, so that they cannot be easily detected - just like their father the Devil? How will God’s sincere people be able to detect this wicked distortion of truth?

...**believe his prophets**, so shall ye **prosper**. *2Chr 20:20*

Men may get up scheme after scheme, and the enemy will seek to seduce souls from the truth, but all who **believe** that the **Lord has spoken through Sister White**, and has **given her a message**, will be **SAFE** from the **MANY DELUSIONS** that will come in these **last days**. *3SM 83-84*

[Yet] the Spirit speaketh **EXPRESSLY**, that in the **latter times** some shall **depart from the faith**, giving heed to **seducing spirits**, and **doctrines of DEVILS**. *1Tim 4:1*

One thing is **CERTAIN**: Those **SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS** who take their stand under **SATAN’S banner** will first **GIVE UP THEIR FAITH** in the **warnings** and **reproofs** contained in the **Testimonies of God’s Spirit**. *3SM 84*

And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, **Satan cometh immediately**, and **taketh away the word** that was sown in their hearts. *Mark 4:15*

It is **Satan’s plan** to **WEAKEN THE FAITH** of God’s people in the **Testimonies**. Next follows **skepticism** in regard to the **vital points** of our faith, the **pillars** of our position, then doubt as to the **Holy Scriptures**, and then the downward march to perdition. **When the Testimonies, which were once believed, are doubted and given up**, Satan knows the deceived ones will not stop at this; and he redoubles his efforts till he launches them into open rebellion, which becomes **INCURABLE** and ends in **DESTRUCTION**. *4T 211*

Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; **wandering stars**, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever. *Jude 1:13*

If you **lose confidence** in the *Testimonies* you will **drift away from Bible truth** [“wandering stars...“]. 5T 98

And they shall **turn away** their ears from the **TRUTH**, and shall be turned unto **FABLES**. 2Tim 4:4

[Its time now to....] Put on the **WHOLE armour** of God, that ye may be able to stand against the **wiles of the devil**. Eph 6:11

11. How Much is Inspired ?

Books - What thou seest, **write in a book**.... Rev 1:11

Books - **Sister White is NOT THE ORIGINATOR of these BOOKS**. They contain the instruction that during her lifework **GOD has been giving her**. They contain the precious, comforting light that **GOD has graciously given His servant to be given to the world**. From their pages this light is to shine into the hearts of men and women, leading them to the Saviour. The Lord has declared that these books are to be scattered throughout the world. There is in them truth which to the receiver is a savor of life unto life. **They are silent witnesses for God**. CM 125

Articles - Moreover the LORD said unto me, Take thee a **great roll**, and write in it with a man's pen.... Isa 8:1

Articles - **I do not write ONE ARTICLE in the paper**, expressing merely my **own ideas**. They are what **GOD has opened before me in vision**—the precious rays of light shining from the throne.... 5T 67

Letters - Now these are the words of the **letter** that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem.... Jer 29:1

Letters - Weak and trembling, I arose at three o'clock in the morning to write to you. God was speaking through clay. You might say that this communication was **ONLY a letter**. Yes, it was a letter, **BUT PROMPTED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD**, to bring before your minds things that had been **shown me**. In these letters which I write, in the testimonies I bear, I am presenting to you that which **the LORD has presented to me**. 5T 67

Sermons - And Ezra the scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood.... [and] read in the book in the law of God **distinctly**, and gave **the sense**, and caused them to understand the reading. Neh 8:4,8

Sermons- I long to speak to large congregations, **knowing that the message is NOT OF MYSELF** but that which the **LORD IMPRESSES upon my mind to utter**. I am **NEVER LEFT ALONE** when I stand before the people with a message. When before the people there seems to be presented before me the most precious things of the gospel and I participate in the gospel message and feed upon the Word as much as any of the hearers. The sermons do me good, for I have new representations every time I open my lips to speak to the people. 3SM 75-76

Interviews - the elders of Israel came to **enquire** of the LORD, and sat before me. Ezek 20:1

Interviews - He [Elder G. A. Irwin] has with him a little notebook in which he has noted down perplexing questions which he brings before me, and **if I have any LIGHT upon these points, I write it out for the benefit of our people**, not only in America but in this country [Australia]. 3SM 51

Doubly sure - And the LORD said unto Moses, **Write** this for a memorial in a book, and **rehearse it** in the ears of Joshua.... Ex 17:14

Doubly sure - The messages that God has given me have been communicated to His people **BOTH** by **word of mouth** and in **printed form**. Thus my work has been made **DOUBLY SURE**. 3SM 54

Common matter - That ye may put a **difference** between the **holy** [sacred] and **unholy** [common]. Lev 10:10

Common matter - I am troubled in regard to Brother A, who for some years has been a worker in southern California. He has made some strange statements, and **I am pained to see him denying the testimonies as a whole because of what SEEMS to him an inconsistency**—a statement made by me in regard to the number of rooms in the Paradise Valley Sanitarium. Brother A says that in a letter written to one of the brethren in southern California, the statement was made by me that the sanitarium contained forty rooms, when there were really only thirty-eight. This, Brother A gives to me as the reason why he has lost confidence in the testimonies....

The information given concerning the number of rooms in the Paradise Valley Sanitarium was given, not as a revelation from the Lord, but simply as a human opinion. There has never been revealed to me the exact number of rooms in any of our sanitariums; and the knowledge I have obtained of such things I have gained by inquiring of those who were supposed to know. **In my words, when speaking upon these COMMON SUBJECTS, there is nothing to lead minds to believe that I receive my knowledge in a vision from the Lord and am stating it as such....**

When the Holy Spirit reveals ANYTHING regarding the **institutions connected with the Lord's work**, or concerning the **work of God upon human hearts and minds**, as He has revealed these things through me in the past, **the message given is to be regarded as light given of God for those who need it**. But for one to **mix the sacred with the common is a great mistake**. In a tendency to do this we may see the working of the enemy to destroy souls.

To every soul whom God has created He has given capabilities to serve Him, but Satan seeks to make this work of service hard by his constant temptation to mislead souls. **He works to dim the spiritual perceptions that men may not distinguish between that which is common and that which is holy.** I have been made to know this distinction through a life's service for my Lord and Master....

