

Seven Threatened Teachings

PART ONE OF TWO

The Full Divinity of Christ

His eternal, total divine nature is able to link us to God and empower us to obey the divine law.

THE DIVINITY OF CHRIST

THE BIBLE

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.**”—*John 1:1.*

“Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be **equal with God.**”—*Philippians 2:6.*

“**Christ . . . who is over all, God** blessed for ever. Amen.”—*Romans 9:5.*

“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of **the great God and our Saviour** Jesus Christ.”—*Titus 2:13.*

“And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know Him that is true, and we are in Him that is true, even in His son **Jesus Christ. This is the true God,** and eternal life.”—*1 John 5:20.*

“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder. And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, **The mighty God,** The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”—*Isaiah 9:6.*

“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifest in the flesh,** justified in the Spirit.”—*1 Timothy 3:16.*

THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

“Jesus declared, ‘I am the resurrection and the life.’ **In Christ is life, original, unborrowed, underived.** ‘He that hath the Son hath life’ (1 Jn 5:12). **The divinity of Christ is the believer’s assurance of eternal life.**”—*Desire of Ages, 530.*

“‘In Him [Jesus] was life; and the life was the light of men.’ It is not physical life that is here specified, but **[immortality], the life which is exclusively the property of God.** The Word, who was with God, and who was God, had this life. Physical life is something which each individual receives. It is not eternal or immortal; for God, the life-giver takes it again . . . **But the life of Christ was unborrowed. No one can take this life from Him.** ‘I lay it down of Myself,’ He said. **In Him was life, original, unborrowed, underived.** This life is not inherent in man. He can possess it only through Christ.”—*5 Bible Commentary, 1130*

THE ETERNITY OF CHRIST

THE BIBLE

“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto Me that is to be ruler in Israel; **whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.**”—*Micah 5:2.*

“**In the beginning was the Word,** and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **The same was in the beginning with God.**”—*John 1:1-2.*

And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, **The everlasting Father,** The Prince of Peace.”—*Isaiah 9:6.*

“Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless [Greek: indissoluble] life.”—*Hebrews 7:16.*

THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

“Christ is the pre-existent, self-existent Son of God . . . **In speaking of His pre-existence . . . Christ carries the mind back** through dateless ages. **He assures us that** there never was a time when He was not in close fellowship with the eternal God. **He to whose voice the Jews were then listening had been with God as one brought up with Him.**”—*Evangelism, 615 (Signs, August 29, 1900).*

“The Word existed as a divine being, even as the eternal Son of God, in union and oneness with His Father. **From everlasting He was the Mediator of the covenant** . . . Before men or angels were created, the Word was with God, and was God . . . **Christ was God essentially, and in the highest sense. He was with God from all eternity,** God over all, blessed forevermore. The Lord Jesus Christ, the divine Son of God, existed from eternity, **a distinct Person,** yet one with the Father.”—*5 Review and Herald, 227 (1 Selected Messages, 247).*

“The world was made by Him, ‘and without Him was not any thing made that was made’ (Jn 1:3). **If Christ made all things, He existed before all things.** The words spoken in regard to this are so decisive that no one need be left in doubt. **Christ was God essentially, and in the highest sense.** He was with God from all eternity, God over all, blessed forevermore.”—*1 Selected Messages, 247.*

Over a hundred outstanding Bible-Spirit of Prophecy statements will be found in our book, *The Truth about the Godhead (48 pp., 8½ x11, \$3.50 + \$1.50).*

The Full Humanity of Christ

His total, sinless humanity was able to obey God's law and, reaching down to us, give us an example of obedience.

