The underlined words are what was actually spoken

“The Right Attitude”

(or, this could be called, How Shall we Come to God?)

“Remember the former things of old: for I [am] God, and [there is] none else; [I am] God, and [there is] none like me,

Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times [the things] that are not [yet] done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure” Isaiah 4 6:9,10

Let us pray;

Father, forgive us for our callousness. Every day You try to waken us to our danger of losing what is so dear to us – our lives, our very being, our souls.

Each of us is unique, and in all Your creation, there is not another one of each of us, and You know each of us individually, by the very essence of who we are. You know us better than we know ourselves.

Help us to see, that although we live in the shadow of your unfailing care for us, that we are in the land of the enemy and he interferes with Your will and purposes, trying to destroy us.

Help us not to be lulled to sleep, but to focus on Youreternal truth; and someday you will explain to us what all our trials have been for, and why every item has needed to be done according to Your will, and we will see that Your works were for our good, as you guided us toward eternal life, even though we were ungrateful and we tended to ignore You so often. Forgive us, we have not understood the magnitude of what we have done.

You have all authority and power in Your universe, but so often we choose to follow our own ways; and at those times, You can only mourn our choice to go our own way… and all the heavenly host are amazed we do this so often.

Father, we look forward to the day when Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Preserve us in your fold until that day of unspeakable gladness when we will only have eyes and hearts for You. And we will spend eternity marveling over your greatness, and we will be unable to understand WHY You do all that you do, for us.

Please speak to us now, open our minds to Your truth, for we pray in the name of Jesus, that Name above all names, Amen.

Xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

(This sermon is based on Testimonies for the Church Volume 5, Chapter 85 The Mysteries of the Bible a Proof of its Inspiration)

(“The Right Attitude”)

This sermon is about your personal relationship with God. It’s about you giving God a chance in your life, to experience for yourself that He is who He says He is. This interaction between you and God is not like two people playing a game of chess, where the players have equal status. In this relationship between you and God, God made the rules a long time ago; but it is your choice whether or not to accept His offer. His rules will not change, because they are consistent with who and what God is; and God does not change. He is totally reliable and trustworthy.

The rules do not change, but you can be assured that the rules are fair; in fact, they are more than fair, because mankind should have been eradicated when Adam and Eve violated the conditions of the relationship, when they betrayed their loyalty to God and followed their own thoughts and feelings, instead of the conditions of that royal covenant.

In normal life- in our interactions with other people, we experience lies, cheating, greed, selfishness.. all kinds of bad things that can cause us to be less trusting, less hopeful for the future. And as part of this world, we interact with it, and we have become a lot like it, so we tend to love the things in the world and God tends to have a far- away presence in our lives.

So a lot of times, we don’t think about God, except when something sad or difficult happens to us and we become stressed, and then we tend to blame God for what happened. We may question the good of God. He causes ‘bad’ people to burn forever. He is supposed to be good, but there is still so much bad happening in the world. Good people, have terrible things happen that they did not deserve. And some bad people live a long time, and they keep hurting people.

God offers to all men, forgiveness of sin and the restoration of a life with Him. It is totally your decision whether you accept His offer. The prize is wonderful, a forever in paradise. But you ask, if the prize is so wonderful, then why don’t more people take advantage of the offer? That is a good question; but the focus of this transaction is you, individually out of all the 7.71 billion people on the earth at this time. Christ would have come to this place if you were the only person, because He really wants you to be in heaven with Him. That was His plan for you, from before you were born.

Remember, God is like no other Being. You cannot compare Him to other people around you. He does not make any mistakes. He does not lie, He does not change. He made the rules for our relationship with Him, and they are totally fair. He works tirelessly to lead us to an association with Him, and He limits Satan’s ability to inflict harm on the earth and on mankind.

Having a relationship with God is a bit like trying out a new car. You can look around at the models at the dealership, you can read about how other owners rate that model- but for you, nothing is the same as owning and driving it for awhile to find out if it’s right for you. It’s not being fair to yourself, to only rely on others’ experiences.