I gave myself, my whole being, to God, to obey His call in everything, and since that time my life has been spent in giving **the message**, with my **pen** and in **speaking** before large congregations. **It is not I who controls my words and actions at such times.**

But there are times when **common things** must be stated, **common thoughts** must occupy the mind, **common letters** must be written and information given that has passed from one to another of the workers. **Such words, such information, are NOT given under the special inspiration of the Spirit of God.** Questions are asked at times that are **NOT UPON RELIGIOUS SUBJECTS AT ALL**, and these questions must be answered. We converse about houses and lands, trades to be made, and locations for our institutions, their advantages and disadvantages. *ISM 38-39*

Dear Brother: Your letter came to me while in southern California.... Now I must respond to the letters received from you....and others. In your letter, you speak of your early training to have implicit faith in the Testimonies and say, "I was led to conclude and most firmly believe that **EVERY WORD** that you **EVER SPOKE** in public **OR PRIVATE**, that **EVERY LETTER** you wrote under **ANY** and **ALL CIRCUMSTANCES**, was as **inspired as the Ten Commandments.**"

My brother, you have studied my writings diligently [he had in 1897 compiled the book Healthful Living, made up of quotations from the Ellen G. White writings], and **you have NEVER found that I have made any such claims.** **Neither will you find that the pioneers in our cause have made such claims.** *ISM 24*

12. Fallible Messenger but Infallible MESSAGE !!!

As for **GOD**, his way is **perfect**: the **word** of the Lord is **tried**.... *2Sam 22:31*

GOD and **heaven alone** are **infallible**. *ISM 37*

CHRIST will be to you an **infallible guide** if you will choose Him before your own blind judgment. *3T 458*

DIVINE POWER is **infallible**. Then let us come to God, pleading for the guidance of His **HOLY SPIRIT**. *TM 485*

The **LAW** of the LORD is **perfect**, converting the soul: the **testimony** of the LORD is **sure**, making wise the simple. *Ps 19:7*

214 We are now to compare our characters with the infallible standard of God's LAW. FE

Comment - Ok so far? Watch closely !!!

Not as though I [*Paul--Gods messenger*] had already attained, either were already perfect [*certainly not infallible*]; but I follow after.... *Phil 3:12*

[*And yet...*] If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I [*Paul--God's fallible messenger*] write unto you are the commandments of the Lord [*infallible message*]. *1Cor 14:37*

But when Peter [*God's messenger*] was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed [*fallible*]. *Gal 2:11*

[*Yet Peter warns us*]be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, AND of the commandment [*infallible message*] of us the apostles [*including Peter--God's fallible messenger*]. *2Pet 3:2*

[*Thus*] The BIBLE presents a PERFECT standard of character; it is an INFALLIBLE guide under all circumstances, even to the end of the journey of life. *5T 264*

In every period of this earth's history, God has had His men of opportunity, to whom He has said, "Ye are My witnesses [*messengers*]." In every age there have been devout men, who gathered up the rays of light as they flashed upon their pathway, and who spoke to the people the WORDS [*message*] OF GOD. Enoch, Noah, Moses, Daniel, and the long roll of PATRIARCHS and PROPHETS,—these were ministers of righteousness. They were NOT INFALLIBLE; they were weak, erring men; BUT the Lord wrought through them as they gave themselves to His service. *GW 13*

[*Thus*] The Holy Scriptures are to be accepted as an AUTHORITATIVE, INFALLIBLE revelation of His will. *FLB 13*

[*Even in modern times...*] The MESSENGERS God has seen fit to send have NOT BEEN INFALLIBLE. They have been weak, erring human beings; BUT the Lord wrought through them as they gave themselves up to his service. *RH 06/03/02*

[*Thus*] God's Word IS INFALLIBLE and endures forever. *UL 96*

MAN [*the messenger*] is FALLIBLE; but the MESSAGE is INFALLIBLE. *LHU 309.*

Comment - Watch very closely !!!

In regard to **INFALLIBILITY**, **I** [*God's messenger*] **NEVER CLAIMED IT**; God alone is infallible. **HIS WORD** [*message*] is **true** [*infallible*], and in Him is no variableness, or shadow of turning. *ISM 37*

Permit me to express my mind, and yet **not my mind**, but the **WORD OF THE LORD**.
CW 112

THE WORD of the only true God is **INFALLIBLE**. *HP 137*

I wish that self should be hid in Jesus. I wish self to be crucified. **I** [*God's messenger*] **DO NOT CLAIM INFALLIBILITY**, or even perfection of Christian character. **I** [*God's messenger*] **am not free from mistakes and errors in my life**. Had I followed my Saviour more closely, I should not have to mourn so much my unlikeness to His dear image. *7MR 284*

Do not look to **MEN** [*even if they are God's messengers*] nor hang your hopes upon them, feeling that they are **INFALLIBLE**; but **LOOK TO JESUS** [*who is infallible*] **CONSTANTLY**. *5T 649*

[*But notice*]the **testimony** of **JESUS** is the **SPIRIT OF PROPHECY**. *Rev 19:10*

Where we have made a **mistake**, brethren, is in **considering men** [*messengers*] **infallible**....There is no more dependence to be placed in those....you count infallible, because there are **NOT ANY OF US INFALLIBLE**. **BUT I WILL TELL YOU WHAT IS INFALLIBLE**—the **TRUTH** of the living God is **INFALLIBLE**. And if we can get hold of the **TRUTH**, and have the **TRUTH** in us, abiding in us, we shall be sanctified through the **TRUTH**, and we shall be drawing nearer and nearer to God. *1888 562*

The **instruction** contained in my books **ESTABLISHES PRESENT TRUTH** for this time. *8MR 321*

The Lord has given me much light that I want the people to have....[*why?*] it has been given to correct specious errors and to **SPECIFY** what is **TRUTH**. *3SM 32*

[*This passage is in the context of the message and messengers of 1888, yet it may be apply to anyone*] By poor, misguided human agents the **MESSENGER of truth** may be **regarded as infallible**; by human minds that think themselves wise, he [*or she*] may be placed where God should be; and he may be left to reveal that he is **NOT INFALLIBLE**; then the ones who have looked for something to condemn feel a triumph in iniquity, and those who exalted the human agent may be just as willing to turn against him. **BUT THERE IS THE MESSAGE ALL THE SAME: IT IS NOT CHANGED, IT TREMBLES NOT FROM ANY SHOCK IT MAY RECEIVE** [*Praise God! Praise God!*] *1888 1310*

I realize that the wisdom of men is foolishness; the **WISDOM OF GOD** is **INFALLIBLE**. *10MR 317*

...They do not see that God in **HIS OWN WISDOM** has made revelations [messages] to me which **CANNOT SUCCESSFULLY** be **CONTRADICTED** or **DISPUTED** [Not an iota less than infallible truth! Hallelujah! What a firm foundation God has laid! Praise God!]. *3SM 73*

But as for me [the messenger], this secret is **NOT** revealed to me for any **WISDOM that I have more than any living....** *Dan 2:30*

I have NO special WISDOM in myself; I am only an **instrument** in the Lord's hands to do the work He has set for me to do. *5T 691*

We are **all human**...God will and does use men for His glory; but **THEY** [His messengers] are **NOT INFALLIBLE**. *RH 12/15/85*

[Yet]**the prophecy** came not in old time by the [fallible] **will of man**; but holy men of God spake [messages] as they were **moved by the** [infallible] **Holy Ghost**. *2Pet 1:2*

We are to take our position in the school of Christ as humble learners. He speaks as one having **AUTHORITY**, and he affirms that **ALL that is written in the law and the PROPHETS** [including the writings of Ellen G. White] **is the word of the living God**. It is the **inspiration of One INFALLIBLE**, the divine communication to holy men [and women] of old, who spoke as they were **MOVED by the Holy Ghost**. *RH 10/03/99*

The **SAME SPIRIT** which **MOVED** the apostle to write to his brethren has **MOVED ME TO WRITE** to the church in Rockhampton. *PC 46*

The **HOLY GHOST** is the author of the Scriptures **AND OF THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY**. *3SM 30*