THE BIBLE

"For verily He took not on Him the nature of angels; but **He took on Him the seed of Abraham.**"—*Hebrews 2:16.*

"Wherefore 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, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people."—*Hebrews 2:17.*

"And **if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed**, and heirs according to the promise."—*Galatians 3:29.*

"Concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made **of the seed of David according to the flesh**; and declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead."—*Romans 1:3-4.*

"I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am **the root and the offspring of David**, and the bright and morning star."—*Revelation 22:16.*

"And there shall come forth a rod **out of the stem of Jesse**, and a **Branch shall grow out of his roots.**"—*Isaiah 11:1.*

"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, **made of a woman, made under the law.**"—*Galatians 4:4.*

"For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son **in the likeness of sinful flesh**, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh."—*Romans 8:3.*

"Forasmuch then as the children are **partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same**; that through death He might destroy Him that had the power of death, that is, the devil."—*Hebrews 2:14.*

"For we have not an high Priest which cannot be touched with the feelings of our infirmities, but **was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.**"—*Hebrews 4:15.*

"And every spirit that confesseth not that **Jesus Christ is come in the flesh** is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world."—*1 John 4:3.*

THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

When asked to prove the correct view of the nature of Christ from the Spirit of Prophecy, all you need do is open a Desire of Ages to 49 and 117. It is all there. Memorize those two numbers. You might add Desire of Ages, 71, 311-312, 363.

"The great work of redemption could be carried out only by the Redeemer **taking the place of fallen Adam** . . . He would take **man's fallen nature.**"—*Review, February 24, 1874.*

"Those who claim that it was not possible for

Christ to sin, cannot believe that He really took upon Himself human nature."—*Manuscript 16, 1890.*

"Though He had all the strength of passion of humanity, never did He yield to temptation to do one single act which was not pure and elevating and ennobling."—*In Heavenly Places, 155.*

"The soul must purpose the sinful act before passion can dominate over reason or iniquity triumph over conscience. Temptation, however strong, is never an excuse for sin."—*5 Testimonies, 177.*

"We need not retain one sinful propensity."—*7 Bible Commentary, 943.*

"Christ did not make-believe take human nature; He did verily take it. He did in reality possess human nature. 'As the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same.' He was the Son of Mary; **He was of the seed of David according to human descent.**"—*5 Bible Commentary, 1130.*

"Think of Christ's humiliation. **He took upon Himself fallen, suffering human nature, degraded and defiled by sin.** He took our sorrows, bearing our grief and shame. **He endured all the temptations where-with man is beset.** He united humanity with divinity: a divine spirit dwelt in a temple of flesh."—*4 Bible Commentary, 1147.*

"Christ rendered obedience to God, and **overcame as humanity must overcome.** We are led to make wrong conclusions because of erroneous views of the nature of our Lord. **To attribute to His nature a power that it is not possible for man to have in his conflicts with Satan, is to destroy the obedience that is required of man.**

"Man cannot overcome Satan's temptations except as divine power works through humanity. The Lord Jesus came to our world, **not to reveal what God in His own divine person could do, but what He could do through humanity.** Through faith man is to be a partaker of the divine nature, and to overcome every temptation where with he is beset . . .

"We are not to serve God as if we were not human, but we are to serve Him as those who have been redeemed by the Son of God. Through the righteousness of Christ we shall stand before God pardoned, as if we had never sinned."—*Signs, April 10, 1893.*

"The Lord Jesus came to our world, **not to reveal what a God could do, but what a man could do**, through faith in God's power to help in every emergency."—*3 Selected Messages, 140.*

The Full Divinity of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Godhead; He has existed forever, and is equal in divinity to the other two Persons of the Godhead.

THE BIBLE

First, He has the attributes of divinity: He is Omniscient (1 Cor 2:10-12; 1 Cor 2:10; Rom 11:33). **He is Omnipotent** (Job 33:4; Genesis 1:2). **He is Omnipresent** (Psalm 139:7-10; Jn 14:17). **He is Eternal** (Hebrews 9:14). **He is Holy** (Matt 12:32). **He is Love** (Gal 5:22). **He is Truth** (Jn 14:17; 15:26).

Second, He does the works of divinity: The Creation (Gen 1:2; Ps 104:30; Job 26:13). **The Birth of Christ** (Matt 1:20). **The Inspiration of God's Word** (2 Peter 1:21). **The New Birth** (Titus 3:5; Jn 3:6). **Intercession** (Rom 8:26). **Ministry** (John 14:16).

THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

"The Lord Jesus acts through the Holy Spirit; for it is His representative."—*Messages to Young People*, 55.

"We need to realize that the Holy Spirit, who is as much a person as God is a person, is walking through these grounds."—*Manuscript 66*, 1899 (*Evangelism*, 616).

"The Holy Spirit is a person, for He beareth wit-

ness with our spirits that we are the children of God. When this witness is borne, it carries with it its own evidence. At such times we believe and are sure that we are children of God . . .

"The Holy Spirit has a personality, else He could not bear witness to our spirits and with our spirits that we are the children of God. He must also be a divine person, else He could not search out the secrets which lie hidden in the mind of God. 'For what man knoweth the things of God, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.'"**—***Manuscript 20*, 1906 (*Evangelism*, 616-617).

"Those who reject the Spirit of truth place themselves under the control of a spirit that is opposed to the Word and work of God. For a time they may continue to teach some phases of the truth, but their refusal to accept all the light God sends will after a time place them where they will do the work of a false watchman . . . There will always be those who are seeking for something new and who stretch and strain the Word of God to make it support their ideas and theories."—*Sermons and Talks*, Vol. 1, 385, 387 (*Manuscript 125*, September 4, 1907).

THE THREE PERSONS OF THE GODHEAD

"The Godhead was stirred with pity for the race, and the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit gave Themselves to the working out of the plan of redemption."—*Counsels on Health*, 222.

"The three powers of the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit, are pledged to be their strength and their efficiency in their new life in Christ Jesus."—*Australian Union Conference Record*, October 7, 1907.

"We are to co-operate with the three highest powers in heaven,—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost,—and these powers will work through us, making us workers together with God."—*Special Testimonies, Series B, No. 7*, 51 (*Evangelism*, 617).

"When we have accepted Christ, and in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit have pledged ourselves to serve God, the Father, Christ, and the Holy Spirit—the three dignitaries and powers of heaven pledge themselves that every facility shall be given to us if we carry out our baptismal vows to "come out from among them, and be . . . separate . . . and touch not the unclean thing."—*6 Bible Commentary*, 1075 (*Manuscript 85*, 1901).

"Our sanctification is the work of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit . . . Have you been born again? Have you become a new being in Christ Jesus? Then cooperate with the three great powers of heaven who are working in your behalf."—*7 Bible Commentary*, 908 (*Manuscript 11*, 1901).

"There are three living Persons of the heavenly trio; in

the name of these three great powers—The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—those who receive Christ by living faith are baptized, and these powers will co-operate with the obedient subjects of heaven in their efforts to live the new life in Christ."—*Special Testimonies, Series B, No. 7*, 63 (*Evangelism*, 615).

"The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost supply the power that makes him victorious in every conflict with the prince of darkness."—*6 Manuscript Releases*, 167 (*Letter 200*, December 15, 1902).

"They pledge themselves to devote their lives to God's service; and the three great powers in heaven, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, pledge Themselves to cooperate with them, to work in and through them."—*6 Manuscript Releases*, 166 (*Manuscript 118*, October 6, 1902).

"As a Christian submits to the solemn rite of baptism, the three highest powers in the universe,—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,—place Their approval on this act, pledging Themselves to exert Their power in his behalf as he strives to honor God."—*6 Manuscript Releases*, 26 (*Letter 53*, January 26, 1904; *4 Signs*, 399, August 16, 1905).

"Those who submit to the solemn rite of baptism pledge themselves to devote their lives to God's service; and the three great powers of heaven, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, pledge themselves to cooperate with them, to work in and through them."—*4 Signs*, 282 (*March 11*, 1903).

The Full Ministry of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Godhead, is working to draw us to God and save us. We should not deny His existence.