Checking out a new car is not an accurate comparison to drawing near to God. But putting Him to the test, opening your heart to Him is what He is looking for. A relationship is a two- way street. Actually, He has reached out to you on many occasions in your life, though you did not discern Him, for you were too busy handling the battles of life by yourself. He has brought about circumstances in your life that were just what you needed, to help you see your need for Him. He knows that you are hearing this sermon right no. Everything that happens to you, is about **your** eternal life. You are His child, and you always will be His child, he was involved in all aspects of your life, to this point in time and to the completion of your days, and beyond.. He is the keeper of your soul, Almighty God, your Savior. And He says, come.. Come into My rest, all you who are weary and heavy- laden with the rigors and sadness of this place.

Relationship. That’s what God wants with us. Consider the story of the woman who touched Christ’s garment. It would not the physical touch that cured her; but as Christ said, “… Daughter, be of good comfort; thy **faith** hath made thee whole” Matthew 9:22.

She BELIEVED that she would be made whole. “… To talk of religion in a casual way, to pray without soul hunger and living faith, avails nothing. A nominal faith in A relationship with Christ in name only, which accepts Him merely as the Saviour of the world, can never bring healing to the soul.. He who waits for entire knowledge before he will exercise faith, cannot receive blessing from God. It is not enough to believe about Christ; we must believe in Him.” DA 347

These things are hard on us; it was not intended that sin would exist in God’s fair creation. But it should be noted that He did anticipate the entrance of sin and the following years of misery; and He made plans to deal with the turn of events; but these difficulties were not of His design.

<https://www.7billionworld.com/>

This website shows a little stick figu re for each of the 7.1+ billion people on the earth. Each one of the little symbols represents an individual. On the website you can click on them and they have differnt numbers.

Our relationship with God.

God our Father in heaven, wants to guide us along paths of peace and fruitfulness, and we would have a blessed existence, if we are willing to follow His guidance. He has all authority in heaven and earth, yet He stoops down to guide us in our daily trials. He is the all- knowing Father, better than any earthly father, and He wants to help with all our needs. In His Word, He has provided us with a guide book for this life, so we can learn how to follow Him into the next.

God says, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways… For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8

This statement should make it clear enough, and help us to be submissive to our Lord and Savior, so that we may at last come to rest in Him, and experiencee that peace that surpasses all understanding. The parts of a mechanical watch were designed to work together in one way for it to function. The electronic components in an electronic watch were designed to work together in just one way. And so our great Creator designed for all Creation to function and progress in harmony.

With our humanity we are very limited in what we can understand and what we can do. We are finite, oh so limited. And life is short; we come and we go, but our God lives forever. But in our hearts’ desire we have a need for belonging, “He hath showed thee, O man, what [is] good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” Micah 6:8

It is comforting to know that we may have the help of One who is greater than we are. Like when we were little children- we could be brave and venture forth maybe even 10 feet from the legs of a parent, so long as we were sure that there was a safe place for us to return to. It is good to know we know that we have a heavenly father to turn to.

Testimonies for the Church Vol 5 Chap. 85 - The Mysteries of the Bible a Proof of its Inspiration

God is in a different plane.

**Can** we know everything about God? Are we supposed to know everything about God?

"Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection? It is as high as heaven; what canst thou do? deeper than hell; what canst thou know?" Job 11:7,8.

"My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."

 "I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done." It is impossible for finite minds to fully comprehend the character or the works of the Infinite One. This is our tendency, though we would like to, we cannot put God in a box. For eternity, God will remain a mystery to us. But we may know **of** Him, of His works to the children of men. “Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.” Matthew 7:20. To the keenest intellect, to the most powerful and highly educated mind, that holy Being must ever remain clothed in mystery. {5T 698.2}

 The apostle Paul exclaims: "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!" But though "clouds and darkness are round about Him: righteousness and judgment are the foundation of His throne." [Revised Version.] We can so far comprehend His dealing with us, and the motives by which He is actuated, that we may discern boundless love and mercy united to infinite power. We can understand as much of His purposes as it is for our good to know; and beyond this we must still trust the might of the Omnipotent, the love and wisdom of the Father and Sovereign of all. {5T 699.1}

However, we may understand enough of His dealings with us, to discern His character of love and mercy.