God's **WORD** is full of precious promises and helpful counsel. It is **INFALLIBLE**; for **GOD CAN NOT ERR**. *ML 27*

"**Your work**," He [Jesus] instructed me, "is to **BEAR MY WORD**." *ISM 32*

Man [Ellen White] is fallible, but **GOD'S WORD** is **INFALLIBLE**. *ISM 416*

No man is to suppose that he is infallible because he has been enlightened by God and used by Him in bringing souls to the truth. Our endowments are valuable only as they are

used as God's entrusted talents to magnify the truth. **The one through whom God works is never to exalt himself, never to seek to rule.** As a wise steward, he is to do his work in sincerity and humility. He is to do God service by imparting what he has received, by speaking the truth in love in a clear, decided manner. Thus he is to enlighten others, remembering always that God only can impress the mind and purify the heart. *21MR 275*

The faith and feelings of men may change; but the **truth** of God, **NEVER**. The **THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE** is sounding; it is **INFALLIBLE** [*Glory to God! Guaranteed success!*]. *4T 595*

...I will direct their work in truth. *Isa 61:8*

As the end draws near, and the work of giving the last warning to the world extends, it becomes **more important** for those who accept present truth to have a **clear understanding** of the **nature and influence** of the **TESTIMONIES**, which God in His providence has **LINKED** with the work of the **THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE** from its **very rise**. *5T 654*

What therefore God hath **joined together**, let not man put asunder. *Mark 10:9*

Brother Dan Jones then spoke. He stated that he had been tempted to give up the **Testimonies**; but if he did this, he knew he should **YIELD EVERYTHING**, for **we** had regarded the **testimonies** as **INTERWOVEN** with the **THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE**.... *13MR 52*

The **THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE** is **INFALLIBLE**. *LHU 309*

...These [*unwise*] persons are disposed to conceal the **fact** that in **CONNECTION** with the work of the **THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE** the **Lord** through the **SPIRIT OF PROPHECY** has been communicating to His people a knowledge of His will. *1888 808*

Cast not away therefore your **confidence**, which hath great recompence of reward. *Heb 10:35*

These messages [*including the ones you've just been reading*] were thus given to substantiate the faith of all, that in these last days we might have **CONFIDENCE** in the **SPIRIT OF PROPHECY**....For the past half century my faith in the ultimate triumph of the **THIRD ANGEL'S MESSAGE** and **everything CONNECTED with it**, has been substantiated by the wonderful experiences through which I have passed. This is why I am anxious to have my books published and circulated in many languages. **I KNOW THAT THE LIGHT CONTAINED IN THESE BOOKS IS THE LIGHT OF HEAVEN.** *3SM 39*

13. Is it Wrong to Quote the Spirit of Prophecy From Adventist Pulpits ?

Comment - Some Adventists, after reading certain passages in the Spirit of Prophecy, have come to the conclusion that we should not quote the Testimonies as a source of authority from Adventist pulpits, affirming that the “Bible and the Bible ONLY” should be heard (see chapter 2 for a clarification on the meaning of this phrase). Some would even go as far as to suggest that we should be discouraged from referencing them during Sabbath school or at prayer meeting. In this chapter we will seek to understand the real meaning of the counsel that we have been given, and clear up any misunderstandings.

I was shown that your **meetings** are losing interest because God’s Spirit does not attend them. The brethren and sisters are in **complete bondage** because of these two men [Brothers J & G]. **They dare not exercise their freedom and speak out their faith in the simplicity of their souls**, for here is Brother J, with his cool, severe, critical eye, watching and ready to catch at any word which will give him a chance to exercise the faculties of his unbelieving mind. Between these two, the Spirit of God is grieved away from the meetings. **When brethren manifest the spirit of the dragon, to make war upon those who believe that God has communicated light and comfort to them through the Testimonies, it is time for the brethren and sisters to ASSERT THEIR LIBERTY and PERFECT FREEDOM of conscience.** God has given them light, and it is **THEIR PRIVILEGE** to cherish the light and to **SPEAK OF IT to strengthen and encourage one another.** Brother J would confuse the mind by seeking to make it appear that the light God has given through the Testimonies is an addition to the word of God, but in this he presents the matter in a false light. God has seen fit in this manner to bring the minds of His people to His word, to give them a clearer understanding of it. [Note: When people were freely quoting the testimonies, expressing their belief in the Spirit of Prophecy, Brother J opposed them by insinuating that they were trying to make the testimonies an “addition to the word of God.” The people were intimidated by these accusations, just as they are today when similar sentiments are expressed. But we have been given AUTHORITY to “assert our liberty” and speak freely of the testimonies to “strengthen and encourage one another.” Praise the Lord.]

The church of — are growing **weaker and weaker** because of the influence which has been **EXERTED OVER THEM**—not an influence to help them advance, but to **CLOG THE WHEELS**. It is the privilege of Brother J to cast aside his unbelief and to advance with the light, if he will. If he refuses to do this, the cause of God will advance all the same without his aid....God calls for these men to come over on the Lord’s side and to be united with the body, or to cease hindering those who would be wholly for the Lord. 4T 245-246

Some, I was shown, could receive the published visions, judging of the tree by its fruits. Others are like doubting Thomas; they cannot believe the published **Testimonies**, nor receive evidence through the testimony of others; but must see and have the evidence for themselves. Such must not be set aside, but **long patience and brotherly love** should be exercised toward them until they find their position and become established for or against. [But] **If they FIGHT against the visions**, of which they have no knowledge; if they carry their **opposition** so far as to **oppose** that in which they have had no experience, and **feel annoyed** when those who believe that the **visions** are of God **SPEAK OF THEM IN MEETING**, and **COMFORT THEMSELVES WITH THE INSTRUCTION GIVEN THROUGH VISION**, the church may know that they are not right. **God’s people should not cringe and yield**, and **give up THEIR LIBERTY** to such disaffected ones. **God** has placed the gifts **IN THE CHURCH** that the church may be **BENEFITED** by them; and when professed believers in the truth **oppose** these gifts, and **fight**

against the visions, **souls are in danger through their influence**, and it is time then to labor with them, that the weak may not be led astray by their influence. IT 328

Comment - The previous passages clearly vindicates the use of the testimonies in Sabbath School and prayer meeting. And although the words “pulpit” and “sermon” were not used, it would seem inconsistent to encourage sharing the Spirit of Prophecy during some portions of the “service”, while objecting to their use at other times, especially amongst the same group of believers. In fact, to exclude the testimonies from the pulpit would seem to be violently opposed to dozens of other quotes that have been previously cited. The mistake that some make is in failing to understand that the counsel given for a “church” setting in which people have had previous had opportunity to weigh evidence, is entirely different than the counsel given for an “evangelistic” setting in which people have NOT had the same opportunity. In the following passage, God’s prophet attempts to make this distinction clear by balancing both sides of the issue.

