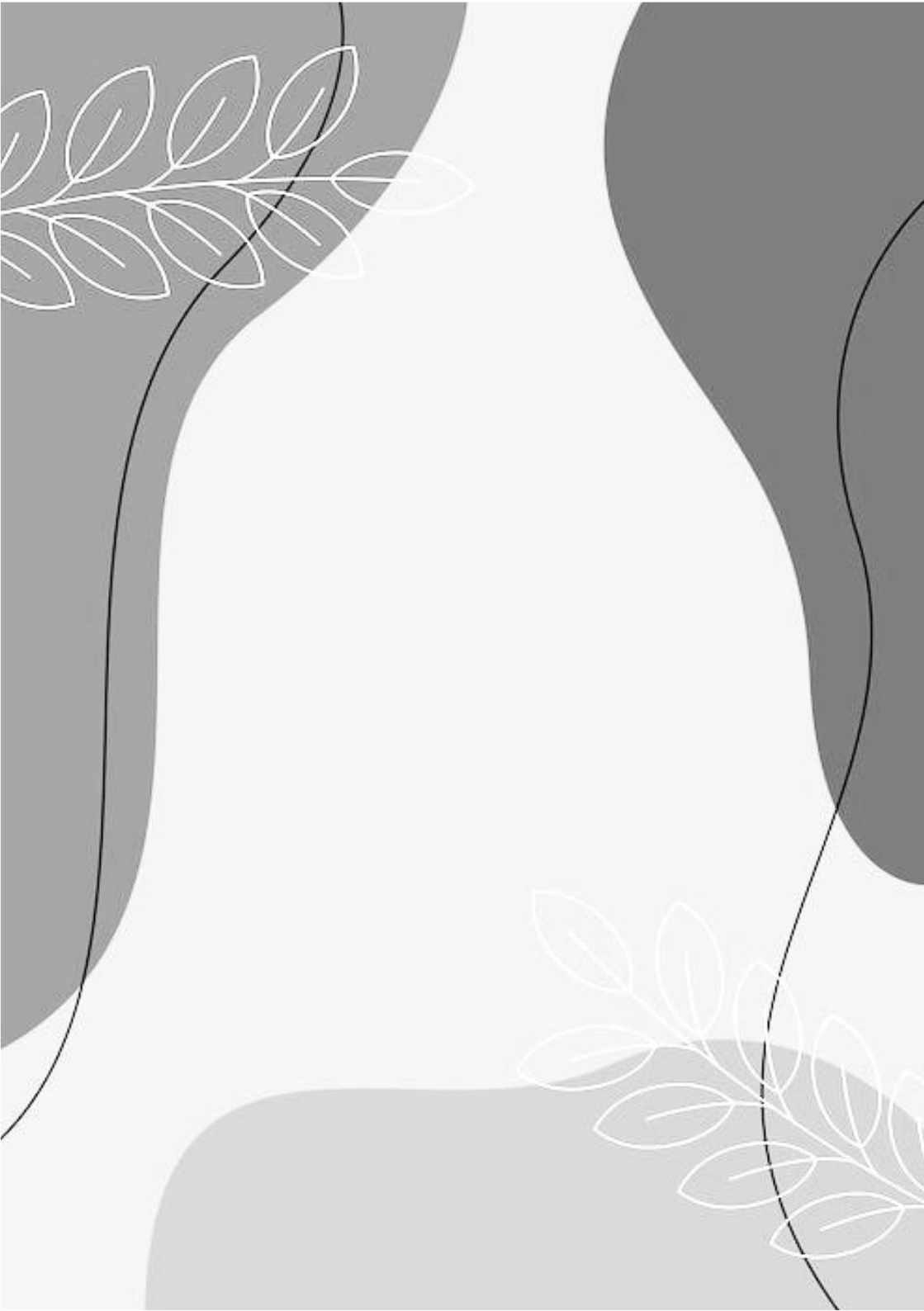

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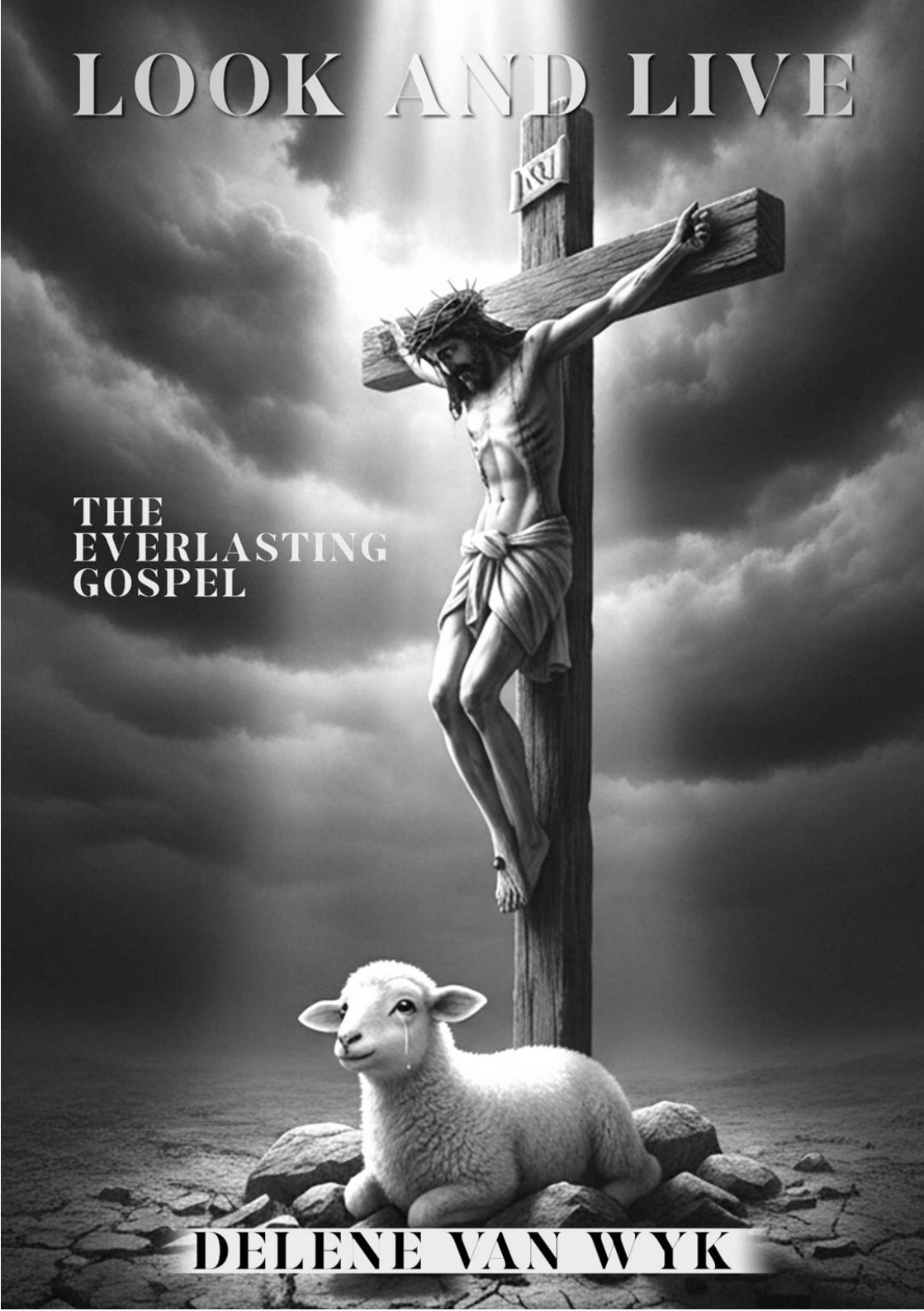

THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL

DELENE VAN WYK

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All Scripture passages are from the Old King James version.

To:_____

Message:_____

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Author's Signature:_____

Look and Live

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LOOK AND LIVE

By Delene Van Wyk

God's solution to our sin problem.

DELENE VAN WYK

"BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD, WHICH TAKETH AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD."
"He who beholds the Saviour's matchless love will be elevated in thought, purified in heart, transformed in character. He will go forth to be a light to the world, to reflect in some degree this mysterious love. The more we contemplate the cross of Christ, the more fully shall we adopt the language of the apostle when he said, "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." (Galations 6:14),DA 661.3).

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INTRODUCTION

Dear beloved friends, the desire of my heart is to shed light upon the wonderful plan of salvation, as portrayed in the Word of God.

In a nutshell, at Calvary Jesus died and took our sins upon Him. He paid for our sins - our transgression of God's Law, but God provided a solution to our sin - problem as well, to enable us to keep His Law.

The first step in our Christian journey is to "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." We need to behold His love on Calvary. We need to see Jesus dying for our sins. This love will soften a sinner's heart and lead to true repentance.

Jesus said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me" (John 12:32). The beauty of His character draws us. It is not so much the outward attraction, but the beauty of His character that draws the heart. It is not possible to come into the radiance of His love, and not be drawn.

When we behold Jesus' character of love, we will be changed into the same image (2 Corinthians 3:18 KJV). We need to reflect the lovely image of Jesus. Scripture tells us that God is love (1 John 4:8). The foundation of God's Law is love (John 15:12, John 14:15).

"Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law (Romans 13:10 KJV). Love and law are intertwined. Love always leads to obedience. The only way that we can have this love restored into our hearts, to enable us to keep God's Law, is to behold God's character of love through the sacrifice of Jesus.

The solution to any defective attribute is found in Jesus. Why not look and live! This beautiful message of salvation is a part of the third angel's message: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" (Revelation 14:10 KJV).

Dear friends, the coming of Jesus is at hand, - we need to get ready! Signs of the times everywhere are indicating that the end is near! The time of trouble is upon us! Soon money will be phased out, we will see a digital system to prepare the way for the mark of the beast system - the issue of no buying and no selling, as the book of Revelation warns us. Soon, very soon, the door of mercy will be closed.

Judgment for the living will begin. The message of Salvation - Justification by faith / Righteousness by faith or the "The Faith of Jesus", are essentially one and the same message, and it is a part of the third angel's message. It is to prepare a people to stand faithful during the mark of the crisis, and especially the Judgment (Revelation 14: 7, 9).

We will be judged according to the Law of God (Revelation 20:12, James 2:12).

"And as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law; for not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified" (Romans 2:12-13).

"The only way in which men will be able to stand firm in the conflict is to be rooted and grounded in Christ (Jesus). They must receive the truth as it is in Jesus. And it is only as the truth is presented thus that it can meet the wants of the soul. The preaching of Christ crucified, Christ our righteousness, is what satisfies the soul's hunger" (LDE 151.1).

The solution to fixing our sin-sick souls, is to get to know God. Inspiration tells us: "When we know God, as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience" (DA 668).

My mission is to get to know God. The second part of the quotation tells us, "Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to us" (DA 668). Inspiration is telling us that sin will become hateful to us through communion (prayer), and through an appreciation of the character of Christ.

How can we practically gain this experience?

By spending time, reading the four Gospels (Mathew, Mark, John and Luke) and The Desire of Ages, spesifically the life of Jesus. Appreciation of the character of Christ will grow in my heart, as I continually observe Calvary. Love awakens within my heart, when I see what He's done for me.

The more I look at Calvary, the more it's weaning my affections away from sin. It causes me to see, what my sin is doing to the one who loves me the most. This ultimately creates in my heart, a profound hatred towards sin.

Chapter One

CONTEMPLATE THE MATCHLESS LOVE OF JESUS

Dear beloved friends, we need to behold Jesus, and as we behold Him, we become changed into the same image, our characters will be like His (2 Corinthians 3:18 KJV). "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29 KJV).

This is only the first part of the plan of salvation. As you behold the Lamb of God, His beautiful self-sacrificing life, your heart will soften, and it will lead you to see your sin, and lead to repentance and confession. Thereafter, it will lead you to submit to God's way, and only then God can renew your heart (Ezekiel 36:26, Romans 10:3 KJV).

"The blessing comes when by faith the soul surrenders itself to God. Then that power which no human eye can see, creates a new being in the image of God"(DA 173.1).

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you (James 4:7)."

Words that are synonymous to submission are surrender, commit or to yield. In other words, it is to do everything not our way, but God's way.

Every moment of the day you need to decide whose side you're on, Jesus or Satan's side. You cannot choose to be on Jesus' side, if you do not know Him. It is important to study His character as revealed in the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Another beautiful book is The Desire of Ages, by E.G. White. Especially, study the last scenes of His life, from Gethsemane to the crucifixion. We need to study His life every day, for at least an hour, and meditate about His love for us.