THE BIBLE

First, He exhibits five attributes of a person: He has intellect—"The Spirit searches all things" (1 Cor 2:10). **He has knowledge**—The Holy Spirit understands the mind of God (1 Cor 2:11). **He has a mind**—The Father knows the mind of the Spirit (Rom 8:27). **He has emotions**—"Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God" (Eph 4:30). The Holy Spirit is grieved when we lie (v. 25), are angry (v. 26), steal or are lazy (v. 28), or speak unkind words (v. 29). **He has a will** (Acts 16:6).

Second, He does ten things which a divine Person would do: He testifies—"He will bear witness of Me" (Jn 15:26). **He helps**—He is the "Comforter" (Jn 14:16). **He teaches**—He teaches us (Jn 14:26). **He guides**—He guides us in our search for truth (Jn 16:13). **He convicts and convicts**—He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (Jn 16:8). **He regenerates** (Eze 36:25-27; Titus 3:5). **He intercedes** (Rom 8:26, 34; Heb 7:25). **He commands** (Acts 13:2). **He sends out** (Acts 13:4). **He forbids and prohibits** (Acts 8:29).

Third, certain things can be done toward Him, which could not be done if He did not have a personality; He can be obeyed—In Acts 10, the Lord told Peter to go to the house of Cornelius. He obeyed the Holy Spirit and went. **He can be resisted**—Stephen told the Jews, about to stone him, that they were "stiff-necked . . . always resisting the Holy Spirit" (Acts 7:51). **He can be grieved**—The Holy Spirit is grieved when a person sins (Eph 4:30; cf. Isa 63:10). **He can be blasphemed** (Matt 12:32; Mk 3:29-30). **He can be lied to** (Acts 5:3).

Fourth, He is frequently referred to in the grammatical masculine (John 15:26, John 16:13-14).

THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

"Evil had been accumulating for centuries, and could only be restrained and resisted by the mighty power of **the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Godhead**, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. Another spirit must be met; for the essence of evil was working in all ways, and the submission of man to this satanic captivity was amazing."—*Testimonies to Ministers*, 392.

"**The Holy Spirit unites with the powers of grace that God has provided to turn souls to Christ.**"—*5 Review*, 341.

"**The prince of the power of evil can only be held in check by the power of God in the Third Person of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit.**"—*Special*

Testimonies, Series A, No. 10, 37 (Evangelism, 617).

"**By the Spirit which searches all things, even the deep things of God**, have been revealed precious truths which cannot be described by pen or voice."—*Sons and Daughters of God*, 34.

"The Holy Spirit was eagerly sought for in the schools of the prophets."—*12 Manuscript Releases, 147 (Manuscript 69, June 19, 1908).*

"The time [after Christ's ascension] had now come. **The Spirit had been waiting** for the crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension of Christ. For ten days the disciples offered their petitions for the outpouring of the Spirit, and Christ in heaven added His intercession."—*6 Bible Commentary, 1055.*

"Cumbered with humanity, Christ could not be in every place personally; therefore it was altogether for their advantage that He should leave them, **go to His Father, and send the Holy Spirit to be His successor on earth. The Holy Spirit is Himself divested of the personality of humanity and independent thereof. He [Christ] would represent Himself as present in all places by His Holy Spirit, as the Omnipresent.**"—*14 Manuscript Releases, 23 (Manuscript 5a, 1895; Desire of Ages, 669-670 is similar).*

"**He [Christ] would intercede for them, and would send them His own representative, the Holy Spirit**, who would attend them in their work. **This representative would not appear in human form**, but by faith would be seen and recognized by all who should believe in Christ."—*3 Review, 511 (October 26, 1896).*

"Christ, as Mediator, is the great Minister in the work of redemption. **The Holy Spirit is His representative in our world, to execute the divine purpose of bringing to fallen man power from above**, that he may be an overcomer."—*7 Bible Commentary, 922.*

"The Saviour promised that His presence would be always with them. **Through the Holy Spirit He would be even nearer to them than when He walked visibly among men.**"—*Ministry of Healing, 104.*