[Dealing with the experienced] “Some of our brethren had had **long experience** in the truth and **for years** had been acquainted with me and my work. They had **proved** the truthfulness of the *Testimonies* and had **asserted** their belief in them. They had **felt** the powerful influence of the Spirit of God resting upon them to witness to their truthfulness. **I WAS SHOWN** that if such, when reproved through the *Testimonies*, should rise up **against them** and **work secretly** to **LESSEN THEIR INFLUENCE**, they should be **FAITHFULLY DEALT WITH**; for their course would **ENDANGER** those who were lacking in experience.” [IT 382]

[Dealing with unbelievers] The first number of the *Testimonies* ever published contains a warning against the **injudicious use** of the light which is thus given to God’s people. I stated that some had taken an **unwise course**; when they had talked their faith to **UNBELIEVERS**, and the **PROOF** had been asked for, they had **read from my writings instead of going to the Bible for PROOF**. It was shown me that this course was **inconsistent** and would **prejudice unbelievers** against the truth. The *Testimonies* can have **NO WEIGHT** with **THOSE WHO KNOW NOTHING OF THEIR SPIRIT**. They should not be referred to **IN SUCH CASES**.
5T 669

*Comment - The theme of the previous paragraph is our source of authority for doctrinal “proof.” Please note that it did not say her writings “....can have no weight with ANYONE”, but rather, “....can have no weight with THOSE WHO KNOW NOTHING OF THEIR SPIRIT.” A significant qualification. Notice further that it does not say her writings should not be referred to “....in ANY case,” but only “....in SUCH cases.” It should be readily apparent by the wording of this paragraph, yea, and all of the preceding passages in this little booklet, that the *Testimonies* of Jesus “MUST have weight,” and “SHOULD be referred to” as “proof” when communicating with “those BELIEVERS who DO know of their spirit.”*

[Dealing with unbelievers] **In PUBLIC LABOR do not make prominent and QUOTE that which Sister White has written as AUTHORITY to sustain your positions.** To do this will not increase faith in the testimonies. Bring your evidences, clear and plain, from the **Word of God**. A Thus saith the Lord is the strongest testimony you can possibly present to the people. **Let none be educated to look to Sister White [the messenger], but to the mighty God, who gives instruction [the Testimony of Jesus] to Sister White.** 3SM 29-30

[Dealing with unbelievers] **The testimonies** of Sister White **should not be carried to the front.** God's Word is the unerring **standard.** The Testimonies are **not to TAKE THE PLACE of the Word.** Great **care** should be exercised by all **BELIEVERS** to advance these questions carefully, and always stop when you have said enough [*clearly, the context implies believers talking with unbelievers*]. **Let all PROVE their positions from the Scriptures and SUBSTANTIATE every point they claim as truth from the revealed Word of God.** *Ev 256*

Comment - For the following reasons, this same prudence should be exercised when sharing written material from the pen of inspiration:

There are matters in the TESTIMONIES that are written, NOT FOR THE WORLD AT LARGE, but for the **BELIEVING** children of God, and it is **not appropriate** to make instruction, warning, reproof, or counsel of this character **public to the world** [*This is not referring to books such as Desire of Ages or Great Controversy which have been designed to go to the world*]. The world's Redeemer, the Sent of God, the greatest Teacher the children of men ever knew, presented some matters of instructions, **not to the world, but to HIS DISCIPLES ALONE....**In a place of seclusion, Jesus imparted to his followers such instruction, counsel, cautions, and corrections as he saw were needed in their manner of work; but the instruction he then gave was **not to be thrown broadcast to the promiscuous company;** for his words were **DESIGNED** for **HIS DISCIPLES ONLY.** *TM 34*

And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables: *Mark 4:11*

To those who may circulate this little work [*Early Writings*], I would say that it is **DESIGNED** for the **SINCERE ONLY** and not for those who would **ridicule the things of the Spirit of God.** *EW 78*

Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you. *Matt 7:6*

Comment - Before leaving this chapter, we want to address a quote that can cause great confusion if we are not cautious.

The words of the **Bible, and the Bible alone,** should be heard from the **pulpit.** *PK 626*

Comment - We have already touched upon the concept of "The Bible and the Bible ONLY" in the second chapter. But putting that aside, let us assume for a moment that this sentence were to be taken in its strictest sense, thus preventing the Testimonies from being quoted as an authoritative source from the pulpit. To be consistent with this line of reasoning, we must then insist that the minister strictly read from Bible, without giving any explanation whatsoever, for anything else would not be (in the strictest sense), "the Bible and the Bible ONLY."

Upon serious reflection however (Matt 28:19-20, Eph 4:11, 1Tim 2:7, 2Tim 2:24), it is seen that the gospel commission embraces "teaching" and not just "reading." After all, a man is

only recognized as a minister of God because God has given him the ability to EXPLAIN the Scriptures and thus minister unto the people. Even our Lord, after reading from the Book of Isaiah, explained the Scripture (Luke 4:21). With this in mind, we lighten the reigns a little, acknowledging that the minister has AUTHORITY to comment upon the Scriptures he is reading. Yet to maintain our original position, we insist that nothing be mentioned from the Spirit of Prophecy.

Now here is a most solemn question: Does the minister (good or bad) have authority to explain the Bible in his own words, while the writings of Ellen White (the "Testimony of JESUS", the "Word of the LORD", the "Voice of GOD", the "words of eternal TRUTH", which were given to "bring confused minds to His Word", "bring them back to the Word", to "set before us the plain lessons of His Word" and to "exalt it, and attract minds to it") on the other hand CANNOT be quoted as AUTHORITY to explain the Bible from the pulpit? Amongst a congregation that acknowledges their Divine origin? Is this really what she meant when she said that "the Bible and the Bible ONLY" should be heard from the pulpits of the land? OR, did she mean that Bible TRUTH and Bible TRUTH ONLY should be heard from the pulpits?

My husband spoke to a good audience upon the words of Paul to Timothy, "Preach the word," **CONTRASTING** the **PURE BIBLE TEACHINGS** with **FABLES** taught from the **PULPIT** in this time. ST 02/13/79

Comment - Can someone "literally" preach "the Bible and Bible ONLY" from the pulpit the and yet pawn off Satanic deceptions rather than the "pure Bible teachings?"

The sermon Satan preached to Eve upon the immortality of the soul—"Thou shalt not **surely die**"—they have reiterated from the **pulpit**, and the people **RECEIVE IT as pure Bible truth**. IT 344

Comment - False ministers distort the truth all the time, and they literally use "the Bible and the Bible ONLY" to do it! The issue is not the source of truth, but THE TRUTH. We need THE TRUTH and THE TRUTH ONLY, for it is INFALLIBLE. Is this infallible truth found in the Spirit of Prophecy? Is it less safe to be heard from the pulpit than the explanations of a minister? I repeat the expressions of inspiration: "...one straight chain of truth, without one heretical sentence", "...they never contradict His Word", "...Every word spoken is in harmony with the living oracles."

It is true that the Spirit of Prophecy, like the Bible, can be distorted from the pulpit. But this furnishes no more reason to exclude it from the pulpit than there is to exclude the Bible. Adventists should study BOTH the Bible and the Testimonies and compare what they are hearing with these infallible sources, and then they will be equipped to gauge the validity of what they are hearing.