Jesus' character, especially His life as revealed to us, is an example on how to overcome selfishness (1 Peter 2:21-24).

In fact, all sins have their origin in selfishness, for example: irritation, anger, lies, murder, fornication and stealing et cetera. Sin, whether acted upon or not, even if only in thought, is still considered to be sin, for example anger, irritation and lust. Although many sins are in the heart (mind), God treats these sins as if we acted upon it.

Jesus did not only die to set an example for us; He took our sins upon Him. He received His Father's wrath - a

sense of separation from His Father's love, because of our sins. The cause of Jesus' death was not because of the crucifixion; He died of a broken heart. "It was the sense of sin, bringing the Father's wrath upon Him as man's substitute, that made the cup He drank so bitter, and broke the heart of the Son of God" (DA 753.2). In Gethsemane He felt the wrath of His Father. So great was His agony that He "sweat great drops of blood in the garden" (SpTAO2a 30.2).

John calls upon men to behold the marvellous love of God, he exclaims, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God" (1 John 3:1KJV).

As we contemplate the matchless love of Jesus for us, it will lead us to submit to Him. Many are enquiring, "How am I to make the surrender of myself to God?" "You desire to give yourself to Him, but you are weak in moral power, in slavery to doubt, and controlled by the habits of your life of sin."

"What you need to understand is the true force of the will (SC 47.1)."

What is the will? It is the power to decide, or the choices that we make every day.

"This is the governing power in the nature of man, the power of decision or choice" (SC 47.1). "It is the deciding power which works in the children of men unto obedience to God, or unto disobedience..." (BC 294. 2).

"We must bring our will into submission to the will of God (AH 213.3).

"Many will be lost while hoping and desiring to be Christians. They do not come to a point of yielding the will to God (SC 47.2)."

"Choose you this day whom ye will serve... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15). We must "choose ", whether it be God's way or Satan's way.

"By yielding up your will to Christ, you ally yourself with the power that is above all principalities and powers" (SC 48.1).

Chapter Two

LET GOD BE ON THE THRONE

SUBMIT YOUR WILL TO GOD

God wants to heal us. He wants to set us free. To do this, He must change us (transform us) entirely so that we have new desires and habits. However, He cannot do this until we surrender ourselves to Him. The problem is we want to be in charge, when God should be.

Let us make a practical example of how to submit our will to God.

When tempted with anger or selfishness, you will have to make a decision to choose God's way, and only upon making a decision in Gods favour, He can begin with transformation of the heart (mind). It is like giving God permission to change your heart. You cannot change yourself, your feelings, your emotions, but you can give

your will to God. You must believe that He can transform the heart.

We need to remember that wrong habits do not change instantaneously. God likened our spiritual life to a tree bearing fruit, and we know that a tree does not bear fruit immediately.

Remember, you must have the scenes of Calvary fresh in your memory every day.

Here is an example of a cripple man. It is an object lesson, and serves as an example of how we can receive strength, and how Jesus can heal us spiritually.

In the book, *The Desire of Ages*, based on John 5:5, Jesus said to the cripple man, "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. Without question he sets his will to obey the command of Christ, and all his muscles respond to his will. Springing to his feet, he finds himself an active man" (DA 202.3).

"The man might have stopped to doubt, and lost his one chance of healing, but he believed Christ's word, and in acting upon it he received strength" (DA 203.1).

The cripple man could do nothing for himself, but he decided to submit, and although he could not walk, he tried to walk. Likewise, spiritually, it is like giving God permission to work in your life. When you choose His ways, and as you act, He will give you the strength through the Holy Spirit.

"Through the same faith we may receive spiritual healing. Of ourselves we are no more capable of living a holy life, than was the impotent man capable of walking. Put your will on the side of Christ. Will to serve Him, and in acting upon His word, you will receive strength" (DA 203.2).

ALL TO JESUS I SURRENDER

All to Jesus I surrender, All to him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him, in his presence daily live;

CHORUS
I surrender all; I surrender all;
All to Thee my blessed Saviour,
I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender, humbly at his feet I bow;
Worldly pleasures all forsaken take me Jesus, take me now;

All to Jesus I surrender, make me Saviour, wholly Thine;
Let me feel the Holy Spirit, truly know that Thou art mine;

All to Jesus I surrender, now I feel the sacred flame.
O the joy of full salvation! Glory, glory to his name!

Christ In Song pg 25

Chapter Three

THE FOUNDATION OF GOD'S GOVERNMENT IS LOVE

Dear beloved, sin can be defined as a lack of love in the heart of man. The solution to the sin-problem, lies within the restoration of love in our hearts, which Jesus came to restore. This is called the plan of salvation/redemption.

Allow me to explain.

"God is love." His nature, His law, is love. It ever has been; and it ever will be. Every manifestation of creative power is an expression of infinite love" (EP 9.1).

"Christ came to magnify the law and make it honourable. He showed that it is based upon the broad foundation of love to God and love to man, and that obedience to its precepts comprises the whole duty of man." (AA 505.1).

The foundation of God's law is love. Jesus said, "If you love Me keep my commandments" (John 14:15). In other words, true love for God will always lead to obedience. God is love, but His love will not excuse sin. Neither Lucifer, nor Adam was excused. "The love of God will never lead to the belittling of sin; it will never cover or excuse an unconfessed wrong" (SD 214. 3).

"Love is the fulfilling of God's Law" (Romans 13:10).

"This is My commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you" (John 15:12). Although God is love, we must remember that His love is not weakness, He is a God of justice. There are many examples of God's justice in the Bible.

The Bible tells us that "sin is the transgression of God's Law" (1 John 3:4). God is saying that you will, as a consequence of your love for Him, keep His commandments. In other words, no love equals no commandments. Love and law are intertwined. The plan of redemption is to restore this love. Jesus came to restore this love in man. The solution was a revelation of Jesus' character of love, so that by beholding Him, we may be changed into the same image (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Only when this love is restored within our hearts, through God's grace, will we be able to keep the commandments of God. What is the purpose of redemption? "To restore in man the image of his Maker, to bring him back to the perfection in which he was

created… this was to be the work of redemption…" (Ed 15.2).

"The more we contemplate the cross of Christ, the more fully shall we adopt the language of the apostle when he said, 'God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." (Galatians 6:14), (DA 661.3).