"Jesus had assured them that **He would send the Comforter, as an equivalent for His visible presence.**"—*3 Spirit of Prophecy, 256.*

"**Why should we not expect the Holy Watcher to come into our schools?**"—*Counsels to Teachers, 370. [The Holy Spirit as a Person walking in our schools: 8T 62, the whole page; CT 68; 417-418.]*

Seven Threatened Teachings

PART TWO OF TWO

The Full Inspiration of God's Word

The Written Word of God—the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy—is fully inspired. We who know about the Spirit of Prophecy have a responsibility to study it, obey it, and defend it. It is equal in inspiration, accuracy, and authority with the Bible.

“If you lose confidence in the Testimonies you will drift away from Bible truth. I have been fearful that many would take a questioning, doubting position, and in my distress for your souls I would warn you. How many will heed the warning? As you now hold the *Testimonies*, should one be given crossing your track, correcting your errors, would you feel at perfect liberty to accept or reject any part or the whole? **That which you will be least inclined to receive is the very part most needed.**”—5 *Testimonies*, 98.

“It is Satan’s plan to weaken the faith of God’s people in the Testimonies. Satan knows how to make his attacks . . . **The gifts are next questioned;** then, of course, they have but little weight, and instruction given through vision is disregarded.”—5 *Testimonies*, 672.

“Next follows skepticism in regard to the vital points of our faith, the pillars of our position, **then doubt** as to the Holy Scriptures, and **then the downward march to perdition.** When the *Testimonies*, which were once believed, are doubted and given up, Satan knows the deceived ones will not stop at this; and he redoubles his efforts till he launches them into open rebellion, which becomes incurable and ends in destruction.”—4 *Testimonies*, 211.

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

“God sets no man to pronounce judgment on

His Word, selecting some things as inspired and discrediting others as uninspired. The testimonies have been treated in the same way; but God is not in this.”—1 *Selected Messages*, 23.

“There are some in ___ who have never fully submitted to reproof. They have taken a course of their own choosing. **They have ever, to a greater or less degree, exerted an influence against those who have stood up to defend the right and reprove the wrong.** The influence of these persons upon individuals who come here and who are brought in contact with them . . . is very bad. **They fill the minds of these newcomers with questionings and doubts in regard to the Testimonies of the Spirit of God.** They put false constructions upon the *Testimonies*.”—4 *Testimonies*, 513-514.

“Some express their views that the testimony of Sister White cannot be reliable. This is all that many unconsecrated ones want. The testimonies of reproof have checked their vanity and pride; but if they dared, they would go to almost any length in fashion and pride. **God will give all such an opportunity to prove themselves and to develop their true characters.**”—5 *Testimonies*, 673.

“I saw that the reason why visions had not been more frequent of late is, they have not been appreciated by the church. **The church have nearly lost their spirituality and faith, and the reproofs and warnings have had but little effect upon them. Many of those who have professed faith in them have not heeded them.**”—1 *Testimonies*, 119.

“I have been shown that **unbelief in the testimonies of warning, encouragement, and reproof is shutting away the light from God’s people.** Unbelief is closing their eyes so that they are ignorant of their true condition.”—5 *Testimonies*, 674.

“If you really believe that the voice of God has spoken to you, pointing out your dangers, do you heed the counsels given? Do you keep these testimonies of warning fresh in your minds by reading them often with prayerful hearts? . . . **You will be held accountable for every one of these appeals and warnings.**”—3 *Testimonies*, 362-363.

“There will be a hatred kindled against the testimonies which is satanic. **The workings of Satan will be to unsettle the faith of the churches in them, for this reason:** Satan cannot have so clear a track to bring in his deceptions and bind up souls in his delusions if the warnings and reproofs and counsels of the Spirit of God are heeded.”—1 *Selected Messages*, 48

“Satan is . . . constantly pressing in the spurious—

to lead away from the truth. **The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God.** ‘Where there is no vision, the people perish’ (Prov 29:18). Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, **to unsettle the confidence of God’s remnant people in the true testimony.**”—1 *Selected Messages*, 48 [see 2 SM 78 for context].

