

The old standard bearers knew what it was to wrestle with God in prayer, and to enjoy the outpouring of His Spirit. But these are passing off from the stage of action; and who are coming up to fill their places? How is it with the rising generation? Are they converted to God? Are we awake to the work that is going on in the heavenly sanctuary, or are we waiting for some **compelling power** to come upon the church before we shall arouse? Are we hoping to see the whole church revived? *That time will never come.* {1SM 122.1}

I am instructed that the Lord, by His infinite power, has preserved the right hand of His messenger for more than *half a century*, in order that the truth may be written out as He bids me write it for publication, in periodicals and books, Why?-- Because if it were not thus written out, *when the pioneers in the faith shall die*, there would be many, new in the faith, who would sometimes accept as messages of truth teachings that contain erroneous sentiments and dangerous fallacies. Sometimes that which men teach as "special light" is in reality specious error, which, as tares sown among the wheat, will spring up and produce a baleful harvest. And errors of this sort will be entertained by some until the close of this earth's history. {TDG 126.1}

There are some, who upon accepting erroneous theories, strive to establish them by collecting from my writings statements of truth, which they use, separated from their proper connection and perverted by association with error. Thus seeds of heresy, springing up and growing rapidly into strong plants, are surrounded by many precious plants of truth, and in this way a mighty effort is made to vindicate the genuineness of the spurious plants. {TDG 126.2}

So it was with the heresies taught in Living Temple. [A BOOK EXPRESSING PANTHEISTIC SENTIMENTS PUBLISHED BY J. H. KELLOGG.] The subtle errors in this book were surrounded by many beautiful truths. . . . The seductive fallacies of Satan undermined confidence in the true pillars of the faith, which are grounded on Bible evidence. Truth is sustained by a plain "Thus saith the Lord." But there has been a weaving in of error, and the use of scriptures out of their natural connection, in order to substantiate fallacies, which would deceive, if possible, the very elect. . . . {TDG 126.3}

Let not the days pass by and precious opportunities be lost of seeking the Lord with all the heart and mind and soul. *If we accept not the truth in the love of it, we may be among the number who will see the miracles wrought by Satan in these last days, and believe them.*-- Letter 136, April 27, 1906, to Brethren Butler, Daniells, and Irwin. {TDG 126.4}

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. {1SM 160.4}

From the light that the Lord has been pleased to give me, you are in danger of doing the same work, presenting before others ***truths which have had their place and done their specific work for the time, in the history*** of the faith of the people of God. You recognize these facts in Bible history as true, ***but apply them to the future. They have their force still in their proper***

place, in the chain of events that have made us as a people what we are today, and as such, they are to be presented to those who are in the darkness of error. The true workers of Jesus Christ are to cooperate with their brethren who have had an experience in the work from the very rise of the third angel's message. These followed on step by step, receiving light and truth as they advanced, bearing one test after another, lifting the cross that lay directly in their pathway, and pressing on to know the Lord, whose goings forth are prepared as the morning. You and other of our brethren must accept the truth as God has given it to His students of prophecy, as they have been led by genuine, living experience, advancing point by point, tested, proved, and tried, until the truth is to them a reality. From their voices and pens the truth in bright, warm rays has gone to all parts of the world, and that which was to them testing truth, as brought by the Lord's delegated messengers, is testing truth to all to whom this message is proclaimed. {2SM 102.3}

"I saw that the shepherds should *consult those in whom* they have reason to have confidence, *those who have been in all the messages, and are firm in all the present truth*, before they advocate new points of importance, which they may think the Bible sustains. Then the shepherds will be *perfectly united* and the union of the shepherds will be felt by the church. Such a course I saw would prevent unhappy *divisions*, and then there would be no danger of the precious flock being divided and the sheep *scattered* without a shepherd." EW 61:3-62