God calls for a revival and a reformation. **The words of the Bible, and the Bible alone, should be echoed from the pulpits of our land.** In the sermons of many pulpits of to-day there is not **that divine manifestation which awakens the conscience and brings life to the soul.** The hearers can not say, "**Did not our heart burn within us**, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the Scriptures?" There are many who are crying out for the living God; many who are longing for the bread of life. Let the **Word of God** speak to the people. Let them hear **the voice of him** whose word can renew the soul unto everlasting life. RH 02/27/08

Comment - I have often experienced “that divine manifestation which awakens the conscience and brings life to the soul” while hearing the Testimony of Jesus quoted. Verily I could you say “Did not my heart burn within me,” when someone from the pulpit quoted a beautiful passage from Desire of Ages or a stirring description of last day events in The Great Controversy. Does not she express her writings as the “Word of the Lord”, the “Voice of God?” Are not the Testimonies of Jesus “the WORDS [teachings] of the Bible and the Bible alone?” Then is the real issue the Bible vs the Testimonies, OR, Divine truth vs Human error? Clearly, the issue is truth vs error.

The words of the Bible, and the Bible alone, should be echoed from the pulpits of our land. This book is God’s great **director**. It is a **lamp** to our feet, a light to our path. It **flashes its light ahead**, that we may see the path by which we are traveling; and its **rays are thrown back** on past history, showing the most **perfect harmony** in that which, to the mind in darkness, appears like error and discord. In that which seems to the worldling an inexplicable mystery, God’s children see **light and beauty**. RH 02/06/00

Comment - Would not the last reference apply with equal force to the Spirit of Prophecy? This “pulpit” issue should be getting clearer and clearer to anyone who has studied the Spirit of Prophecy.

He who obeys the law through the imputed righteousness of Christ, meets every claim that the Bible presents; but he who sets himself above God, and tramples upon his law, and still professes to be a child of God, is working on the enemy’s side of the controversy. In our day, even from the **pulpits** of our land, professed ministers of the gospel are, as were the Pharisees, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. The only safety for the soul at this time is to inquire at every step, **What saith the Lord** to his servant? The **word of the Lord** endureth forever. The Bible is to be **our guidebook**, and instead of consulting the **wisdom of men** [*the Testimonies? No!*], and accepting as **DIVINE TRUTH** the **assertions of finite mortals** [*the Testimonies? No!*], we should search the **sure word of prophecy** [*including the “Spirit of Prophecy”*]. **God has spoken**, and his **word is reliable**, and we must rest our faith upon a **“Thus saith the Lord.”** ST 10/01/94

Comment - To conclude that any of these statements are contrasting the Bible with the Testimonies, even in the slightest degree, is to do violence to a hundred other statements in this booklet that strongly point in a different direction.

I dwell upon this at length, because the more people hear the Testimony of Jesus (properly quoted), the more they will be interested in Jesus and the Bible. This will hasten a revival of primitive Godliness and the coming of our Lord and Saviour. Let us all strive together intelligently towards this most blessed event.

14. A Misunderstood Statement on Quoting “Sister White”

The passage that follows was not “written” by Sister White, but is a “verbatim report of remarks by Mrs. E.G. White” given at the General Conference of 1901. It records the spontaneous words of Gods prophet as she spoke before the brethren, so it has a more spontaneous flavor than a letter or manuscript that is prepared over a period of hours or days.

Thus it was not intended to be “read”, but to be “heard”, which makes it more susceptible to misunderstandings unless it is read carefully with this in mind.

Please bear with my many bracketed comments - I believe they will greatly help to clarify passages that are often misquoted or misunderstood by Adventists. But you be the judge (its your duty). This is a rather long quote, but contextual integrity warrants its length. Please read carefully.

Now there is all that power that was pledged to us when we pledged ourselves to God. That power that all the provision was made in heaven, all the facilities, all the riches of the grace of God was to be imparted to every worker that was connected with the cause; and every one of these are wholly dependent upon God, and **when we leave God out of the question, and leave Jesus Christ out of the question, and allow hereditary and cultivated traits of character to come, let me tell you, we are on very slippery grounds.** We are making, not straight paths for our feet, but crooked paths that the lame shall be turned out of the way - and we can not afford it.... every one that eats of Christ, that takes his word and practices it, should have eternal life. It is in him, because it is in Christ, and Christ is in him. Now here is the way the matter is presented. **But when there is a [attitude of], “I DON’T CARE; I am going right contrary to the law that God has given in his WORD [the Bible]”, I don’t ask him to take my word, I don’t ask him to do it,—**

Lay Sister White right to one side: lay her to one side. Don’t you never quote my words again as long as you live until you can obey the Bible [What is she trying to say here? That we shouldn’t quote the “message” from Sister White (especially as an authoritative source)? Or, that we shouldn’t quote the “messenger” making her the criterion and thus obeying “her” rather than the “Bible message”? You will find the answer to this most important question as you carefully read on]. When you take the Bible and make that your food, and your meat, and your drink, and make that the elements of your character, when you can do that you will know better how to receive some counsel from God. But here is the Word, the precious Word, exalted before you today. **And don’t you give a rap any more what “Sister White said” — “Sister White said this,” and “Sister White said that,” and “Sister White said the other thing.”** But say, **“THUS SAITH THE LORD GOD OF ISRAEL,”** and then you **DO just what the Lord God of Israel does, and what he says....**

Oh my soul, how it has hurt me to have the blocks thrown in the way [of health reform] in regard to [reports concerning] myself. They will tell you that **Sister White did this,** or **Sister White did that,**—for instance, **“Sister White ate cheese, AND SO WE ARE ALL AT LIBERTY TO EAT CHEESE.”** Who told them that I ate cheese? I never have cheese on my table. There was one time when I was at Minneapolis, one or two times I tasted it, but that is a different thing from making it a diet, entirely a different thing. I have tasted of very bitter herbs on special occasions, but I would not make a diet of them. But there was a special occasion in Minneapolis where I could get nothing else, and there were some small bits of cheese on the table, and my brethren were there, and one of them had told me that if I would eat a little of that it would change my condition, and I did. I took a bit of that cheese, and I do not think I touched it again the second time.

Another says, **“Sister White drinks tea, AND WE CAN DRINK TEA.”** Who of my brethren has made that statement? Who has ever heard it of me? I never have tea in my home or set it before anyone. Now I have not eaten any meat for years and years.

