

SALVATION....
From sin by grace through faith in Christ Jesus
IN HIS IMAGE MINISTRIES~ADAM MILLS

I. Why was man allowed to exist after having sinned against his Maker?

1 Peter 1:18 – 20 “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, [as] silver and gold, from your vain conversation [received] by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you”

2 Timothy 1:8 – 10 “Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; Who hath saved us, and called [us] with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”

Revelation 13:8 “And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

DA 210: “The world has been committed to Christ, and through Him has come every blessing from God to the fallen race. He was the Redeemer before as after His incarnation. As soon as there was sin, there was a Saviour.”

7BC 912: “After the Fall, Christ became Adam's instructor. He acted in God's stead toward humanity, **saving the race from immediate death**. He took upon Him the work of mediator between God and man.”

II. What, of God's plan to save humanity from sin, has already been accomplished? In what ways do all humanity benefit?

Psalms 107:18~21 “Fools because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, are afflicted. Their soul abhorreth all manner of meat; and they draw near unto the gates of death. Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, [and] he saveth them out of their distresses. He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered [them] from their destructions. Oh that [men] would praise the LORD [for] his goodness, and [for] his wonderful works to the children of men!”

Ecclesiastes 3:13 “And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it [is] the gift of God.”

Isaiah 53:5,6 “But he [was] wounded for our transgressions, [he was] bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace [was] upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

Matthew 5:44,45 “But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.”

Acts 17:28 “For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.”

Romans 5:8-10,18 “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life....Therefore as by the offence of one [judgment came] upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one [the free gift came] upon all men unto justification of life.”

2 Corinthians 5:19 “To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”

Ephesians 1:3-8 “Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly [places] in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;”

Hebrews 2:9 “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”

1 John 2:1,2 “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for [the sins of] the whole world.”

7 BC 933: “The atonement of Christ sealed forever the everlasting covenant of grace. It was the **fulfilling of every condition** upon which God suspended the free communication of grace to the human family. **Every barrier was then broken down** which intercepted the **freest exercise** of grace, mercy, peace, and love to the **most guilty** of Adam's race.”

SC 68: “In the matchless gift of His Son, God has encircled the whole world with an atmosphere of grace as real as the air which circulates around the globe. All who choose to breathe this life-giving atmosphere will live and grow up to the stature of men and women in Christ Jesus.”

YI 6/28/00: “By becoming the sin-bearer, he **lifted from the human race the curse of sin**. In his own body he paid the penalty of that on which the power of Satan over humanity is founded--sin.”

DA 113: “And the word that was spoken to Jesus at the Jordan, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I

am well pleased," **embraces humanity**. God spoke to Jesus as our representative. With all our sins and weaknesses, we are not cast aside as worthless. "**He hath made us accepted** in the Beloved." Ephesians 1:6."

SC 45: "Every moment of our lives we have been partakers of the blessings of His grace, and for this very reason we cannot fully realize the depths of ignorance and misery from which we have been saved."

ISM 252: "In assuming humanity Christ **took the part of every human being**. He was the Head of humanity. A Being divine and human, with His long human arm He could encircle humanity, while with His divine arm He could lay hold of the throne of the Infinite."

RH 5/23/99: "Jesus, the world's Redeemer, **stands between Satan and every soul**. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."... The sins of every one who has lived upon the earth were laid upon Christ, testifying to the fact that no one need be a loser in the conflict with Satan. Provision has been made that all may lay hold of the strength of him who will save to the uttermost all who come unto God by him."

3SG 46,47: "The Son of God pities fallen man. He knows that the law of his Father is as unchanging as himself. He can only see one way of escape for the transgressor. He offers himself to his Father as a sacrifice for man, to take their guilt and punishment upon himself, and redeem them from death by dying in their place, and thus pay the ransom. The Father consents to give his dearly beloved Son to save the fallen race; and through his merits and intercession promises to receive man again into his favor, and to restore holiness to as many as should be willing to accept the atonement thus mercifully offered, and obey his law. For the sake of his dear Son the Father **forbears a while** the execution of death, and to Christ he commits the fallen race."

RH 3/12/01: "As our Mediator, Christ works incessantly. Whether men receive or reject Him, He **works earnestly for them**. He grants them life and light, striving by His Spirit to win them from Satan's service."