 The word of God, like the character of its divine Author, presents mysteries which can never be fully comprehended by finite beings. It directs our minds to the Creator, who dwelleth "in the light which no man can approach unto." It presents to us His purposes, which embrace all the ages of human history, and which will reach their fulfillment only in the endless cycles of eternity. It calls our attention to subjects of infinite depth and importance relating to the government of God and the destiny of man. {5T 699.2}

 The entrance of sin into the world, the incarnation of Christ, regeneration, the resurrection, and many other subjects presented in the Bible, are mysteries too deep for the human mind to explain or even to fully comprehend. But God has given us in the Scriptures sufficient evidence of their divine character, and we are not to doubt His word because we cannot understand all the mysteries of His providence. {5T 699.3}

 The portions of Holy Writ presenting these great themes are not to be passed by as of no use to man. All that God has seen fit to make known we are to accept upon the authority of His word. Only a bare statement of facts may be given, with no explanation as to why or how; but though we cannot comprehend it we should rest content that it is true, because God has said it. (End of discussion. Find your rest in Giod. Peace, be still.) All the difficulty lies in the weakness and narrowness of the human mind. {5T 699.4}

 The apostle Peter says that there are in Scripture "things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable… (struggle with). . . unto their own destruction." The difficulties of Scripture have been urged by skeptics as an argument against the Bible; but so far from this, they constitute a strong evidence of its divine inspiration. If it contained no account of God but that which we could easily comprehend; if His greatness and majesty could be grasped by finite minds, then the Bible would not bear the unmistakable credentials of divine authority. The very grandeur and mystery of the themes presented should inspire faith in it as the word of God. {5T 700.1}

Signs of the Times Jan 25, 1883 Christian Unity

We know but little of our own hearts, and have but little sense of our own need of the mercy of God. This is why we cherish so little of that sweet compassion which Jesus manifests toward us, and which we should manifest toward one another. We should remember that our brethren are weak, erring mortals, like ourselves. Suppose that a brother has through unwatchfulness been over-borne by temptation, and contrary to his general conduct has committed some error; what course shall be pursued toward him? We learn from Bible history that men whom God had used to do a great and good work committed grave sins. The Lord did not pass these by unrebuked, neither did he cast off his servants. When they repented, he graciously forgave them, and revealed to them his presence, and wrought through them. Let poor, weak mortals consider how great is their own need of pity and forbearance from God and from their brethren. Let them beware how they judge and condemn others. We should give heed to the instruction of the apostle: "Ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."

**Our** minds are finite. We forget things. We forget where we’ve put things. We forget what we’ve come into the room for. Our minds don't work as well as when we were younger. It takes us awhile to process our thoughts.

Sometimes we are so troubled that we "can't see straight", and then we make decisions that we wish we hadn’t. Sometimes we need help from someone else, to give us a better perspective on matters.

And if this reminder touches us close to home, yes, this is meant to be personal, because we all need to have a right relationship to our Creator. Christ came to this place. He continues to have each of us on His mind and in His heart.

We look with interest at the news to see what is happening in the world, to see what the stock market closed at, and how little our portfolio is worth. We try as best we can, to plan our future for our families and ourselves. We are concerned about what some world leader is doing in a far away place, and how it might eventually affect us.

But beyond and above all these things, in the heavenly realms, God directs the events of man. We would do so much better, if we learned to rely and rest in him.

Sometimes we see our fellow man having great struggles in life, having life problems, family problems, health problems that we “wouldn’t wish on any person, not even our worst enemy”. What should we do in some of those circumstances?

 The Bible unfolds truth with a simplicity and a perfect adaptation to the needs and longings of the human heart, that has astonished and charmed the most highly cultivated minds, while it enables the humble and uncultured to discern the way of salvation. And yet these simply stated truths lay hold upon subjects so elevated, so far-reaching, so infinitely beyond the power of human comprehension, that we can accept them only because God has declared them. Thus the plan of redemption is laid open to us so that every soul may see the steps he is to take in repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ, in order to be saved in God's appointed way; yet

beneath these truths, so easily understood, lie mysteries which are the hiding of His glory--mysteries which overpower the mind in its research, yet inspire the sincere seeker for truth with reverence and faith. The more we search the Bible, the deeper is our conviction that it is the word of the living God, and human reason bows before the majesty of divine revelation. {5T 700.2} I used to think like a lot of people; that God was way- out- there, mysterious and untouchable, aloof froom us; But really, He is actually near, and very present with us, as we seek him in spirit and in truth.