Now for instance some one may tell you that Sister White don’t eat meat. **“Now I want you not to eat it, BECAUSE SISTER WHITE DOESN’T EAT IT.”** [Why don’t they want you to eat it? Because we have counsel from the “Testimony of Jesus?” A “Thus saith the Lord God of Israel?” NO, but because another fallible human being (Sister White) has been made the

critterion rather than Jesus Christ and His Word. Notice the disgust expressed in the reply to this type of thinking....] Well, I wouldn't care a farthing for anything like that. **If you haven't got a better conviction, that you won't eat meat JUST BECAUSE SISTER WHITE DON'T EAT IT, I would not give one farthing for your health reform.** But I want that every one of you shall stand on your individual dignity, in your individual consecration to God, that the soul temple shall be dedicated to God. **Whosoever defileth the temple of God, him will God destroy.** Now I want you to see **THESE THINGS** [*not me but the "message"*], and **not to make ANY HUMAN BEING YOUR CRITERION.** [*It should be noted that Sister White lived what she preached, and thus rightly represented the message she bore. False reports had been circulated about her, but even the true report about Sister White not eating meat was not grounds to make her the criterion. The "message", based on Biblical principles was to be followed, as opposed to following the "messenger"]....*

Now God wants every soul here to **sharpen up.** He wants every soul here should have his converting power. **You need not refer, not once, to Sister White; I don't ask you to do it.** God has told me that my testimony must be borne straight to this conference [*See 3SM 75*], and I am not to try to make a soul believe; that **my work is to leave the truth with human minds, and those having found the truth in the Word of God will appreciate it, and will appreciate every day the ray of light that God has given for poor lame souls, that they should not be turned out of the way, and I want you to make straight the paths for your feet, lest the lame be turned out of the way....**

Do not pick flaws any more. If I see a lot of buzzards, and I see a lot of vultures that are watching and waiting for dead bodies,—and we don't want anything of that. We want no picking of flaws in others. Attend to No.1, and you got all that you can do. If you attend to No. 1, and if you purify your souls by obeying the truth, you will have something to impart. You will have a power to give to others. God help you; I beseech of him to help you, every one of you, and to help me. I want help; I want strength.

But don't you quote Sister White. I don't want you ever to quote Sister White until you get your vantage ground where you know where you are. Quote the Bible. Talk the Bible. *SpM 167-174*

Comment - This entire passage has nothing to do with commending those who quote the Bible as an authority and condemning those who quote the Spirit of Prophecy as an authority, any more than "the Bible and the Bible ONLY" lessens the authority of the Spirit of Prophecy. Clearly, the full context reveals that the contrast is between focusing on the fallible "messenger" rather than the infallible "message" of truth, either from the Bible OR the Testimony of Jesus. If our motto was, "the Apostle Paul, and the Apostle Paul ONLY", making him our criteria, then Paul would no doubt rebuke us in the same way as Ellen White did above:

...one saith, **I am OF Paul;** and another, **I am OF Apollos; ARE YE NOT CARNAL?**
1Cor 3:4

Comment - If we are "of Ellen" then we are just as carnal as the Corinthians cited above. If we are truly "in Jesus" (following the "Testimony of Jesus") then we are spiritual.

But if we fail to acknowledge the authority of the instrument that God has chosen, we will consequently reject Jesus Christ. This is why Paul also wrote to the Corinthians:

If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him **acknowledge** that the things that **I write** unto you are the commandments of the Lord. *1Cor 14:37*

Before moving on, let us address a question that may have arisen while reading the long passage from the Spalding/Magan collection. Why did it say that we are not to quote Sister White “UNTIL...we know where we are?” And why did it say we are to refrain from quoting her “UNTIL we can obey the Bible?” According to the conclusion we have drawn we should never make “Sister White” our criteria - so why is the word “UNTIL” used?

We might answer that question with a question: If we are putting Sister White in the place of God and His message, are we “obeying the Bible?” No. Do we “know where we are?” No. Do we even understand the “first principles of the oracles of God?” Heb 5:12. No! - according to the scripture quoted above we are yet “carnal.” But when we become spiritually enlightened, and UNDERSTAND THE ROLE of God’s prophets, THEN we can then safely say; “Paul tells us in the book of Romans that....” or, “Ellen White tells us in Great Controversy that....”, realizing that it is a “Thus saith the Lord God of Israel,” as opposed to a “Thus saith Ellen White.” THEN we will be SAFE to “quote” Sister White, because we will UNDERSTAND that it is the MESSAGE that GOD HAS GIVEN. Thus we will not have to wait UNTIL we have a different perspective - we will “know where we are,” “obeying the Bible.”

15. Has Tampering Made the Testimonies Unreliable ?

Comment - Today there are some who profess great reverence for the Spirit of Prophecy, yet positively affirm that her assistants had tampered with her writings, making them to some degree, unreliable. This being the case, someone must determine which writings are still valid, and which have been tampered with. False teachers are not slow to fill the void. All the statements that harmonize with their theories (which I have often found to be absolutely fanatical), are still valid, while those that expose their distorted views have been changed, or, more subtly, “...may have been changed.” People are thus lead to put their trust in these mini-popes (infallible interpreters), rather than the “mighty God, who gives instruction to Sister White.” But what saith the Word of the Lord?

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God....To all that be in Rome.... I **Tertius**, who **wrote this epistle**, salute you in the Lord. *Rom 1:1,7,16:22*

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia....**By Silvanus**, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, **I have written briefly**, exhorting, and testifying.... *1Pet 1:1,5:12*

Comment - If Sister Whites writings have been tampered with by copyists, then perhaps the writings of Paul and Peter, which also were penned by assistants, may have been altered. On the contrary:

My **copyists** you have seen. **They DO NOT change my language**. It stands **AS I WRITE IT**.... *3SM 90*

[Fannie Bolton's Claims Refuted] Your words regarding me and my writings are false, and I must say that **you know them to be false**. Nevertheless, those unacquainted with you take your words as being the words of one who knows. Because you have been acquainted with me, and connected with me, you can state what you please, and you think that your tracks are so covered that they will never be discovered. But my writings have not stopped. **They go out AS I HAVE WRITTEN THEM**. No words of my copyists are put in the place of my own words. **This is a testimony that CANNOT BE CONTROVERTED**. My articles speak for themselves. 9MR 273

....the **reports that are circulated**, that **ANY** of my helpers are permitted to add matter or change the meaning of the messages I write out, are **NOT TRUE**. 1SM 50

I read over ALL that is copied, to see that **EVERYTHING** is as it should be. I read **ALL** the book manuscript **BEFORE** it is sent to the printer. 3SM 90-91

Comment - Some have concluded that the different versions of the Great Controversy were the fruits of unwarranted tampering behind the back of Sister White. Is this true?

When I learned that *Great Controversy* must be reset, **I DETERMINED** that we would have everything **CLOSELY EXAMINED**, to see if the truths it contained were **stated in the very best manner**, to **CONVINCE THOSE NOT OF OUR FAITH** that the Lord had guided and sustained me in the writing of its pages.

As a result of the thorough examination by our most experienced workers, **some changing in the wording has been proposed**. These changes **I HAVE CAREFULLY EXAMINED**, and **APPROVED**. I am thankful that my life has been spared, and that I have strength and clearness of mind for this and other literary work. 3SM 123-124

Comment - What about the Testimonies to the Church? Weren't they "changed" too? Why are they different than the "original" Testimonies that were distributed in pamphlet form?

Now, Brother Smith, **I have been making a CAREFUL, CRITICAL EXAMINATION** of the [*proposed*] work that has been done on the **TESTIMONIES**, and I see a **few things** that I think should be **corrected** in the matter brought before you and others at the General Conference. But as I examine the matter more carefully I see less and less that is objectionable. Where the **language used is not the best**, I want it made **correct and grammatical**, as I believe it should be in every case where it can be **WITHOUT DESTROYING THE SENSE**. 3SM 97

I must select the most important matters for the *Testimony* (vol. 6) and then **look over EVERYTHING prepared for it**, and be **MY OWN CRITIC**; for **I would not be willing to have some things which are all truth to be published; because I fear that some would take advantage of them to hurt others**.