ST 3/14/78: "The priest could not himself become an offering for sin, and make an atonement with his life, for he was also a sinner. Therefore, instead of suffering death himself, he killed a lamb without blemish; the penalty of sin was transferred to the innocent beast, which thus became his immediate substitute, and typified the perfect offering of Jesus Christ. Through the blood of this victim, man looked forward by faith to the blood of Christ which would **atone for the sins of the world**."

Confrontation 18: "With the **sins of the world laid upon Him**, He would **go over the ground where Adam stumbled**. He would bear a test infinitely more severe than that which Adam failed to endure. He would overcome **on man's account**, and conquer the tempter, that, through His obedience, His purity of character and steadfast integrity, His righteousness might be imputed to man, that, through His name, man might overcome the foe **on his own account**."

Confrontation 36: "The weight of the **sins of the world** was pressing His soul, and His countenance expressed unutterable sorrow, a depth of anguish that fallen man had never realized. He felt the overwhelming tide of woe that deluged the world. He realized the strength of indulged appetite and unholy passion which controlled the world and had brought upon man inexpressible suffering."

RH 2/27/00: “**By pledging** his own life, Christ has **made himself responsible for every man and woman on the earth**. He stands in the presence of God, saying, Father, I take upon myself the guilt of that soul. It means death to him if he is left to bear it. If he repents, he shall be forgiven.”

1SM 343: “He took in His grasp the world over which Satan claimed to preside as his lawful territory, and by His wonderful work in giving His life, He **restored the whole race** of men to favor with God. . . . **No sin can be committed by man for which satisfaction has not been met on Calvary**. Thus the cross, in earnest appeals, continually proffers to the sinner a thorough expiation.”

YI 9/20/00: “God has accepted **the offering** of his Son as **a complete atonement for the sins of the world**.”

YI 4/16/03: “As you come with humble heart, you find pardon; for Jesus stands before the Father, **continually offering a sacrifice for the sins of the world**.”

PP 366: “Not alone at the Saviour's advent, but through **all the ages after the Fall** and the promise of redemption, "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself." 2 Corinthians 5:19.”

DA 660: “Never one, saint or sinner, eats his daily food, but he is nourished by the body and the blood of Christ. The cross of Calvary is stamped on every loaf. It is reflected in every water spring.”

MH 89,90: “Jesus knows the circumstances of every soul. The greater the sinner's guilt, the more he needs the Saviour. His heart of divine love and sympathy is drawn out **most of all** for the one who is the **most hopelessly entangled** in the snares of the enemy. With His own blood He has **signed the emancipation papers of the race**.”

GC 629: “All the judgments upon men, prior to the close of probation, have been mingled with mercy. The **pleading blood of Christ has shielded the sinner from receiving the full measure of his guilt**; but in the final judgment, wrath is poured out unmixed with mercy.”

GC 613,614: “ When the third angel's message closes, mercy no longer pleads for the guilty inhabitants of the earth.... The **restraint which has been upon the wicked** is removed, and Satan has **entire control** of the finally impenitent....Unsheltered by divine grace, they have no protection from the wicked one.”

1SM 364: “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, we may go on from strength to strength, from victory to victory; for through Christ the grace of God **has worked out our complete salvation**.”

7 BC 944: “ For every human being, Christ has paid the election price. No one need be lost. **All have been redeemed**. To those who receive Christ as a personal Saviour will be given power to become the sons and daughters of God. An eternal life insurance policy has been provided for all.”

1SM 392,393: “Christ **made satisfaction for the guilt of the whole world**, and all who will come to God in faith, will receive the righteousness of Christ, "who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed" (1 Peter 2:24). **Our sin has been expiated, put away, cast into the depths of the sea**.”

1SM 374 : “In looking to Christ, we shall see that His love is without a parallel, that **He has taken the place of the guilty sinner, and has imputed unto him His spotless righteousness.**”

1SM 394,395: “The Lord would have His people sound in the faith-- not ignorant of the great salvation so abundantly provided for them. They are not to look forward, thinking that at some future time a great work is to be done for them; for **the work is now complete.** The believer is not called upon to make his peace with God; he never has nor ever can do this. He is to accept Christ as his peace, for with Christ is God and peace. Christ **made an end of sin**, bearing its heavy curse in His own body on the tree, and He hath taken away the curse from all those who believe in Him as a personal Saviour.”