Bro. ——— does not try to be in union with his brethren; his self-confidence has led him to feel no especial necessity for union. He feels that their minds have been cast in a mold inferior to his own, and that to receive their opinions and counsel as worthy of attention would be a great condescension. This self-confidence has shut him away from the love, sympathy, and union of his brethren. He feels that he is too wise and experienced to need the precautions which are indispensable to many. He has so high an opinion of his own abilities and such a reliance upon his own attainments that he believes himself prepared for any emergency. Said the heavenly angels, pointing to Bro. ———, "Let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed, lest he fall." Self-confidence leads to unwatchfulness and neglect of humble, penitential prayer. There are outward temptations to be shunned, and inward foes and perplexities to be overcome; for Satan adapts his temptations to the different characters and temperaments of individuals. T24 161.3

Be sure to pray and counsel together before laying your plans, and then, in the Spirit of Christ, push the work unitedly. If one of your number *decides that he cannot cooperate with his brethren*, and has no desire to work because of differences of opinion, the course to be pursued is without a question. Humble yourselves before God and resort to prayer, for you cannot and must not attempt to work at variance. MR311 26.2

Early Workers to Speak.--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. 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. One by one these pioneers are passing away. The word given me is, Let that which these men have written in the past be reproduced. And in the Signs of the Times let not the articles be long or the print fine. Do not try to crowd everything into one

number of the paper. Let the print be good, and let earnest, living experiences be put into the paper. {CW 28.1}

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.** {CW 32.1}

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.-- Preach the Word, p. 5. (1905.) {CW 32.2}

The Work of Independent Teachers

From that which the Lord has been pleased to show me, there will arise just such ones all along, and many more of them, claiming to have new light, which is a side issue, an entering wedge. The widening will increase until there is a breach made between those who accept these views and those who believe the third angel's message. {3SM 409.4}

Just as soon as these new ideas are accepted, then there will be a drawing away *from those whom God has used in this work*, for the mind begins to doubt and withdraw from the *leaders*, because God has laid them aside and chosen "more humble" men to do His work. This is the only interpretation they can give to this matter, as the *leaders* do not see this important light. {3SM 409.5}

God is raising up a class to give the loud cry of the third angel's message. . . . It is Satan's object now to get up new theories to divert the mind from the true work and genuine message for this time. He stirs up minds to give false *interpretation of Scripture, a spurious loud cry*, that the real message may not have its effect when it does come. This is one of the greatest evidences that the loud cry will soon be heard and the earth will be lightened with the glory of God.--Letter 20, 1884. {3SM 410.1}

It has not cost Brother K hard effort to search out the truth; for chosen men of God have prepared arguments to his hand, clear, plain, and convincing. *Difficult points of present truth have been reached by the earnest efforts of a few who were devoted to the work.* Fasting and fervent prayer to God have moved the Lord to unlock His treasuries of truth *to their understanding.* Wily opponents and boasting Goliaths have had to be met, sometimes face to face, but more frequently with the pen. Satan has urged men on to fierce opposition, to blind the eyes and darken the understanding of the people. *The few who had the interest of the cause and truth of God at heart were aroused to its defense. They did not seek for ease, but were willing to venture even their lives for the truth's sake.* {2T 650.2}

These zealous searchers after truth risked their capital of strength and their all in the work of defending the truth and spreading the light. Link after link of the precious chain of truth has been searched out, until it stands forth in beautiful harmony, uniting in a perfect chain. ***These men of investigating minds have brought out arguments and made them so plain that a schoolboy may understand them. How easy now for men to become teachers of the truth,*** while they shun self-sacrifice and self-denial. {2T 651.1}

These searchers for truth have suffered for it and know what it cost. They value it and feel the most intense interest in its advancement. Self-denial and the cross lie directly in the pathway of every follower of Christ. The cross is that which crosses the natural affections and the will. If the heart is not wholly sanctified to God, if the will and affections and thoughts are not brought into subjection to the will of God, there will be a failure to carry out the principles of true religion and to exemplify in the life the life of Christ. There will not be a true desire to sacrifice ease and self-love, and the carnal mind will not be crucified to work the works of Christ. {2T 651.2}