The Full Acceptance of God's Word

For Bible tests of the Spirit of Prophecy, see our book, *Prophet of the End*, pp. 32-45, as well as the entire book.

“In ancient times God spoke to men by the mouth of prophets and apostles. In these days He speaks to them by the testimonies of His Spirit. **There was never a time when God instructed His people more earnestly than He instructs them now concerning His will and the course that He would have them pursue.**”—4 *Testimonies*, 147-148.

“**The plain, straight testimony must live in the church, or the curse of God will rest upon His people as surely as it did upon ancient Israel because of their sins.**”—3 *Testimonies*, 269.

“**Never was there greater need of faithful warnings and reproofs . . . than at this very time.** Satan has come down with great power, knowing that his time is short. **He is flooding the world with pleasing fables, and the people of God love to have smooth things spoken to them . . .** I was shown that God's people must make more firm, determined efforts to press back the incoming darkness. The close work of the Spirit of God is needed now as never before.”—3 *Testimonies*, 327-328.

“My brethren, beware of the evil heart of unbelief. **The Word of God is plain and close in its restrictions; it interferes with your selfish indulgence; therefore you do not obey it.** The *Testimonies* of His Spirit call your attention to the Scriptures, point out your defects of character, and rebuke your sins; therefore you do not heed them. **And to justify your carnal, ease-loving course you begin to doubt whether the Testimonies are from God. If you would obey their teachings you would be assured of their divine origin.** Remember, your unbelief does not affect their truthfulness. If they are from God they will stand.”—5 *Testimonies*, 234.

“**There are some in these last days who will cry: ‘Speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits.’ But this is not my work.** God has set me as a re-prover of His people; and just so surely as He has laid

upon me the heavy burden, He will make those to whom this message is given responsible for the manner in which they treat it. **God will not be trifled with, and those who despise His work will receive according to their deeds.**”—4 *Testimonies*, 231-232.

“If God has given me a message to bear to His people, **those who would hinder me in the work and lessen the faith of the people in its truth are not fighting against the instrument, but against God.**”—5 *Testimonies*, 680.

“**It is not the instrument whom you slight and insult, but God, who has spoken to you in these warnings and reproofs.** It is hardly possible for men to offer a greater insult to God than to despise and reject the instrumentalities that He has appointed to lead them.”—5 *Testimonies*, 680.

“One stood by my side and said: **‘God has raised you up and has given you words to speak to the people and to reach hearts as He has given to no other one.** He has shaped your testimonies to meet cases that are in need of help. You must be unmoved by scorn, derision, reproach, and censure. In order to be God's special instrument . . . **It is Satan's special object to prevent this light from coming to the people of God, who so greatly need it amid the perils of these last days.**”—2 *Testimonies*, 607-608.

“**The volumes of Spirit of Prophecy should be in every family, and should be read aloud in the family circle . . .** The *Testimonies* contain instruction which meets the case of all, both parents and children.”—*Sons and Daughters of God*, 178.

“Parents, your children are in danger of going contrary to the light given of heaven, and **you should both purchase and read the books, for they will be a blessing to you and yours.** You should lend *Spirit of Prophecy* to your neighbors and prevail upon them to buy copies for themselves . . . **Many are going directly contrary to the light which God has given to His people, because they do not read the books** which contain the light and knowledge in cautions, reproofs, and warnings.”—4 *Testimonies*, 391.

“**We are not to receive** the words of those who come with a message that contradicts the special points of our faith.”—*Counsels to Writers and Editors*, 32.

“The track of truth lies close beside the track of error, and both tracks may seem to be one to minds which are not worked by the Holy Spirit.”—1 *SM* 202.

“**God is either teaching His church, reproofing their wrongs and strengthening their faith, or He is not. This work is of God, or it is not. God does nothing in partnership with Satan. My work . . . bears the stamp of God or the stamp of the enemy. There is no halfway work in the matter.**”—5 *Testimonies*, 671.