After the matter for the *Testimony* is prepared, **EVERY article MUST be read by ME....**

I try to bring out general principles, and if I see a sentence which I fear would give someone excuse to injure someone else, **I feel at PERFECT LIBERTY to KEEP BACK THE SENTENCE, even though it is all perfectly true.** 3SM 98

Comment - Extremists, who supposedly know more than the messenger of the Lord, will insist that if anything has been kept back or changed then it must be the result of sinister tampering. The last paragraph exposes their extremist mentality.

My mind has been exercised upon the question of the *Testimonies* that have been **REVISED**. We have looked them over **MORE CRITICALLY**. I cannot see the matter as my brethren see it. **I think the CHANGES will IMPROVE the book. If our ENEMIES handle it, let them do so.**

I think that anything that shall go forth will be criticized, twisted, turned, and boggled, but we are to go forward with a **CLEAR CONSCIENCE**, doing what we can and **leaving the result with God.** 3SM 97

Comment - I speak sarcastically: Hear ye, hear ye - An official bull from the mini-popes: "Willie White manipulated his mothers writings!!!" Shall we heed this warning and flee to the mini-popes to learn which testimonies have been altered? Or shall we utterly disregard these claims, and like Martin Luther, burn the official bull, and study the inspired writings for ourselves?

I learn reports are circulated that W. C. White manipulates his mother's writings....

All have known how much W. C. White manipulates his mother's writings [*she is speaking sarcastically too*], when he has been separated from me very much of the time for the years before this year 1905, and we have, when we could get together, planned much and done so little in issuing books. **But I UTTERLY DENY THE CHARGES.** Letter 322, 1905, 6BIO 62

Comment - "Utterly" is a most potent adverb.

There are those who say, "**Someone manipulates her writings.**" **I ACKNOWLEDGE THE CHARGE.** It is **One** who is mighty in counsel, **One** who presents before me the condition of things [*Praise ye the Holy One of Israel*]. 3SM 64

Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his counsellor hath taught him? *Isa 40:13*

I have a statement to make [*your attention please....*]. When the Lord presents before me any matter and instruction and I have a message to bear concerning the said matter, then I shall, to the best of my God-given ability, make known the matter, presenting the mind and will of God just as clearly as my human capabilities, guided and controlled by the Holy Spirit, shall

bring all the matter before me to present to others. In regard to the serious matters given me **I have not given ANYONE—man or woman—any right to have the LEAST CONTROL over my work the Lord has given me to do.**

...no one should have a right to influence me in any way in reference to my responsibility and my work in bearing my testimony of encouragement and reproof.

...**No human power should give the LEAST SUPPOSITION that I would be influenced in the work God has given me to do** in bearing my testimony to those for whom He has given me reproof or encouragement....

I have not one person in the world who shall put any message in my mind or lay one duty upon me. I am now to say to you, Brother F, **when the Lord gives me a burden for you or for anyone, you shall have it in the way and manner the Lord gives it to me.** 3SM 66-67

Comment - It is my sincere hope that this chapter has given “a deadly wound” to the mini-popes, never to be healed.

16. Will the Spirit of Prophecy Always be Reliable ?

Comment - Before proceeding into this chapter, it should be noted that special care needs to be taken while reading compilations that have been produced since the death of Sister White. Frequently paragraphs are condensed using dots [...] which are used to help the reader focus on the relevant subject. However, deeper insights can usually be gained by reading her writings in their original context, and thorough study of this nature should always be encouraged. In these compilations, such as the one you are reading right now, titles have been added to paragraphs or divisions of text to enhance clarity. Comments are also added to give extended information or explanations. Yet these headers and comments, though ever so true, should not be considered “inspired” when they were not penned nor approved by the original author. HOWEVER, with a little common sense, special care, and Divine guidance, all of the testimonies will be found to harmonize with each other as well as with the Bible.

Sadly, the mini-popes (referred to in the previous chapter), will further insist that since Sister Whites death, wicked men have put their evil hands to her writings, thus lessening their reliability. In the name of the Lord God of Israel, I appeal to the passages that follow and with Jesus say, “Let these sayings sink down into your ears”

6 The words of the LORD are **pure words**: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

7 Thou shalt **KEEP THEM**, O LORD, thou shalt **PRESERVE THEM FROM THIS GENERATION FOR EVER.** Ps 12:6-7

I am to trace this testimony on **paper**, that should I fall asleep in Jesus, the witness to the truth might **STILL BE BORNE**.—Letter 116, 1905.

Abundant light has been given to our people in these last days. Whether or not my life is spared, my writings **WILL CONSTANTLY SPEAK**, and their work will go forward **AS LONG AS TIME SHALL LAST**. My writings are kept on file in the office, and even though I should

not live, these words that have been given to me by the Lord will **STILL HAVE LIFE** and will **speak to the people**.—*Letter 371, 1907.*

Physically, I have always been as a broken vessel; and yet in my old age the Lord continues to move upon me by His Holy Spirit to write **the most important books that have ever come before the churches and the world**. The Lord is evidencing what He can do through weak vessels. The life that He spares I will use to His glory. And, when He may see fit to let me rest, **His messages shall be of EVEN MORE VITAL FORCE than when the frail instrumentality through whom they were delivered, was living** [*Praise God!*]. *3SM 76-77*

Heaven and earth shall pass away: but **my words** [*“the Testimony of JESUS”*] **shall NOT pass away**. *Luke 21:33*

I am “only waiting till the shadows are a little longer grown.” But my books will testify when my voice shall no longer be heard. **The truths committed to me, as the Lord’s messenger, STAND IMMORTALIZED**, either to convict and to convert souls, or to condemn those who have departed from the faith and have given heed to seducing spirits. *PM 359*

Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a **book**, that it may be for the time to come for **ever and ever**: *Isa 30:8*

...These books, giving the instruction that the Lord has given me during the past sixty years, contain light from heaven, and will bear the test of investigation.

The question is sometimes raised, “What if Mrs. White should die?” I answer: **“The books that she has written will NOT DIE**. They are a **LIVING witness to what saith the Scriptures**” *IMR 140-141*

Comment - The following passage has been used by certain Adventists to insinuate that important messages from the Spirit of Prophecy have been deliberately destroyed, thus rendering them “incomplete” to some degree. An unhealthy skepticism is the fruit of this teaching.

[Jer. 36:1-7 quoted.] **This chapter is a record of historical events that will be repeated**. Let all who desire to receive warning, **read carefully**. [Jer. 36:22, 23, 27, 28, 32 quoted]. *4BC 1159*

Comment - After Jehoiakim heard the unwelcome message of Jeremiah, he took the roll and “cut it with a penknife and cast it into the fire,” vs 23. However, in verse 32 (which she also quotes) we are told that Jeremiah took another roll and had all his previous words rewritten, even adding unto them “many like words.” After we “read carefully” the passages that she quotes, we can see clearly that the “warning” has nothing to do with creating anxiety over burnt testimonies, for Jeremiah’s words were preserved. By “carefully reading” the following testimony, the object of the previous quote may be clearly discerned.