Salvation in the Truth

In the future, deception of every kind is to arise, and we want solid ground for our feet. We want solid pillars for the building. ***Not one pin is to be removed*** from that which the Lord has established. The enemy will bring in false theories, such as the doctrine that there is no sanctuary. This is one of the points on which there will be a departing from the faith. ***Where shall we find safety unless it be in the truths that the Lord has been giving for the last fifty years?*** {RH, May 25, 1905 par. 28}

I want to tell you that Christ lives. He makes intercession for us, and he will save every one who will come to him in faith and obey his directions. But remember that he does not want you to give your energies to criticism of your brethren. Attend to the salvation of your own soul. Do the work God has given you. You will find so much to do that you will have no inclination to criticize some one else. Use the talent of speech to help and bless. If you do the work God has given you, you will have a message to bear, and you will understand what is meant by the sanctification of the Spirit. {RH, May 25, 1905 par. 29}

Do not think that Satan is not doing anything. Do not think that his army is passive. He and his agencies are on the ground today. We are to put on the whole armor of God. Having done all, we are to stand, meeting principalities and powers and spiritual wickedness in high places. And if we have on the heavenly armor, we shall find that the assaults of the enemy will not have power over us. Angels of God will be round about us to protect us. I have the assurance of God that thus it will be. In the name of the Lord God of Israel I ask you to come up to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty. If you do this, you will have on your side a strong helper, a personal Saviour. You will be covered with the shield of providence. God will make a way for you, so that you will never be overtaken by the enemy. I am praying that the power of the Saviour will be exerted in behalf of those who have entered into the temptations of the enemy. They are not standing under the broad shield of Omnipotence. My brethren, it is our privilege to stand under this shield. {RH, May 25, 1905 par. 30}

Let God alone specify the mistakes that they have made; but let us be silent concerning what we may think is a defect. We have enough to do to learn the lessons He would have us learn.

Increased light has come to us from God as we have searched the living oracles. We have discovered gems that were more precious than gold and silver, and many of these rich treasures have been pointed out to us by men who are now laid away in the grave. Let us not depreciate one of God's workmen. If God in His great mercy has traced the imperfection of any of His workmen, it is for the purpose of leading the church to shun his defects, and to imitate his virtues. {6MR 206.1}

Let us cherish the truth which has been spoken to us and the counsel that has been given to us by men through whom God has manifested His will in a marked manner. Let us be grateful that there were men who appropriated the grace of Christ, and bore the burden in the heat of the day, whose lips are now silent. The Lord Jesus bade John to write of them, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them." We should be careful how we handle the names of the precious and blessed ones who sleep in Jesus. {6MR 206.2}

*It has been at very great cost that the truth has been brought before the people. The third angel's message was established through very great difficulties; for every conceivable obstruction was in the way of its proclamation at first. Those who have seen the truth at a later date, who have had no **experimental** knowledge as to what it cost to become a Seventh-day Adventist when all the believers could be numbered within a small compass, should be guarded in their expressions in regard to the men through whom the Lord wrought as pioneers in His work. These men gave not only themselves, but all that they possessed to advance the precious truth. It cost them more than it costs many today who take it upon themselves to speak so freely of the mistakes the servants of God made in their youth and inexperience. The Lord loved them and valued them; for they had fervor and honesty of soul, and He took them by the hand and led them in safe paths, planting their inexperienced feet upon the Rock of Ages. {6MR 206.3}*

Now let every one who loves God, love and respect those whom God has loved and honoured. "Them that honor Me, I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed." 1 Samuel 2:30. {6MR 207.1}

These are the words of the Lord, and they point out the fact that we should not lightly esteem those who honor God.--Letter 39, 1894. (To A. T. Jones, June 7, 1894.)