Dozens of vital Spirit of Prophecy statements on this subject will be found in our book, *Do not Reject the Spirit of Prophecy* (32 pp., 5½ x 8½, \$2.00 + \$1.50).

The Authority of God and His Word

God's people cannot find success in their personal lives or in their service for God, until they are fully yielded to His authority and the authority of His Inspired Writings.

THE BIBLE

"For He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes."—*Matthew 7:29*.

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All authority hath been given unto Me in heaven and on earth."—*Matthew 28:18*.

THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

"The Lord God of heaven ruleth. He alone is above all authority, over all kings and rulers."—*Temperance, 53*.

"In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, I beseech the people of God to depend upon the Lord for strength. Beware how you place men where God should be. **We are not safe in taking men as our authority or our guide**, for they will surely disappoint us. Individually, we are to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling, 'for it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.' We have a high calling in Christ Jesus; we are carrying forward a vast and holy work, and God calls upon each one to uplift His standard in the sight of this world and of the universe of heaven, by the power of the Lord Jehovah, in whom is 'everlasting strength.'"—*Testimonies to Ministers, 386*.

"The Word of our God shall stand forever.' 'All His commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness.' Isaiah 40:8; Psalm 111:7-8. **Whatever is built upon the authority of man will be overthrown; but that which is founded upon the rock of God's immutable Word shall stand forever.**"—*Great Controversy, 288*.

"The opinions and customs of men are not to be received as of divine authority. God has revealed in His Word what is the whole duty of man, and we are not to be swayed from the great standard of righteousness . . . We must not be influenced from the truth as it is in Jesus, because great and professedly good men urge their ideas above the plain statements of the Word of God."—*Fundamentals of Education, 128*.

"But when the world makes void the law of God, what will be the effect upon the truly obedient and righteous? Will they be carried away by the strong current of evil? Because so many rank themselves under the banner of the prince of darkness, will God's command-keeping people swerve from their allegiance? Never! **Not one who is abiding in Christ will fail or fall. His followers will bow in obedience to a higher authority** than that of any earthly potentate. While the

contempt placed upon God's commandments leads many to suppress the truth and show less reverence for it, the faithful ones will with greater earnestness hold aloft its distinguishing truths. We are not left to our own direction. **In all our ways we should acknowledge God, and He will direct our paths. We should consult His Word with humble hearts, ask His counsel, and give up our will to His.** We can do nothing without God."—*2 Selected Messages, 368-369*.

The responsibility for this great gift rests with those whom God has blessed with a knowledge of His word. **We are to receive this Word as supreme authority . . . We must obey God rather than men. God's Word must be recognized as above all human legislation.** A 'Thus saith the Lord' is not to be set aside for a 'Thus saith the church' or a 'Thus saith the state.' The crown of Christ is to be lifted above the diadems of earthly potentates."—*Acts of the Apostles, 69*.

"The principle we are to uphold at this time is the same that was maintained by the adherents of the gospel in the great Reformation. When the princes assembled at the Diet of Spires in 1529, it seemed that the hope of the world was about to be crushed out. To this assembly was presented the emperor's decree restricting religious liberty and prohibiting all further dissemination of the reformed doctrines. Would the princes of Germany accept the decree? Should the light of the gospel be shut out from the multitudes that were still in darkness? Mighty issues for the world were at stake. Those who had accepted the reformed faith met together, and the unanimous decision was: 'Let us reject the decree. **In matters of conscience the majority has no power.**'

"The banner of truth and religious liberty which these Reformers held aloft has in this last conflict been committed to us. **The responsibility for this great gift rests with those whom God has blessed with a knowledge of His Word. We are to receive God's Word as supreme authority. We must accept its truths for ourselves.** And we can appreciate these truths only as we search them out by personal study. Then, as we make God's Word the guide of our lives, for us is answered the prayer of Christ . . . The acknowledgment of the truth in word and deed is our confession of faith. Only thus can others know that we believe the Bible.