 Those are blessed with clearest light who are willing thus to accept the living oracles upon the authority of God. If asked to explain certain statements, they can only answer: "It is so presented in the Scriptures." They are obliged to acknowledge that they cannot explain the operation of divine power or the manifestation of divine wisdom. It is as the Lord intended it should be, that we find ourselves compelled to accept some things solely by faith. To acknowledge this, is only to admit that the finite mind is inadequate to grasp the infinite; that man, with his limited, human knowledge, cannot understand the purposes of Omniscience. {5T 700.3} Every day, we trust that things will work. We do not truly know if all the separate parts will work in our automobiles, so that our vehicle follows the curves in the road instead of shooting off down the ravine.

To acknowledge our humanity, is to recognize that we are mortal and dependent on God for every moment that we have life, that we have been sustained by that mysterious force from above, from the point that we were conceived. And every other human life also, is sustained by the same God.

 Because they cannot fathom all its mysteries, the skeptic and the infidel reject God's word; and not all who profess to believe the Bible are secure from temptation on this point. Says the apostle: "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God." Strong words. It is not a good idea to wring words out of scripture that God did not intend. Minds that have been educated to criticize, to doubt and cavil because they cannot search into the purposes of God, will "fall after the same example of unbelief." It is right to study closely the teaching of the Bible, and to search into "the deep things of God," so far as they are revealed in Scripture. While "the secret things belong unto the Lord our God," "those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children." But it is Satan's work to pervert the investigative powers of the mind. A certain pride is mingled with the exploration of consideration of Bible truth, so that men feel defeated and impatient if they cannot explain every portion of Scripture to their satisfaction. It is too humiliating to them to acknowledge that they do not understand the inspired words. They are unwilling to wait patiently until God shall see fit to reveal the truth to them. They feel that their unaided human wisdom is sufficient to enable them to comprehend the Scripture; and failing to do this, (then) they virtually deny its authority. It is true that many theories and doctrines popularly supposed to be the teaching of the Bible have no foundation in Scripture and, indeed, are contrary to the whole tenor of inspiration. These things have been a cause of doubt and perplexity to many minds. They are not, however, chargeable to God's word, but to man's perversion of it. But the difficulties in the Bible do not reflect upon the wisdom of God; they will not cause the ruin of any who would not have been destroyed if no such difficulties had existed. Had there been no mysteries in the Bible for them to question, the same minds would, (because of their lack of spiritual discouragement, would have been stumbling in the) through their own lack of spiritual discernment, have found cause of stumbling in the plainest utterances of God. {5T 701.1}

Or in other words, if some people are going to stumble, they will stumble on the simplest scriptures.

(But, we are all told) “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.” James 1:5 **[King James Bible](https://biblehub.com/kjv/james/1.htm)**

Honest seekers after truth, will find it.

Are we tired of what we are, or what we have become? Do we possess a longing for something greater? Does something in our souls reach for the stars? Of course it is so; for God has not allowed Satan to completely eliminate the image of God in man.

We Must immerse ourselves in Christ, as he gave himself entirely in our behalf. We need to be grounded in the Word, so that we are not "tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive" Ephesians 4:14 King James Version

Men who imagine themselves endowed with mental powers of so high an order that they can find an explanation of all the ways and works of God (They are) are seeking to exalt human wisdom to an equality with the divine and to glorify man as God. They are only repeating that which Satan declared to Eve in Eden: "Ye shall be as gods." Satan fell because of his ambition to be equal with God. He desired to enter into the divine counsels and purposes, from which he was excluded by his own inability, as a created being, to comprehend the wisdom of the Infinite One. It was this ambitious pride that led to his rebellion, and by the same means he seeks to cause the ruin of man. {5T 702.1}

 There are mysteries in the plan of redemption--the humiliation of the Son of God, that He might be found in fashion as a man, the wonderful love and condescension of the Father in yielding up His Son--that are to the heavenly angels subjects of continual amazement. The apostle Peter, speaking of the revelations given to the prophets of "the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow," says that these are things which "the angels desire to look into." And these will be the study of the redeemed through eternal ages. As they contemplate the work of God in creation and redemption, new truth will continually unfold to the wondering and delighted mind. As they learn more and more of the wisdom, the love, and the power of God, their minds will be

 703

constantly expanding, and their joy will continually increase. {5T 702.2}

 If it were possible for created beings to attain to a full understanding of God and His works, then, having reached this point, there would (not be anything further for us to discover) be for them no further discovery of truth, no growth in knowledge, no further development of mind or heart. God would no longer be supreme; and men, having reached the limit of knowledge and attainment, would cease to advance. Let us thank God that it is not so. God is infinite; in Him are "all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." And to all eternity men may be ever searching, ever learning, and yet they can never exhaust the treasures of His wisdom, His goodness, and His power. {5T 703.1}

Do we enjoy learning new things? There will ever be things to explore and expand our minds (in heaven).