The ministers and teachers in our conferences are to work unitedly with their brethren of **experience**, asking them for their counsel, and paying heed to their advice.-Testimonies to Ministers, pp. 501, 502. {ChL 42.5}

There have been those connected with the publishing house who know not and do not wish to know by **experience** what it cost their *predecessors* to build up the work. When these later workers accepted a part in it, they did not enter into a partnership with God. They do not recognize the principles and conditions that must govern the human agent in cooperation with the divine. {2SM 211.3}

But when you think you know more than *those whom God has been leading for years, and whom He has been instructing in the truth* and fitting for the extension of His work, you are self-exalted and will fall into temptations. {3T 417.1}

You are constantly inclined to individual independence. You do not realize that independence is a poor thing when it leads you to have too much confidence in yourself and to trust to your own judgment rather than to *respect the counsel and highly estimate the judgment of your brethren, especially of those in the offices which God has appointed for the saving of His people. God has invested His church with special authority and power which no one can be justified in disregarding and despising, for in so doing he despises the voice of God.*

God has not passed His people by and chosen one solitary man here and another there as the only ones worthy to be entrusted with His truth. *He does not give one man new light **contrary** to the established faith of the body.* 5T 291

Note: Where can we find the established faith of the body, Follow along.

Let none be self-confident, as though God had given them special light above *their brethren.* 5T 292

There are a thousand temptations in disguise prepared for those who have the light of truth; and ***the only safety for any of us is in receiving no new doctrine, no new interpretation of the Scriptures, without first submitting it to brethren of *experience*. Lay it before them in a humble, teachable spirit, with earnest prayer; and if they see no light in it, yield to their judgment; for "in the multitude of counselors there is safety."*** 5T293

Note: Who are the brethren of experience? See next quote

Note: Ah! there we have it ***"those who have been in all the messages,"*** who have been involved in the establishment of the truth, who labored to lay the foundation of our work. Read the next quote very carefully!

EW 118

Preaching Contrary to Established Doctrines

"The angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life." ***We see here that the men in authority are not always to be obeyed, even though they may profess to be teachers of Bible doctrine.*** There are many today who feel indignant and aggrieved that any voice should be raised presenting ideas that differ from their own in regard to points of religious belief. Have they not long advocated their ideas as truth? So the priests and rabbis reasoned in apostolic days: What mean these men who are unlearned, some of them mere fishermen, who are presenting ideas contrary to the doctrines which the learned priests and rulers are teaching the people? They have no right to meddle with the fundamental principles of our faith. {TM 69.1}

But we see that the God of heaven sometimes commissions men to teach that which is regarded as contrary to the established doctrines. Because those who were once the depositaries

of truth became unfaithful to their sacred trust, the Lord chose others who would receive the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness, and would advocate truths that were not in accordance with the ideas of the religious leaders. And then these leaders, in the blindness of their minds, give full sway to what is supposed to be righteous indignation against the ones who have set aside cherished fables. They act like men who have lost their reason. They do not consider the possibility that they themselves have not rightly understood the word. They will not open their eyes to discern the fact that they have misinterpreted and misapplied the Scriptures, and have built up false theories, calling them fundamental doctrines of the faith. {TM 69.2}

But the Holy Spirit will, from time to time, reveal the truth through its own chosen agencies; and no man, not even a priest or ruler, has a right to say, You shall not give publicity to your opinions, because I do not believe them. That wonderful "I" may attempt to put down the Holy Spirit's teaching. Men may for a time attempt to smother it and kill it; but that will not make error truth, or truth error. The inventive minds of men have advanced speculative opinions in various lines, and when the Holy Spirit lets light shine into human minds, it does not respect every point of man's application of the word. God impressed His servants to speak the truth irrespective of what men had taken for granted as truth. {TM 70.1}

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.] {1SM 161.4}

There are two great principles, *one of loyalty*, the other of disloyalty. We all need greater Christian courage, that we may uplift the standard on which is inscribed the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. We are to make no compromise with the leaders of rebellion. The line of demarcation between the obedient and the disobedient must be plain and distinct. We must have a firm determination to do the Lord's will at all times and in all places. RH May 9, 1899, Art. A, par. 1

Satan has a large confederacy, his church. Christ calls them the synagogue of Satan because the members are the children of sin. *The members of Satan's church have been constantly working to cast off the divine law*, and confuse the distinction between good and evil. Satan is working with great power in and through the children of disobedience to exalt treason and apostasy as truth and loyalty. And at this time the power of his satanic inspiration is moving the living agencies to carry out the great rebellion against God that commenced in heaven. TM 16.1