"Those Reformers whose protest has given us the name Protestant felt that God had called them to give the gospel to the world, and in doing this they were ready to sacrifice their possessions, their liberty, and their lives. **Are we in this last conflict of the great controversy as faithful to our trust as were the early Reformers to theirs?**"—*6 Testimonies, 402-403*.

What is New Light?

We are told in the Spirit of Prophecy to search for new light. But a careful examination of the passages reveals several important facts:

1 - The “new light” will be clearly found in God’s Word; it will not be found in the opinions and theories of men. Test: *If the “new light” is not directly given in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, reject it!*

2 - The “new light” will be clearly stated in the Bible, and especially the Spirit of Prophecy (which states inspired truth in far greater detail). Test: *If the “new light” is not plainly stated in the Bible, and especially the Spirit of Prophecy, reject it!*

3 - The “new light” is not about novel new things and startling theories; it is generally about how to deepen your personal Christian experience with God. Test: *If the “new light” does not make you a better person in daily life, it is not important!*

4 - The “new light” will not contradict the light already given. Test: *If the “new light” does away with any truths already given in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy, reject it!*

New light will not contradict light earlier given us in God’s Word—“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.”—*1 Selected Messages, 161.*

Thank the Lord for the light we have in God’s Word—“Upon us is shining the accumulated light of past ages. The record of Israel’s forgetfulness has been preserved for our enlightenment. In this age God has set His hand to gather unto Himself a people from every nation, kindred, and tongue. In the advent movement He has wrought for His heritage, even as He wrought for the Israelites in leading them from Egypt.”—*8 Testimonies, 115.*

Abundant light in the Spirit of Prophecy—“Abundant light has been given to our people in these last days. Whether or not my life is spared, my writings will constantly speak, and their work will go forward as long as time shall last. My writings are kept on file in the office, and even though I should not live, these words that have been given to me by the Lord will still have life and will speak to the people.”—*1 Selected Messages, 55.*

Cling to God’s Word—“The time has come when we cannot depend upon the doctrine which comes to

our ears, unless we see that it harmonizes with the Word of God. There are dangerous heresies that will be presented as Bible doctrines; and we are to become acquainted with the Bible so that we may know how to meet them.”—*Evangelism, 590-591.*

Looking to men instead of to God’s Word—“When Satan has undermined faith in the Bible, he directs men to other sources for light and power. Thus he insinuates himself. Those who turn from the plain teaching of Scripture and the convicting power of God’s Holy Spirit, are inviting the control of demons.”—*Evangelism, 592.*

Beware of false teachers—“All should become familiar with God’s Word; because Satan perverts and misquotes Scripture, and men follow his example by presenting part of God’s Word to those whom they wish to lead in false paths, withholding the part which would spoil their plans. All have the privilege of becoming acquainted with a plain ‘Thus saith the Lord.’ There are false shepherds who will say and do perverse things. Children should be so instructed that they will be familiar with God’s Word, and be able to know when part of a Scripture is read and part left unread in order to make a false impression.”—*Manuscript 153, 1899; Evangelism, 591.*

Be careful about what is termed “new light”—“We are to pray for divine enlightenment, but at the same time we should be careful how we receive everything termed new light. We must beware lest, under cover of searching for new truth, Satan shall divert our minds from Christ and the special truths for this time. I have been shown that it is the device of the enemy to lead minds to dwell upon some obscure or unimportant point, something that is not fully revealed or is not essential to our salvation. This is made the absorbing theme, the ‘present truth,’ when all their investigations and suppositions only serve to make matters more obscure than before, and to confuse the minds of some who ought to be seeking for oneness through sanctification of the truth.”—*Letter 7, 1891; 1 Selected Messages, 159.*

When we venture on forbidden ground—“God is displeased with us when we go to listen to error, without being obliged to go; for unless He sends us to those meetings where error is forced home to the people by the power of the will, He will not keep us. The angels cease their watchful care over us.”—*Early Writings, 125 [read 124-125].*