

Practicing the Presence of God

WHEN ADAM CAME FORTH from the Creator's hand, he bore, in his physical, mental, and spiritual nature, a likeness to his Maker. . . Face-to-face, heart-to-heart communion with his Maker was his high privilege. Had he remained loyal to God, all this would have been his forever. Throughout eternal ages he would have continued to gain new treasures of knowledge, to discover fresh springs of happiness, and to obtain clearer and yet clearer conceptions of the wisdom, the power, and the love of God. More and more fully would he have fulfilled the object of his creation, more and more fully have reflected the Creator's glory. {*Education* pg. 15}

Man, created for the fellowship with God, can only in such fellowship find his real life and development. Created to find in God his highest joy, he can find nothing else that which can quiet the cravings of the heart, can satisfy the hunger and thirst of the soul. He who with sincere and teachable spirit studies God's word, seeking to comprehend its truths, will be brought in touch with its Author; and, except by his own choice, there is no limit to the possibilities of his development. {*Education* pg. 124}

Sin, that cost Adam beautiful Eden, exists everywhere in our world. Evil triumphs wherever God is not known or his character contemplated. We could not commit sin if we realized the presence of God, and thought upon His goodness, His love, and His compassion. {*Signs of the Times* 08-24-91}

Cain the murderer was soon called to answer for his crime. "The Lord said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not:

Am I my brother's keeper?" Cain had gone so far in sin that he had lost a sense of the continual presence of God and of His greatness and omniscience. So he resorted to falsehood to conceal his guilt. {*Patriarchs and Prophets* pg. 77}

The presence of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the three highest powers in the universe and those in whose name the believer is baptized, is pledged to be with every striving soul. It will impart grace and strength to all who will watch unto prayer, to all who will purify the soul by obedience to the truth. And it will make the believer instrumental in leading other souls to accept Christ by faith. {*Pacific Union Recorder* 07-02-08}

Enoch walked with God three hundred years previous to his translation, and the state of the world was not more favorable for the perfection of Christian character than it is today. How did Enoch walk with God? He educated his mind and heart to ever feel the presence of God, and when in perplexity his prayers would ascend to God to keep him, to teach him his will. "What shall I do to honor thee, my God?" was his prayer. His will was merged in the will of God, and his feet were constantly directed in the path of God's commandments. {*Signs of the Times* 12-29-87}

You remember Moses went into the wilderness and stayed forty years, during which time he put away self, and that made room so that he could have the presence of God with him. {*E.G. White 1888 Materials* pg. 83}

He knew God as a personal God and as he meditated upon His character, he grasped more and more of the sense of His presence.

He found refuge in the everlasting arms. God talked with Moses face to face, as a man speaketh with his friend. The bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness shone into his heart and into the chambers of his mind. God was his refuge; God was his dwelling place, his home. {Manuscript Releases Vol. 143 pg. 15}

Christ has provided means whereby our whole life may be an unbroken communion with Himself; but the sense of Christ abiding presence can come only through living faith. . . {In Heavenly Places pg. 56}

In the plan of restoring in men the divine image, it was provided that the Holy Spirit should move upon human minds, and be as the presence of Christ, a molding agency upon human character. {Advent Review and Sabbath Herald 02-12-95}

If we are indeed followers of Christ, we must reach a higher standard. Heaven looks with pleasure upon him who worships God in spirit and truth and in the beauty of holiness. All Heaven is employed in seeking to save that which is lost. But there are many who do not know that they are lost. They are far from spirituality; they have lost the presence of God; lost the true ideal of character and they

copy the human instead of the divine. {Ibid. 03-19-95}

It is a miserable delusion to have a name, and yet be without a connection with God, without spiritual life, without Christ, without a sense of God's presence in the soul. "Thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead." (Testimonies for the Church Containing Messages of Warning and Instruction pg. 29) It is not enough that we must admit Christ into our hearts; he must abide there. We must encourage his presence by a life of prayer. {Signs of the Times 02-10-1887}

Those who think of the result of hastening or hindering the gospel think of it in relation to themselves and to the world. Few think of its relation to God. Few give thought to the suffering that sin has caused our Creator. All heaven suffered in Christ's agony; but that suffering did not begin or end with His manifestation in humanity. The cross is a revelation to our dull senses of the pain that from its very inception sin has brought to the heart of God. Every departure from the right, every deed of cruelty, every failure of humanity to reach His ideal brings grief to Him. {Education, 263} ■

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