As a people we have been greatly humiliated by the course that some of our brethren in responsible positions have taken in departing from the old landmarks. There are those who, in order to carry out their plans, have by their words denied their faith. This shows how little dependence can be placed on human wisdom and judgment. Now, as never before, we need to see the danger of being led unguardedly away from loyalty to God's commands. We need to

realize that God has given us a decided message of warning for the world, even as He gave Noah a message of warning for the antediluvians. Let our people beware of *belittling the importance of the Sabbath in order to link up with unbelievers. Let them beware of departing from the principles of our faith, making it appear that it is not wrong to conform to the world. Let them be afraid of heeding the counsel of any man, whatever his position may be, who works counter to that which God has wrought in order to keep His people separate from the world.* 7T 107.1

The Lord is testing His people to see *who will be loyal to the principles of His truth.* Our work is to proclaim to the world the *first, second, and third angels' messages.* In the discharge of our duties we are neither to despise nor to fear our enemies. *To bind ourselves up by contracts with those not of our faith is not in the order of God.* We are to treat with kindness and courtesy those who refuse to be loyal to God, but *we are never, never to unite with them in counsel regarding the vital interests of His work.* Putting our trust in God, we are to move steadily forward, doing His work with unselfishness, in humble dependence upon Him, committing to His providence ourselves and all that concerns our present and future, holding the beginning of our confidence firm unto the end, remembering that we receive the blessings of heaven, not because of our worthiness, but because of Christ's worthiness and our acceptance, through faith in Him, of God's abounding grace. 7T 107.2

God in His wisdom permitted Satan to carry forward his work, until the spirit of disaffection ripened into active revolt. It was necessary for his plans to be fully developed, that their true nature and tendency might be seen by all. Lucifer, as the anointed cherub, had been highly exalted; he was greatly loved by the heavenly beings, and his influence over them was strong. God's government included not only the inhabitants of heaven, but of all the worlds that He had created; and Satan thought that if he could carry the angels of heaven with him in rebellion, he could carry also the other worlds. He had artfully presented his side of the question, employing sophistry and fraud to secure his objects. His power to deceive was very great, and by disguising himself in a cloak of falsehood he had gained an advantage. Even the loyal angels could not fully discern his character or see to what his work was leading. GC 497.1

Satan had been so highly honored, and all his acts were so clothed with mystery, that it was difficult to disclose to the angels the true nature of his work. Until fully developed, sin would not appear the evil thing it was. Heretofore it had had no place in the universe of God, and holy beings had no conception of its nature and malignity. They could not discern the terrible consequences that would result from setting aside the divine law. *Satan had, at first, concealed his work under a specious profession of loyalty to God.* He claimed to be seeking to promote the honor of God, the stability of His government, and the good of all the inhabitants of heaven. While instilling discontent into the minds of the angels under him, he had artfully made it appear that he was seeking to remove dissatisfaction. When he urged that changes be made in the order and laws of God's government, it was under the pretense that these were necessary in order to preserve harmony in

heaven. GC 497.2

There will be a sharp conflict *between those who are loyal to God and those who cast scorn upon His law. Reverence for God's law has been subverted. The religious leaders are teaching for doctrine the commandments of men.* As it was in the days of ancient Israel, so it is in this age of the world. *But because of the prevalence of disloyalty and transgression, will those who have revered the law of God now cherish less respect for it? Will they unite with the powers of earth to make it void?* The loyal will not be carried away by the current of evil. They will not throw contempt on that which God has set apart as holy. They will not follow Israel's example of forgetfulness; they will call to remembrance God's dealings with His people in all ages, and *will walk in the way of His commandments.* 8T 120.1

The test comes to everyone. There are only two sides. On which side are you? 8T 120.2

Those whose faith and zeal are proportionate to their knowledge of the truth *will reveal their loyalty to God by communicating the truth,* in all its saving, sanctifying power, to those with whom they associate. Their lives of holiness and unselfish service will be in conformity with the vital principles of the kingdom of heaven. 8T 118.3