Letter 91, 1895: ““In all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God [mark the words], **to make reconciliation for the sins of the people," through the atonement.** The repenting sinner is to believe in Christ as his personal Saviour. This is his only hope. He may lay hold on the merits of the blood of Christ, presenting to God the crucified and risen Saviour as his worthiness. Thus **through Christ's offering of Himself, the innocent for the guilty, every obstruction is removed, and the pardoning love of God flows forth in rich streams of mercy to fallen man.**”

1SM 396: “Reconciliation means that **every barrier between the soul and God is removed**, and that the sinner realizes what the pardoning love of God means.”

III. How does the salvation process begin?

John 1:9 “[That] was the true Light [Jesus Christ], which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.”

Jeremiah 31:3 “The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, [saying], Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.”

John 3:8 “The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.”

Romans 2:4 “Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?”

John 12:32 “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all [men] unto me.”

SC 27: “It is true that men sometimes become ashamed of their sinful ways, and give up some of their evil habits, before they are conscious that they are being drawn to Christ. But whenever they make an effort to reform, from a sincere desire to do right, it is the power of Christ that is drawing them. An influence of which they are unconscious works upon the soul, and the conscience is quickened, and the outward life is amended. And as Christ draws them to look upon His cross, to behold Him whom their sins have pierced, the commandment comes home to the conscience. The wickedness of their life, the deep-seated sin of the soul, is revealed to them. They begin to comprehend something of the righteousness of Christ, and exclaim, "What is sin, that it should require such a sacrifice for the

redemption of its victim? Was all this love, all this suffering, all this humiliation, demanded, that we might not perish, but have everlasting life?"

The sinner may resist this love, may refuse to be drawn to Christ; but **if he does not resist he will be drawn** to Jesus; a knowledge of the plan of salvation will lead him to the foot of the cross in repentance for his sins, which have caused the sufferings of God's dear Son."

RH 11/13/00: "**All are drawn. Not one is left without conviction.** Christ gives everyone evidence. But not all accept the evidence. Many show plainly that it is not evidence they want, but an excuse for disregarding a plain "Thus saith the Lord." Instead of fearing and trembling before God, rejoicing that they have the privilege of listening to warnings and reproof, some inwardly wish that light had never come to them, to bring them to the test of decision.

1SM 390,391: "The sinner is represented as a lost sheep, and a lost sheep never returns to the fold unless he is sought after and brought back to the fold by the shepherd. No man of himself can repent, and make himself worthy of the blessing of justification. The Lord Jesus is constantly seeking to impress the sinner's mind and attract him to behold Himself, the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world. **We cannot take a step** toward spiritual life save as Jesus draws and strengthens the soul, and leads us to experience that repentance which needeth not to be repented of."

1SM 392: "It is God that circumcises the heart. **The whole work is the Lord's from the beginning to the end.**"

IV. What takes place at conversion/the new birth experience?

John 3:6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

Ezekiel 36:25-27 "Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, **will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you:** and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and **cause you** to walk in my statutes, **and ye shall keep my judgments, and do [them].**"

2 Corinthians 5:16,17 "Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we [him] no more. Therefore if any man [be] in Christ, [he is] a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

AA 520 "When truth becomes an abiding principle in the life, the soul is "born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." This new birth is the result of receiving Christ as the Word of God. When by the Holy Spirit divine truths are impressed upon the heart, new conceptions are awakened, and the energies hitherto dormant are aroused to co-operate with God."

Evangelism 288,289: "Though we cannot see the Spirit of God, we know that men who have been dead in trespasses and sins, become convicted and converted under its operations. The thoughtless and wayward become serious. The hardened repent of their sins, and the faithless believe. The gambler, the

drunkard, the licentious, become steady, sober, and pure. The rebellious and obstinate become meek and Christlike. When we see these changes in the character, we may be assured that the converting power of God has transformed the entire man. We saw not the Holy Spirit, but we saw the evidence of its work on the changed character of those who were hardened and obdurate sinners. As the wind moves in its force upon the lofty trees and brings them down, so the Holy Spirit can work upon human hearts, and no finite man can circumscribe the work of God.

The Spirit of God is manifested in different ways upon different men. One under the movings of this power will tremble before the Word of God. His convictions will be so deep that a hurricane and tumult of feeling seem to rage in his heart, and his whole being is prostrate under the convicting power of the truth. When the Lord speaks forgiveness to the repenting soul, he is full of ardor, full of love to God, full of earnestness and energy, and the life-giving spirit which he has received cannot be repressed. Christ is in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. His feelings of love are as deep and ardent as was his distress and agony. His soul is like the fountain of the great deep, broken up, and he pours forth his thanksgiving and praise, his gratitude and joy, until the heavenly harps are tuned to notes of rejoicing. He has a story to tell, but not in any precise, common, methodical way. He is a soul ransomed through the merits of Jesus Christ, and his whole being is thrilled with the realization of the salvation of God.