In the beginning, man - Adam and Eve, had the character of God. "When sin was introduced, this character was marred, and was replaced by selfishness." "In heaven itself this law was broken. Sin originated in self-seeking" (DA 21.3). In other words, selfishness took over. There are essentially only two character-traits that anyone can embrace, and they are love or selfishness. These two stand in opposition, the one to the other. Love is the opposite of selfishness. All sins can be classed as selfishness.

God's love testified of His giving nature. He lives to give. It can be seen in the fact that He gave Himself. The love of God can be seen universally, even in nature. "No bird that cleaves the air, no animal that moves upon the ground, but ministers to some other life." "There is no leaf of the forest, or lowly blade of grass, but has its ministry" (DA 20.2).

Sin originated with Lucifer in heaven. The character of Lucifer (Satan) stands in direct opposition to the character of God. Lucifer's kingdom is primarily

concerned with selfishness, pride and self-worship, which is the opposite of God's kingdom of love.

"But the law that none liveth to himself" (Romans 14:7), Satan was determined to oppose. He desired to live for self. He sought to make himself a centre of influence. It was this that had incited rebellion in heaven, and it was man's acceptance of this principle that brought sin on earth" (CT 33. 1).

Chapter Four

LOOK AND LIVE

Dear friends, it is only the blood of Jesus that can cleanse us from sin (1John 1:7). Yet, how do we practically apply the blood?

Jesus told Nicodemus that he needed to be "born again" (John 3:7). To be born again, means a transformation of character, a new heart or regeneration (made new), implies that we eventually have to be without sin (Titus 3:5-7). Many times, in the Bible, Jesus uses symbols and object lessons to explain His teachings, as we will see in this lesson as well.

Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born again, and Jesus told him how to accomplish the new birth. Jesus used an incident that took place in the Old Testament, and used it as an example of how to accomplish the new birth. Jesus said to Nicodemus, "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of

man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:14,15).

We need to understand the significance of the lifting up of the serpent! Let us look at the incident that happened in the wilderness to have a better understanding of what Jesus was trying to teach Nicodemus.

The children of Israel were bitten by snakes, and merely had to look in faith to the uplifted brass serpent that was made by Moses, to enable physical healing to take place (Numbers 21:9).

They only had to look, but some doubted and did not look, and they died! To be cured physically, the children of Israel had to look to the "uplifted serpent," and we need to look to the uplifted Saviour on Calvary to be healed spiritually! We are spiritually sick, and we need to look to the uplifted Saviour to be healed!

"Those who had been bitten by the serpents might have delayed to look. They might have questioned how there could be efficacy in that brazen symbol. They might have demanded a scientific explanation. But no explanation was given. They must accept the word of God to them through Moses. To refuse to look was to perish" (DA 175.1).

How, then, are we to be saved? “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,” so the Son of man has been lifted up, and everyone who has been deceived and

bitten by the serpent may look and live. “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29) (DA 175.5).

"The light shining from the cross reveals the love of God. His love is drawing us to Himself. If we do not resist this drawing, we shall be led to the foot of the cross in repentance for the sins that have crucified the Saviour. Then the Spirit of God through faith produces a new life in the soul..."(DA 175.5).

And Jesus said: “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me" (John 12:32). In the above verse, Jesus is speaking about His death (crucifixion). It is by beholding the love of Jesus that we become changed into the same image. Just as the children of Israel had to look to be healed, we have to do the same. By looking, sin loses its hold. There is life in a look! By looking casually, we will accomplish nothing. I will be cutting off my life sources if I take my glance off the persecuted Son of God!

"By beholding the matchless love of Christ, the selfish heart will be melted and subdued" (COL 394.4). The word behold means to look. This is the remedy for our sin-sick souls; it is by looking to Jesus uplifted on Calvary!

Friends, looking to Jesus must lead to the submission/surrendering of our will to God, this is how the blood is applied practically. This is how the new birth, or to be born again, is accomplished.

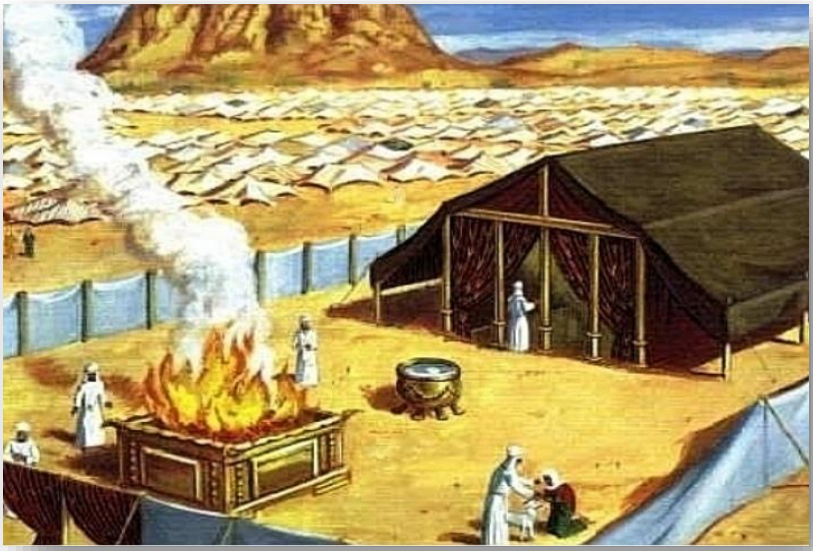
"The blessing comes when by faith the soul surrenders itself to God. Then that power which no human eye can see, creates a new being in the image of God." (DA 173.1). This is the new birth experience.

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3: 3). Jesus explained to him how this can be accomplished, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life."

Behold the suffering Saviour, and if we do not resist His drawing, it will lead to all the other steps in the plan of salvation. How long can we afford not to look? Not a single day!

Chapter Five

THE LAMB OF GOD IN THE SANCTUARY SERVICES



Upon entering the courtyard, during the sanctuary services, the first piece of furniture in the courtyard that comes into view, or that was seen, was the altar of burnt offering /altar of sacrifice where the lamb was killed (Exodus 40:29). In the courtyard, on the altar of sacrifice, the lamb that was dying, was pointing to Jesus that would die for our sins. In the New Testament, John points to Jesus, and said, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John1:29 KJV). During the sanctuary services, the first step in the process of salvation/redemption was to see the innocent lamb dying for their sins.