 God intends that, even in this life, truth shall be ever unfolding to His people. There is only one way in which this knowledge can be obtained. We can attain to an understanding of God's word only through the illumination of that Spirit by which the word was given. "The things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God;" "for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God." And the Saviour's promise to His followers was: "When He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth. . . . For He shall receive of Mine, and shall show it unto you." {5T 703.2}

 God desires man to exercise his reasoning powers; and the study of the Bible will strengthen and elevate the mind as no other study can do. It is the best mental as well as spiritual exercise for the human mind. Yet we are to beware of deifying reason, which is subject to the weakness and infirmity of humanity. If we would not have the Scriptures clouded to our understanding, so that the plainest truths shall not be comprehended, we must have the simplicity and faith of a little child, ready to learn, and beseeching the aid of the Holy Spirit. A sense of the power and wisdom of God, and of our inability to comprehend His greatness, should inspire us with humility, and we should open His word, as we would enter His presence, with holy awe. When we come to the Bible, reason must acknowledge an authority superior to itself, and heart and intellect must bow to the great I AM. {5T 703.3}

 We shall advance in true spiritual knowledge only as we realize our own littleness and our entire dependence upon God; but **all** who come to the Bible with a teachable and prayerful spirit, to study its utterances as the word of God, will receive divine enlightenment.

There are many things apparently difficult or obscure which God will make plain and simple to those who thus seek an understanding of them. {5T 704.1}

 It is sometimes the case that men of intellectual ability, improved by education and culture, fail to comprehend certain passages of Scripture, while others who are uneducated, whose understanding seems weak and whose minds are undisciplined, will grasp the meaning, finding strength and comfort in that which the former declare to be mysterious or pass by as unimportant. Why is this? It has been explained to me that the latter class (because they ) do not rely upon their own understanding. They go to the Source of light, the One who has inspired the Scriptures, and with humility of heart ask God for wisdom, and they receive it. There are mines of truth yet to be discovered by the earnest seeker. Christ represented the truth as treasure hid in a field. It does not lie right upon the surface; we must dig for it, like it was really important to us. But our success in finding it does not depend so much on our intellectual ability as on our humility of heart and the faith which will lay hold upon divine aid. {5T 704.2}

 Without the guidance of the Holy Spirit we shall be continually liable to wrest the Scriptures or to misinterpret them. There is much reading of the Bible that is without profit and in many cases is a positive injury. When the word of God is opened without reverence and without prayer; when the thoughts and affections are not fixed upon God or in harmony with His will, the mind is clouded with doubt; and in the very study of the Bible, skepticism strengthens. The enemy takes control of the thoughts, and he suggests interpretations that are not correct. {5T 704.3}

 Whenever men are not seeking, in word and deed, to be in harmony with God, then, however learned they may be, they are liable to err in their understanding of Scripture, and it is not safe to trust to their explanations. When we are truly seeking to do God's will, the Holy Spirit takes the precepts of His word and makes them the principles of the life, writing them on the tablets of the soul. And it is only those who are following the light already given (them) that can hope to receive (more illumination from the Holy Spirit) the further illumination of the Spirit. This is plainly stated in the words of Christ: "If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine." {5T 705.1}

 Those who look to the Scriptures to find discrepancies have not spiritual insight. With distorted vision they will see many causes for doubt and unbelief in things that are really plain and simple. But to those who take God's word with reverence, seeking to learn His will that they may obey it, all is changed. They are filled with awe and wonder as they contemplate the purity and exalted excellence of the truths revealed. Like attracts like. Like appreciates like. Holiness allies itself with holiness, faith with faith. To the humble heart and the sincere, inquiring mind the Bible is full of light and knowledge. Those who come to the Scriptures in this spirit are brought into fellowship with prophets and apostles. Their spirit assimilates to that of Christ, and they long to become one with Him. {5T 705.2}