Others are brought to Christ in a more gentle way. "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit." You cannot see the operating agency, but you can see its effects."

SC 26,27: "**The Bible does not teach that the sinner must repent before he can heed the invitation of Christ, "Come unto Me,** all ye that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28. It is the virtue that goes forth from Christ, that leads to genuine repentance. Peter made the matter clear in his statement to the Israelites when he said, "Him hath God exalted with His right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins." Acts 5:31. We can no more repent without the Spirit of Christ to awaken the conscience than we can be pardoned without Christ."

Christ is the source of every right impulse. He is the only one that can implant in the heart enmity against sin. Every desire for truth and purity, every conviction of our own sinfulness, is an evidence that His Spirit is moving upon our hearts.

Jesus has said, "I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me." John 12:32. Christ must be revealed to the sinner as the Saviour dying for the sins of the world; and as we behold the Lamb of God upon the cross of Calvary, the mystery of redemption begins to unfold to our minds and the goodness of God leads us to repentance. In dying for sinners, Christ manifested a love that is incomprehensible; and as the sinner beholds this love, it softens the heart, impresses the mind, and inspires contrition in the soul."

V. What agencies are employed by God to bring about the new birth in man?

1 Peter 1:23 "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."

Romans 10: 14,15 "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that

preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”

Isaiah 30:21 “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.”

Psalms 107:17-20 “Fools because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, are afflicted. Their soul abhorreth all manner of meat; and they draw near unto the gates of death. Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, [and] he saveth them out of their distresses. **He sent his word**, and healed them, and delivered [them] from their destructions.”

2 Corinthians 3:18 “But we all, with open face **beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord**, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, [even] as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

Psalms 19:1-4(f. p.) To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. **The heavens declare** the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. [There is] no speech nor language, [where] their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and **their words to the end of the world**.

RH 12/20/92: “This is a deep mysterious truth, that Christ is **bound to humanity by the most sensitive sympathies**. The evil works, the evil thoughts, the evil words of every son and daughter of Adam **press upon his divine soul**.”

ST 1/28/03: “**Daily He suffers** the agonies of the crucifixion. Daily men and women are piercing Him by dishonoring Him, by refusing to do His will.”

1SM 343: “Christ as high priest within the veil so **immortalized Calvary** that though He liveth unto God, **He dies continually to sin**, and thus if any man sin, he has an advocate with the Father.”

OHC 11: “Infinite Love has cast up a pathway upon which the ransomed of the Lord may pass from earth to Heaven. That path is the Son of God. Angel guides are sent to direct our erring feet. **Heaven's glorious ladder is let down in every man's path, barring his way** to vice and folly. He **must trample upon** a crucified Redeemer **ere he can pass onward** to a life of sin. Our Heavenly Father's voice is calling us, Come up hither.”

7BC 948: “The blood of Jesus is pleading with power and efficacy for **those who are back-slidden, for those who are rebellious, for those who sin against great light and love**. Satan stands at our right hand to accuse us, and our Advocate stands at God's right hand to plead for us.”

13MR 370: “He bore the sin of the world to the bitter end. And yet men continue to sin, and Christ continues to **feel the consequences of their sin as if he Himself were the guilty one**.”

VI. What is man's part in this process?

Psalms 37:3-7 “Trust in the LORD, and do good; [so] shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit

thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring [it] to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday. Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.”

Proverbs 3:5,6 “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

Romans 10:8-13 “But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, [even] in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

John 6:53-57 “Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.”

2 Corinthians 3:18 “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, [even] as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

Philippians 2:12,13 “Wherefore, my beloved ...**work out** your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which **worketh in** you both to will and to do of [his] good pleasure.”

Colossians 2:6,7 “As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, [so] walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.”

John 15:3-11 “Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. **Abide in me, and I in you.** As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye [are] the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast [them] into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and [that] your joy might be full.”