The offering of the lamb on the altar represents Jesus dying for our sins. God wants the sinner to see His great love, and this will soften the sinner's heart and lead to true repentance. Jesus said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." (John 12:32).

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:14,15).

"Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).

We need to behold Jesus, and as we behold Him, we become changed into the same image, our characters will be like His (2 Corinthians 3:18 KJV). However, that is only the first part of the plan of salvation. As you behold

the Lamb of God, His beautiful self-sacrificing life, your heart will be softened, and it will lead you to see your sin, and lead to true repentance. Then, it will lead you to submit to God's way, and only then God can cleanse your heart.

"The light shining from the cross reveals God's love. His love is drawing us to Himself. If we do not resist this drawing, we shall be led to the foot of the cross in repentance for the sins that have crucified the Saviour. Then the Spirit of God through faith, produces a new life in the soul. The thoughts and desires are brought into obedience to the will of Christ" (DA 175.5).

"He who beholds the Saviour's matchless love will be elevated in thought, purified in heart, transformed in character. He will go forth to be a light to the world, to reflect in some degree this mysterious love. The more we contemplate the cross of Christ, the more fully shall we adopt the language of the apostle when he said, "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." (DA 661.3).

"It would be well for us to spend a thoughtful hour each day in contemplation of the life of Christ. We should take it point by point, and let the imagination grasp each scene, especially the closing ones. As we thus dwell upon His great sacrifice for us, our confidence in Him will be more constant, our love will be quickened, and we shall be more deeply imbued with His spirit. If

we would be saved at last, we must learn the lesson of penitence and humiliation at the foot of the cross" (DA 83.4).

Chapter Six

THERE IS "POWER IN THE BLOOD" OF THE LAMB

Did you know that Calvary gives us glimpses of ourselves that we cannot get at any other place. It is only at Calvary that we really realize how sinful we are. Without Calvary we can never see the selfishness and pride in our hearts. It is only as we view Calvary and see such unselfishness that our pride stands rebuked in His presence!

When I contemplate the scenes of Calvary, I see how far I am from where Christ wants me to be! And many times, I mourn over my failures and mistakes. I mourn over the "mercies slighted, the grace neglected!"

I look at my life, and say, "Lord have mercy!" There is no way that we can look at Calvary, with no conviction of our true condition!

"Praise to God and the Lamb will be in our hearts and on our lips; for pride and self-worship cannot flourish in the soul that keeps fresh in memory the scenes of Calvary"(DA 661.2). Would you be free from the burden of sin? There is power in the blood of the Lamb. Come for a cleansing to Calvary's tide.

The children of Israel had to look upon the brazen serpent to be healed physically; we need to look at Christ to be healed from sin. It is an object lesson for us. We must look at the uplifted Saviour, and as we behold Him, we will be changed into the same image. This is the Everlasting Gospel of the first angel's message (Revelation 14:6). Paul said, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation..." (Romans 1:16).

"Hanging upon the cross, Christ was the Gospel, now we have a message," Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sins of the world" (6BC111.31). Beholding Jesus, is the first step in the plan of salvation, but without this step, there will be no other steps. Let us go to Calvary for a cleansing!

Imagine a knocking on your door at midnight. Upon opening the door, you are faced with heavily armed men, their weapons pointing at you. Jesus was taken in the middle of the night by a mob, accompanied by soldiers and the Jewish leaders, armed with dangerous weapons! Jesus was taken to the court and judge

during the night, when there were no witnesses to prove His innocence!

In the morning Jesus was scourged (John 19:1). Scourging was a horrible torture, only slaves and criminals were scourged. When someone was scourged, they whipped the person's back.

"Crucifixion was a cruel death, a torturous death. First came the terrible scourging with leather thongs, to which were fastened sharp pellets of lead and iron as well as, sometimes knucklebones" (historical and medical facts). The scourging consisted of thirty-nine lashes or strokes with the whip. Jesus was scourged twice!

The soldiers then plaited a crown of thorns and put it on His head. They also dressed Him in a purple robe, and mocked Him (John 19:2).

During that time, while He was abused and falsely accused, Peter, one of His closest disciples denied Him, Judas betrayed Him for thirty pierces of silver. When they took Jesus to Gethsemane, they took Him to the high priest, then to Caiaphas, then to Pilate, then to Herod, then again to Pilate!

While He was being mocked, He was exhausted and in pain, blood flowed from His head and back, but the expression of love on His face could not be hidden from His cruel enemies (DA 735.4). John was amazed at

the love of Jesus. He exclaimed, "Behold what manner of love the Father had bestowed upon us" (1John 3 :1).

"There stood the Son of God, wearing the robe of mockery and the crown of thorns. Stripped to the waist, His back showed the long, cruel stripes, from which the blood flowed freely. His face was stained with blood, and bore the marks of exhaustion and pain; but never had it appeared more beautiful than now.

The Saviour's visage was not marred before His enemies. Every feature expressed gentleness and resignation, and the tenderest pity for His cruel foes" (DA 735.4). This quotation is one of my all-time favourites.

Peter said, "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps" (1 Peter 2:21). Let us study and meditate upon Jesus' example of love for us, His uncomplaining patience, longsuffering and forbearance, love that is not easily provoked (1 Corinthians 13:4-7). We need to manifest this love for one another.

"By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35).

"Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law" (Romans 13:10). Allow the scenes of Calvary to play over and over in your mind. Which lessons can we learn from this ordeal?

Sometimes even in little things, in our daily lives we have no patience, forbearance and longsuffering towards each other. Sometimes I complain in my mind, because I struggle to get my work done, and this leads to irritability. Then I realize that I do not have the sufferings of Jesus fresh in my memory.

"He who beholds the Saviour's matchless love will be elevated in thought, purified in heart, transformed in character. He will go forth to be a light to the world, to reflect in some degree this mysterious love. The more we contemplate the cross of Christ, the more fully shall we adopt the language of the apostle when he said, "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." (Galatians 6:14), (DA 661.3).

POWER IN THE BLOOD

1 Would you be free from the burden of sin?
There's pow'r in the blood, pow'r in the blood;
Would you o'er evil a victory win?
There's wonderful power in the blood.