 Many feel that a responsibility rests upon them to explain every seeming difficulty in the Bible in order to meet the cavils of skeptics and infidels. But in trying to explain that which they but imperfectly understand, they are in danger of confusing the minds of others in reference to points that are clear and easy to be understood. This is not our work. Nor should we lament that these difficulties exist, but accept them as permitted by the wisdom of God. It is our duty to receive His word, which is plain on every point essential to the salvation of the soul, and practice its principles in our life, teaching them to others both by precept and example. Thus it will be evident to the world that we have a connection with God and implicit confidence in His word. A life of godliness, a daily example of integrity, meekness, and unselfish love, will be a living exemplification of the teaching of God's word, and it will be an argument in favor of the Bible which few will be able to resist. This will prove the most effectual check to the prevailing tendency to skepticism and infidelity. {5T 705.3}

 By faith we should look to the hereafter and grasp the pledge of God of a growth of intellect, the human faculties uniting with the divine, and every power of the soul being brought into direct contact with the Source of light. We may rejoice that all that has perplexed us in the providences of God will then be made plain; things hard to be understood will find an explanation; and where our finite minds discovered only confusion and broken purposes, we shall see the most perfect and beautiful harmony. Says the apostle Paul: "Now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known." {5T 706.1}

 Peter exhorts his brethren to "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." Whenever the people of God are growing in grace, they will be constantly obtaining a clearer understanding of His word. They will discern new light and beauty in its sacred truths. This has been true in the history of the church in all ages, and thus it will continue to the end. But as real spiritual life declines, it has ever been the tendency to cease to advance in the knowledge of the truth. Men rest satisfied with the light already received from God's word and discourage any further investigation of the Scriptures. They become conservative and seek to avoid discussion. {5T 706.2}

 The fact that there is no controversy or agitation among God's people should not be regarded as conclusive evidence that they are holding fast to sound doctrine. There is reason to fear that they may not be clearly discriminating between truth and error. When no new questions are started by investigation of the Scriptures, when no difference of opinion arises which will set men to searching the Bible for themselves to make sure that they have the truth, there will be many now, as in ancient times, who will hold to tradition and worship they know not what. {5T 707.1}

 I have been shown that many who profess to have a knowledge of present truth know not what they believe. They do not understand the evidences of their faith. They have no just

appreciation of the work for the present time. When the time of trial shall come, there are men now preaching to others who will find, upon examining the positions they hold, that there are many things for which they can give no satisfactory reason. Until thus tested they knew not their great ignorance. And there are many in the church who take it for granted that they understand what they believe; but, until controversy arises, they do not know their own weakness. When separated from those of like faith and compelled to stand singly and alone to explain their belief,

they will be surprised to see how confused are their ideas of what they had accepted as truth. Certain it is that there has been among us a departure from the living God and a turning to men, putting human in place of divine wisdom. {5T 707.2}

 God will arouse His people; if other means fail, heresies will come in among them, which will sift them, separating the chaff from the wheat. The Lord calls upon all who believe His word to awake out of sleep. Precious light has come, appropriate for this time. It is Bible truth, showing the perils that are right upon us. This light should lead us to a diligent study of the Scriptures and a most critical examination of the positions which we hold. God would have all the bearings and positions of truth thoroughly and perseveringly searched, with prayer and fasting. Believers are not to rest in suppositions and ill-defined ideas of what constitutes truth. Their faith must be firmly founded upon the word of God so that when the testing time shall come and they are brought before councils to answer for their faith they may be able to give a reason for the hope that is in them, with meekness and fear. {5T 707.3}

 Agitate, agitate, agitate. The subjects which we present to the world must be to us a living reality. It is important that in defending the doctrines which we consider fundamental articles of faith we should never allow ourselves to employ arguments that are not wholly sound. These may avail to silence an opposer, but they do not honor the truth. We should present sound arguments, that will not only silence our opponents, but will bear the closest and most searching scrutiny. With those who have educated themselves as debaters there is great danger that they will not handle the word of God with fairness. In meeting an opponent it should be our earnest effort to present subjects in such a manner as to awaken conviction in his mind, instead of seeking merely to give confidence to the believer. {5T 708.1}

 Whatever may be man's intellectual advancement, let him not for a moment think that there is no need of thorough and continuous searching of the Scriptures for greater light. As a people we are called individually to be students of prophecy. We must watch with earnestness that we may discern any ray of light which God shall present to us. We are to catch the first gleamings of truth; and through prayerful study clearer light may be obtained, which can be brought before others. {5T 708.2}