ST 5/30/95: “It is **only through faith in Christ that sinners may have the righteousness of Christ imputed unto them**, and that they may be "made the righteousness of God in him." Our sins were **laid on Christ, punished in Christ, put away by Christ**, in order that his righteousness might be

imputed to us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

YI 8/20/03: “When the four Hebrew youth were receiving an education for the king's court in Babylon, they did not feel that the blessing of the Lord was a substitute for the taxing effort required of them. They were diligent in study; for they discerned that through the grace of God their destiny depended upon their own will and action. They were to bring all their ability to the work; and **by close, severe taxation of their powers, they were to make the most of their opportunities for study and labor.**

While these youth were working out their own salvation, God was working in them to will and to do of His good pleasure. Here are revealed the conditions of success. To make God's grace our own, we must act our part. **The Lord does not propose to perform for us either the willing or the doing. His grace is given to work in us to will and to do, but never as a substitute for our effort.** Our souls are to be aroused to cooperate. The Holy Spirit works in us, that we may work out our own salvation. This is the practical lesson the Holy Spirit is striving to teach us.”

2SM 20: “Now genuine faith always works by love. **When you look to Calvary it is not to quiet your soul in the nonperformance of duty, not to compose yourself to sleep, but to create faith in Jesus, faith that will work, purifying the soul from the slime of selfishness.** When we lay hold of Christ by faith, **our work has just begun. Every man has corrupt and sinful habits that must be overcome by vigorous warfare.** Every soul is required to fight the fight of faith. If one is a follower of Christ, he cannot be sharp in deal, he cannot be hardhearted, devoid of sympathy. He cannot be coarse in his speech. He cannot be full of pomposity and self-esteem. He cannot be overbearing, nor can he use harsh words, and censure and condemn.

The labor of love springs from the work of faith. Bible religion means constant work. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God that worketh in you, both to will and to do of His good pleasure. We are to be zealous of good works, be careful to maintain good works. And the true Witness says: "I know thy works" (Revelation 2:2).

While it is true that our busy activities will not in themselves ensure salvation, it is also true that faith which unites us to Christ will stir the soul to activity.”

1SM 380,381: “To be an overcomer means more than many suppose it means. The Spirit of God will answer the cry of every penitent heart; for repentance is the gift of God, and an evidence that Christ is drawing the soul to Himself. We can no more repent of sin without Christ, than we can be pardoned without Christ, and yet it is a humiliation to man with his human passion and pride to go to Jesus straightway, believing and trusting Him for everything which he needs. . . .

Let no man present the idea that man has little or nothing to do in the great work of overcoming; for **God does nothing for man without his cooperation.** Neither say that after you have done all you can on your part, Jesus will help you. Christ has said, "Without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5). **From first to last man is to be a laborer together with God. Unless the Holy Spirit works upon the human heart, at every step we shall stumble and fall.** Man's efforts alone are nothing but worthlessness; but cooperation with Christ means a victory. **Of ourselves we have no power to repent of sin.** Unless we accept divine aid we cannot take the first step toward the Saviour. He says, "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end" (Revelation 21:6) in the salvation of every soul.

But though Christ is everything, we are to inspire every man to unwearied diligence. **We are to strive, wrestle, agonize, watch, pray,** lest we shall be overcome by the wily foe. For the power and grace with which we can do this comes from God, and all the while we are to trust in Him, who is able

to save to the uttermost all who come unto God by Him. Never leave the impression on the mind that there is little or nothing to do on the part of man; but rather teach man to cooperate with God, that he may be successful in overcoming.

Let no one say that your works have nothing to do with your rank and position before God. In the judgment the sentence pronounced is according to what has been done or to what has been left undone (Matthew 25:34-40).

Effort and labor are required on the part of the receiver of God's grace; for it is the fruit that makes manifest what is the character of the tree. Although the good works of man are of no more value without faith in Jesus than was the offering of Cain, yet covered with the merit of Christ, they testify [to] the worthiness of the doer to inherit eternal life. That which is considered morality in the world does not reach the divine standard and has no more merit before Heaven than had the offering of Cain.”

AA 560, 561: “**Sanctification is not the work** of a moment, an hour, a day, but of a **lifetime**. It is not gained by a happy flight of feeling, but is **the result of constantly dying to sin, and constantly living for Christ**. Wrongs cannot be righted nor reformations wrought in the character by feeble, intermittent efforts. It is **only by long, persevering effort, sore discipline, and stern conflict, that we shall overcome**. We know not one day how strong will be our conflict the next. **So long as Satan reigns, we shall have self to subdue, besetting sins to overcome; so long as life shall last, there will be no stopping place, no point which we can reach and say, I have fully attained. Sanctification is the result of lifelong obedience.**”