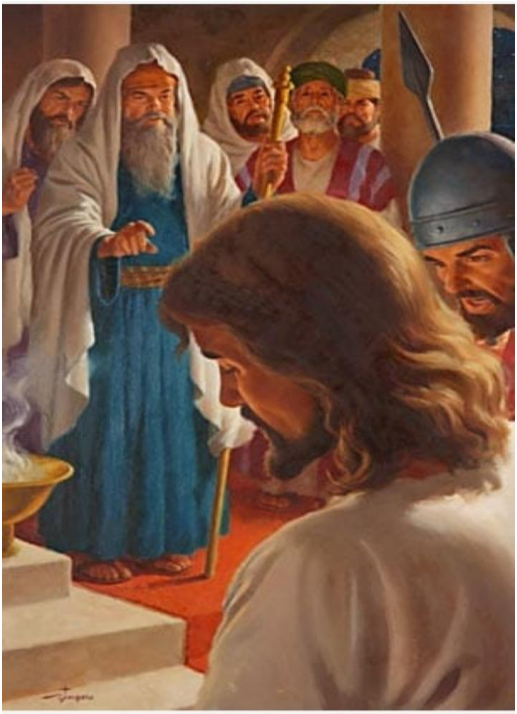
CHORUS:
There is pow'r, pow'r, wonder working pow'r
In the blood of the Lamb;
There is pow'r, pow'r, wonder working pow'r
In the precious blood of the Lamb.

2 Would be free from your passion and pride?
There's pow'r in the blood, pow'r in the blood;
Come for a cleansing to Calvary's tide?
There's wonderful power in the blood.

3 Would you do service for Jesus your King?
There's pow'r in the blood, pow'r in the blood;
Would you live daily His praises to sing?
There's wonderful ***power in the blood.***
SDAH 294

Chapter Seven

BEHOLD THE SUFFERING SAVIOUR



After Jesus was scourged the second time, they hurried with Jesus to Calvary to crucify Him (Mathew 27.26). It was the custom of the time to turn criminals over to the soldiers to torment, mock and humiliate them. Let us look at His beautiful character while He was mocked and humiliated.

"As their cruelty degraded His torturers below humanity into the likeness of Satan, so did His meekness and patience exalt Jesus above humanity and prove His kinship to God" (DA 734. 4). This chapter is based on Mathew 27:31-53, Mark 14:20-38, Luke 23:26-46, John 19:16-30 and The Desire of Ages, chapter 78.

"As Jesus passed the gate of Pilate's court, the cross which had been prepared for Barabbas, was laid upon His bruised and bleeding shoulders" (DA 741.4). "But when after the second scourging the cross was laid upon Him, human nature could bear no more. He fell fainting beneath the burden" (DA 741.4).

We need to realize that the cross was not like the smooth wood that we have in our homes! It was not varnished and made smooth for the person who would be nailed to it! You may well know, that if your back is bruised, and there is a soft couch in your house, that you will obviously put yourself gently there, and you know that even if it is a soft couch and you throw yourself down, that you will hurt yourself. Jesus fell to the ground, bearing the rugged cross on His bruised back!

We are not talking about a soft couch being placed upon Him, it was a rough rugged cross, made to bear the weight of a man! What was He wearing on His head? He wore a crown of thorns. When we fall, we instinctively protect our heads, but Jesus could not protect His head. When he fell, He did not fall down gently, His head hit the ground, and the thorns pierced even deeper into His skull, causing the blood to run down His face!

When He regained consciousness, and was picked up, Jesus could barely stand. They put the cross on Him a second time. Again, His humanity could not bear it; He fell, and again His head hit the ground, and the thorns pierced into His head, blood running down His face! This is the picture God wants us to see!

What an amazing sacrifice!

Not silver or gold have been paid for sin, but the blood of Jesus! Jesus said, "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:14-15).

As they looked in the wilderness and were healed, so there is life in a look. Sin loses its hold, but it is not a casual look. If I look casually, I am not going to have strength. Maybe for a moment, but if I take my glance off the persecuted Son of God, I am cutting off my life sources!

Now when Jesus revived, the cross was again placed upon His shoulders, and He was forced forward. He staggered on a few steps, bearing the heavy load, and fell as one lifeless to the ground. He was at first pronounced to be dead, but finally again revived. Behold the suffering Saviour! He came to save us by taking our sins upon Him, and to show us how to conduct ourselves on a daily basis when trials beset us.

As He was lying on the ground, the soldiers realized that there was no way that Jesus could bear the cross to Calvary! Somebody else had to be found to carry the cross. A Jew carrying the cross would have been unthought of.

Simon a Cyrenian, as he comes along, looks upon the scene that is taking place, and his heart went out in sympathy for Jesus. It is the first time that he sees Jesus, and as he looks in sympathy, the Roman soldiers saw him, and grabbed him, and they caused him by force to bear the cross to Calvary. And you know what? "The bearing of the cross to Calvary was a blessing to Simon, and he was ever after grateful for this providence. It led him to take upon himself the cross of Christ from choice, and ever cheerfully stand beneath its burden" (DA 742.3). The cross that Simon carried to Calvary was a heavy cross, it was to bear the weight of a man!

But I tell you, between Jesus and Simon, Jesus was carrying a much heavier load! Jesus was carrying the

sins of the world! He was carrying my sins; He was carrying your sins! To the suffering Saviour, we must look and live! Only that look can soften a sinner's heart, and lead to true repentance!

POEM - THE LAMB

The Sabbath was approaching
Passover was drawing nigh
A sacrifice must be made
A Lamb soon would die

The Lamb had been chosen
His blood soon would spill
He would hang on a cross
He would die on Calvary's Hill

The Lamb was beaten and spat upon
The Lamb they did mistreat
Nailed to a wooden cross
Spikes through His hands and feet

The crowd mocked and cursed Him
The Lamb hanged in despair
Only a few in the crowd
Even seemed to care

The precious Lamb gave His life
Salvation to provide
Blood and water freely flowed
As the soldier pierced His side

On the cross the Lamb suffered
A crown of thorns upon His head
There the Lamb hanged in shame

There His blood was shed

The Lamb's name was Jesus
God's only begotten Son
The world needed a sacrifice
Jesus was the One

It is finished, Jesus cried out in pain
The ground, His blood did stain
The sacrifice had now been made
The Lamb of God was slain

This poem was included in Reflections of the Heart Christian Poetry book four of the Heart and Soul Christian Poetry Collection by Esselle Davis.

Chapter Eight

ONE STEADFAST LOOK

> "Therefore Jesus also that He might sanctify (to make free from sin, holiness) the people with His own blood suffered without the gate" (Hebrew 13:12).