 When God's people are at ease and satisfied with their present enlightenment, we may be sure that He will not favor them. It is His will that they should be ever moving forward to receive the increased and ever-increasing light which is shining for them. The present attitude of the church is not pleasing to God. There has come in a self-confidence that has led them to feel no necessity for more truth and greater light. We are living at a time when Satan is at work on the right hand and on the left, before and behind us; and yet as a people we are asleep. God wills that a voice shall be heard arousing His people to action. {5T 708.3}

 Instead of opening the soul to receive rays of light from heaven, some have been working in an opposite direction. Both through the press and from the pulpit have been presented views in regard to the inspiration of the Bible which have not the sanction of the Spirit or the word of

God. Certain it is that no man or set of men should undertake to advance theories upon a subject of so great importance, without a plain "Thus saith the Lord" to sustain them. And when

men, compassed with human infirmities, affected in a greater or less degree by surrounding influences, and having hereditary and cultivated tendencies which are far from making them wise or heavenly-minded, undertake to arraign the word of God, and to pass judgment upon what is divine and what is human, they are working without the counsel of God. The Lord will not prosper such a work. The effect will be disastrous, both upon the one engaged in it and upon those who accept it as a work from God. Skepticism has been aroused in many minds by the theories presented as to the nature of inspiration. Finite beings, with their narrow, short-sighted views, feel themselves competent to criticize the Scriptures, saying: "This passage is needful, and that passage is not needful, and is not inspired." {5T 709.1}

 Christ gave no such instruction in regard to the Old Testament Scriptures, the only part of the Bible which the people of His time possessed. His teachings were designed to direct their minds to the Old Testament and to bring into clearer light the great themes there presented. For ages the people of Israel had been separating themselves from God, and they had lost sight of precious truths which He had committed to them. These truths were covered up with superstitious forms and ceremonies that concealed their true significance. Christ came to remove the rubbish which had obscured their luster. He placed them, as precious gems, in a new setting. He showed that so far from disdaining the repetition of old, familiar truths, He came to make them appear in their true force and beauty, the glory of which had never been discerned by the men of His time. Himself the Author of these revealed truths, He could open to the people their true meaning, freeing them from the misinterpretations and false theories adopted by the leaders to suit their own unconsecrated condition, their destitution of spirituality and the love of God. He cast aside that which had robbed these truths of life and vital power, and gave them back to the world in all their original freshness and force. {5T 709.2}

 If we have the Spirit of Christ and are laborers together with Him, it is ours to carry forward the work which He came to do. The truths of the Bible have again become obscured by custom, tradition, and false doctrine. The erroneous teachings of popular theology have made thousands upon thousands of skeptics and infidels. There are errors and inconsistencies which many denounce as the teaching of the Bible that are really false interpretations of Scripture, adopted during the ages of papal darkness. Multitudes have been led to cherish an erroneous conception of God, as the Jews, misled by the errors and traditions of their time, had a false conception of Christ. "Had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." It is ours to reveal to the world the true character of God. Instead of criticizing the Bible, let us seek, by precept and example, to present to the world its sacred, life-giving truths, that we may "show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

 {5T 710.1}

 The evils that have been gradually creeping in among us have imperceptibly led individuals and churches away from reverence for God, and have shut away the power which He desires to give them. {5T 711.1}

 My brethren, let the word of God stand just as it is. Let not human wisdom presume to lessen the force of one statement of the Scriptures. The solemn denunciation in the Revelation

should warn us against taking such ground. In the name of my Master I bid you: "Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground."

To sum it up, all men are created in the image of God. Just just as sin has marred the face of God in creation, sin has tarnished the image of God in man, We are now 6000 years since creation’s pristine condition.

For those people who think they can evaluate the reality of a personal relationship with God from the sidelines, God has a few recommendations, if you will. Here are 3 verses;

“ O taste and see that the LORD [is] good:” Psalms 34:8

Let me try to paraphrase this- how does this sound?

The Lord IS good; therefore try Him, and that is what you WILL discover, for yourself that He is good.

“But if… thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find [him], if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul. ” Deuteronomy 4:29

“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. ” James 4:8

He will TOUCH your soul.

There have been athiests and agnostics, intelligent and thoughtful people, who did personal research to try and disprove God. But they were honest, and their journey led them to a personal relationship with God. So there have been some of those. But what matters in your case, is between you, and God.

Ending song; Hymnal 6 “O Worship the Lord”