Many now despise the faithful reproof given of God in testimony. I have been shown that some in **these days** [*her time*] have even gone so far as to **burn the written words of**

rebuke and warning, as did the wicked king of Israel [an obvious reference to Jeremiah 36]. But opposition to God's threatenings will not hinder their execution. To **defy the words of the Lord**, spoken through His chosen instruments, will only provoke His anger and eventually bring certain ruin upon the offender. Indignation often kindles in the heart of the sinner against the agent whom God chooses to deliver His reproofs. It has ever been thus, and **the same spirit exists today that persecuted and imprisoned JEREMIAH for obeying the word of the Lord.**
4T 180

Comment - The "warning" is to those who would "defy" God's messages of warning and reproof, making them of "none effect." The warning is not to sincere believers that desire to be guided by the Spirit of Prophecy but supposedly cannot because portions have been burnt or tampered with. Portions of the testimonies were being burnt in her day! Yet when we consider the confidence expressed by Sister White in saying that her writings "will constantly speak", "as long as time shall last", that they "stand immortalized", it becomes obvious that we are not to be anxious over burnt testimonies any more than over burnt Bibles - they will both be available until Jesus comes. Again, let us "read carefully" the following passages from the pen of inspiration and see if we can't draw any parallels.

The Bible was hated, and efforts were made to rid the earth of the precious word of God. The Bible was forbidden to be read on pain of death, and all the copies of the holy Book which could be found were **BURNED** [sound familiar?]. But I saw that God had a **SPECIAL CARE** for his word. He **PROTECTED** it. At different periods there were but a very few copies of the Bible in existence, yet **God would not suffer his word to be lost**. And in the last days, copies of the Bible were to be so **multiplied** that every family could possess it [Praise God for the "infallible" assurance that the same holds true with the Testimonies of His Spirit!!!]. EW 214

....I saw that God knew that Satan would try every art to destroy man; therefore He had caused His word to be written out, and had made His purposes in regard to the human race so plain that the weakest need not err. After having given His word to man, He had **CAREFULLY PRESERVED IT FROM DESTRUCTION** by **Satan** or his **angels**, or by **ANY of his agents or representatives**. While other books might be destroyed, this was to be **IMMORTAL** [sound familiar?]. And near the close of time, when the delusions of Satan should increase, it was to be so multiplied that **ALL who desired might have a copy**, and, if they would, might arm themselves against the deceptions and lying wonders of Satan [sound familiar?].

I saw that God had especially GUARDED the Bible; yet when copies of it were few, learned men had in **some instances changed the words**, thinking that they were making it more plain, when in reality they were mystifying that which was plain, by causing it to lean to their established views, which were governed by tradition. **BUT I saw that the Word of God, as A WHOLE, is a PERFECT CHAIN, one portion linking into and explaining another** [How true concerning the Spirit of Prophecy as well! Praise God!]. True seekers for truth need not err; for not only is the Word of God plain and simple in declaring the way of life, but the **Holy Spirit is given as a guide** in understanding the way to life therein revealed. EW 220-221

God had **faithful witnesses**, to whom He committed the truth, and who **preserved the Word of God**. The manuscripts of the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures have been preserved through the ages by a **MIRACLE of God**. Letter 32, 1899.

...the word of God, which liveth and abideth FOR EVER. *1Pet 1:23*

This Holy Book [*the Bible*] has withstood the assaults of Satan, who has united with evil men to make everything of divine character shrouded in clouds and darkness. **But the Lord has preserved this Holy Book by His own miraculous power in its present shape**—a chart or guidebook to the human family to show them the way to heaven....

Some look to us gravely and say, “**Don’t you think there might have been some MISTAKE [unintentional] in the copyist or in the translators [EGW’s writings too]?**” This is **all probable**, and the mind that is **so narrow** that it will hesitate and **stumble** over this **possibility or probability** would be just as ready to stumble over the mysteries of the Inspired Word, because their **feeble minds** cannot see through the purposes of God. Yes, they would just as easily stumble over **plain facts** that the common mind will accept, and discern the Divine, and to which God’s utterance is plain and beautiful, full of marrow and fatness. **All the mistakes will not cause trouble to one soul, or cause any feet to stumble, that would not manufacture difficulties from the plainest revealed truth.** *ISM 15-16*

17. Conclusion

We have also a **more sure word of prophecy**; whereunto ye do well that ye **take heed**, as unto a **light that shineth in a dark place**, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: *2Pet 1:19*

...the darkness is past, and **the true light now shineth**. *1John 2:8*

35 Then Jesus said unto them, **Yet a little while is the light with you**. Walk while ye **have the light**, lest **darkness come upon you**: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.

36 While ye have light, **believe in the light**, that ye may be **the children of light**.... *John 12:35-36*

And the **light shineth in darkness**; and **the darkness comprehended it not**. *John 1:5*

19 **And this is the CONDEMNATION, that light is come into the world, and men LOVED DARKNESS rather than light, because their deeds were evil.**

20 For every one that doeth evil **HATETH the light**, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. *John 3:19-20*

There will be a **HATRED** kindled against the **TESTIMONIES** that is **SATANIC**....
ISM 48

Back Cover

Some have stumbled over the fact that I said I did not claim to be a prophet and they have asked, Why is this?

I have had no claims to make, only that *I am instructed that I am the Lord's messenger*; that He called me in my youth to be His messenger, to receive His word, and to give a clear and decided message in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Early in my youth I was asked several times, Are you a prophet? I have ever responded, I am the Lord's messenger. I know that many have called me a prophet, but I have made no claim to this title. **MY SAVIOUR** declared me to be His messenger. "Your work," **HE INSTRUCTED ME**, "is to bear My word. Strange things will arise, and in your youth I set you apart to bear the message to the erring ones, to carry the word before unbelievers, and with pen and voice to reprove from the Word actions that are not right. Exhort from the Word. I will make My Word open to you. It shall not be as a strange language. In the true eloquence of simplicity, with voice and pen, the messages that I give shall be heard from one who has never learned in the schools. My Spirit and My power shall be with you.

"Be not afraid of man, for My shield shall protect you. It is not you that speaketh: it is the Lord that giveth the messages of warning and reproof. Never deviate from the truth *under any circumstances*. Give the light I shall give you. The messages for these last days shall be written in books, and shall stand immortalized, to testify against those who have once rejoiced in the light, but who have been led to give it up because of the seductive influences of evil."

Why have I not claimed to be a prophet?—Because in these days many who boldly claim that they are prophets are a reproach to the cause of Christ; and because my work includes much more than the word "prophet" signifies. *ISM 31-32*

Extended Index to Spirit of Prophecy References

This index was provided to assist in the extended study of the Spirit of Prophecy references cited in this booklet. The "Origin/Date" column reveals the original dated letter or manuscript, or year in which a book/article was published. The column entitled "Extended References" reveals other locations in which the reference (or portions of it) may be found. If you do not have access to a reference, and would like to have a copy in the fullest context available, please send a self addressed, stamped envelope to the address on the inside cover of this booklet along with the requested reference(s), and we would be happy to be of further assistance. God bless.

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