What sanctifies us? It's only the blood! It is the blood of Jesus that sanctifies us.

Dear friends, do you understand, that victory over sin is simply through the blood. If the Bible says it, I believe it. This is the root for victory over sin. It is the root for sanctification. "The blood of Jesus is able to cleanse you from all unrighteousness, and He can save to the uttermost all who come unto God by Him (ST 576).

Now you may ask how do I apply the blood? Why? Because I want victory over sin, I want sanctification, I want to be faithful when the crisis comes! The application of the blood is in looking - and the surrendering of our will to God. "One steadfast look to the Saviour uplifted upon the cross will do more to

purify the mind and heart from every defilement than will all the scientific explanations by the ablest tongue" (TSB 108.2).

"Commit (submit / surrender) thy way unto the Lord, trust also in Him, and he shall bring it to pass" (Psalms 37:5).

"For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God" (Romans 10:3).

We are told about the overcomers: "And he said to me, 'These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb'" (Revelation 7:14).

We must look and not turn away. We must contemplate (think) about the man of Calvary. This is the remedy for our sin - sick souls, it is by looking to Jesus uplifted on Calvary - beholding the suffering Saviour. How many days can we afford not to look? Not a single day.

"It would be well for us to spend a thoughtful hour each day in contemplation of the life of Christ. We should take it point by point, and let the imagination grasp each scene, especially the closing ones" (DA 83.4).

Those who were bitten by the serpent in the desert had to look in faith to be healed. We have to do likewise - we need to look to be healed from sin. We are told "one

steadfast look", for that moment it is one, but after that you must keep looking, keep looking.

This chapter is based on Mathew 26:36 - 56, Mark 14:32 -50, Luke 22:39-53, John 18:1-12, The Desire of Ages, chapter 74, 78.

We are told that as Jesus was walking to Calvary from Pilate's gate, every step that He took was stained with blood. The distance that Jesus walked from the time of His arrest in the garden of Gethsemane, through the city of Jerusalem to Calvary, added up to more or less five kilometers. Jesus did not sleep that night. One can imagen how exhausted He was!

"He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth, He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter; and as a sheep before His shearers is dumb, so He opened not His mouth" (Isaiah 53:7).

"All that night there had been scene after scene of a character to try the soul of man to the uttermost. Christ had not failed. He had spoken no word but that tended to glorify God" (DA 742.4). Just before they arrested Jesus in Gethsemane, He suffered much from stress even so that He sweated blood. Jesus was carrying the sins of the world!

"The sins of men weighed heavily upon Christ, and the sense of God's wrath against sin was crushing out His life (DA 687.2).

From a medical point of view, Jesus suffered from hemathidrosis. It is very rare and only happens to people who are under “tremendous stress and agony”. Blood flows from the body through the sweat glands. The capillaries from each sweat gland ruptures (bursts). Instead of sweat, blood is excreted from the sweat glands.

The Bible puts it this way, "and being in an agony, He prayed more earnestly, and His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground" (Luke 22:44). We must behold the suffering Saviour.

There is nothing else that can let us turn from sin, but the picture of the Man Christ Jesus! "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, Jesus said, even so must the son of man be lifted up." As they looked in the wilderness and was healed, so we must look.

As we look upon Jesus, and behold His "matchless" love for us, our faith in Him will grow, and we will face trials with greater calmness and trust. Remembering Jesus' struggles and sufferings will help us to handle our sufferings, whether it is gossip, mockery, or mental sufferings et cetera. Amid tribulation, we shall find peace and joy in His love and presence, knowing He will never abandon us.

Through His example of submission, we learn to submit to God's will. By meditating and contemplating about the sacrifices made for us, from Gethsemane to the cross, will instill in our hearts a hatred for sin, when we

see that it is our sins that caused His death. Why not write down some Bible verses and spirit of prophesy quotations about the life of Jesus, and while going about your day, meditate on it. Our hope of salvation lies in the Man Christ Jesus!

"The people are more ignorant in regard to the plan of salvation and need more instruction upon this all-important subject than upon any other" (4T 394.1).

WHAT CAN WASH AWAY MY SIN?

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me pure within?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

CHORUS
Oh, precious is the flow,
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my cleansing this I see;
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
For my pardon this my plea;
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Hot-ing can for sin atone;
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
Naught of good that I have done;
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace;
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
This is all my righteousness;
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Glory! Glory! thus I sing;
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;

All my praise for this I bring;
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Christ In Song 63

Chapter Nine

CALVARY

> "He was wounded for our transgression, He was bruised for our iniquities, and with His stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5).

Dear friends, as you look upon Jesus, as you see the picture of the spotless Son of God, uncomplainingly, yielding to abuse, it is like your heart is just attracted to Him. It is not so much the outward attraction, but the beauty of His character that draws the heart. For sin to lose its attraction, you have to take off the "make-up" of sin. You need to remove the "make-up".

I do not know if you heard the story of the man that got married, and after their marriage, he actually sued his wife. She was sued for misleading him by wearing lots of make-up. When the make-up was removed, she was a completely different person. She did not look anything like the woman he got married to.

He said, "This is not the women I married!" Because the make-up was off, and he saw who she truly was, he literally sued her. This in fact happened to more than one person.

What Jesus needs to do is to remove the "make up" of sin. This will expose sin for what it really is. And the greatest way to do it, is to show us a revelation of His character of love.

When Jesus finally got to Calvary, the hammer and the nails were brought, and the nails were driven through His tender flesh. Jesus did not murmur but groaned in agony" (EG 176.2). As soon as Jesus was nailed to the cross, it was lifted by "strong men and with great violence, thrust into the place prepared for it," which caused intense pain to Jesus. (DA 745.2).

As one can imagine, being crucified, hanging on a cross, does not leave one with many options; there are only two things you can do. Your weight either hangs upon your feet, or your weight hangs upon your hands, due to the fact that the weight of your entire body is suspended from nails driven through your hands and feet.

Basically, the only way to find relief for pain and discomfort is to exchange the weight of your body from your hands to your feet and vice versa. While Jesus was hanging on the cross, "the blood from His hands and feet fell drop by drop upon the rock drilled for the foot of the cross." (DA 760.2).

"The wounds made by the nails gaped/tore open, as the weight of His body dragged upon His hands. His labored breath grew quick and deep, as His soul panted under the burden of the sins of the world. All heaven was filled with wonder when the prayer of Christ was offered in the midst of His terrible suffering, — "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." (DA 760.2.) (Luke 23:34).

What a picture of Jesus! While He was suffering, agony beyond contemplation, He was praying for His persecutors!

Do you know what the last words of Jesus was, after He said, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani"? In other words, Jesus said, "My God, My God, why has Thou forsaken me?" (Mathew 27:46). The Father withdrew His presence at that critical hour on the cross. It pierced His heart with a sorrow that man can never comprehend, and then He cried out, "My God, My God why has Thou forsaken me".

Do you know that for a while Jesus ceased to feel any physical suffering. You may ask why that is? Jesus' mental sufferings far exceeded His physical sufferings, resulting in Him feeling almost no physical pain.

When the Father withdrew His presence from Jesus, while He was hanging on the cross, a greater pain came over Him, and for a time He did not feel the physical sufferings, and when He came back to His senses, He said, "**I thirst**" (John 19 :28).

Do you know that Jesus still thirsts today? He thirsts for your affection and wants you to recognize what He has done for you! "Our Redeemer thirsts for recognition. He hungers for the sympathy and love of those whom He has purchased with His own blood. He longs with inexpressible desire that they should come to Him and have life. As the mother watches for the smile of recognition from her little child, which tells of the dawning of intelligence, so does Christ watch for the expression of grateful love, which shows that spiritual life is begun in the soul"(DA 191.1).

Chapter Ten

THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

Dear friends, it is not enough to see Jesus suspended between heaven and earth, covered with blood. We must look; but we must do more than just look, we must surrender as well.

Paul said, "I die daily." We need to be converted on a daily basis, we need to die to self, every single day. Battles are fought every day, some are won, some are lost. We have to keep pressing on, until we are victorious!

Do you need power? I know I need power. If you need power, it can be found in Jesus. The Bible declares that all power in heaven and on earth is given unto Jesus. "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, 'All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth.'" (Matthew 28:18).

Let us see where this power is centered. “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 1:18). All power is centered at the cross. Jesus has this power! Not some power, all power! If we look to the uplifted Saviour, do you think we will be healed from the venom of sin? Yes, we will.

As mentioned before, it is not enough to just look. There were a group of people that looked. They saw the blood dripping from Him. They never mocked Him, they never scourged Him, they never cried crucify Him; on the contrary, they looked, and wept in sympathy for Jesus. Yet, all those people were destroyed in the destruction of Jerusalem. It is possible to look and not be saved. You may ask, who looked and wept in sympathy for Jesus, but were destroyed at the destruction of Jerusalem. This was the group referred to by Jesus as the "Daughters of Jerusalem."

"And there followed Him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented Him. But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for Me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children." (Luke 23:27-28).

Jesus did not despise their sympathy. When He fell fainting beneath the cross, His heart went out in sympathy towards them. He looked prophetically into the future and saw these very women being destroyed during the destruction of Jerusalem.

He said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for Me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children. In other words, as you are weeping for Me, I can see that you have not surrendered your hearts to me. Yes, there is sympathy as you see Me suffering, but your heart is not surrendered - the cross of Christ is made of "non effect."

"For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of non-effect." (1 Corinthians 1:17).

Can the cross of Christ be made of non-effect? Yes, it can.

Is it possible to read about the crucifixion - see Jesus dying, your heart is moved as you see His love, and yet still not be saved? Yes, it is possible.

"It is not enough to perceive the loving-kindness of God, to see the benevolence, the fatherly tenderness, of His character. It is not enough to discern the wisdom and justice of His law, to see that it is founded upon the eternal principle of love. Paul the apostle saw all this when he exclaimed, 'I consent unto the law that it is good.' The law is holy, and the commandments holy, and just, and good. "But he added, in the bitterness of his soul - anguish and despair," I am carnal, sold under sin." (Romans 7:14,12,16).

He longed for the purity, the righteousness, to which in himself he was powerless to attain, and cried out, "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of death?" (Romans 7:24). Such is the cry that has gone up from burdened hearts in all lands and in all ages. To all, there is but one answer, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." (John 1:29. - SC 19.1).

Many say, "There is the answer, all I need to do is behold." Let us combine this quotation (SC 19.1), with Christ Object Lessons.

"In heaven it is said by the ministering angels: The ministry which we have been commissioned to perform we have done. We pressed back the army of evil angels. We sent brightness and light into the souls of men, quickening their memory of the love of God expressed in Jesus. We attracted their eyes to the cross of Christ. Their hearts were deeply moved by a sense of the sin that crucified the Son of God. They were convicted. They saw the steps to be taken in conversion; they felt the power of the gospel; their hearts were made tender as they saw the sweetness of the love of God. They beheld the beauty of the character of Christ. But with the many it was all in vain. They would not surrender their own habits and character." (COL 318.1).

These people have seen God's love through Jesus, they felt the power of the Gospel, but they would not surrender.

Merely just observing Calvary is clearly not enough. Look, but surrender as well. Merely just reading the four Gospels, The Desire of Ages or Steps to Christ, and shedding a tear or two, does not guarantee entrance into the kingdom.

Jesus' faith was manifested in surrender. "Father, if Thou be willing, remove this cup from Me: nevertheless, not My will, but Thine, be done." Jesus' faith led Him to surrender His will to the will of His father. The same faith Jesus exercised, should be the same faith we exercise. A faith that surrenders. That is the only true faith.

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL? The Gospel is Christ (Jesus) crucified. "Hanging upon the cross, Christ was the gospel. Now we have a message, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world." (6BC 1113.1).

In Corinthians 15: 1 - 6, Paul explains the gospel: "Christ died for our sins"... and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day."

"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth..." (Romans 1:16). All God's power is centered at the cross. Everything revolves around the cross. I am not saying that we should not study other things, but

the cross is the foundation. It forms the foundation for every other study. Paul tells us plainly why the gospel was made of non-effect.

"For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it" (Hebrews 4:2 KJV).

Why did the gospel, that contains all the power, not profit them? What was lacking even though the gospel came to them? They did not receive the gospel through faith. Therefore, the gospel could not benefit them.

What is faith? Faith is linked to surrender. "Where there is not only a belief in God's word, but a submission of the will to Him; where the heart is yielded to Him, the affections fixed upon Him, there is faith—faith that works by love and purifies the soul."(SC 63).

Many people quote John 3:16 as, "For God so love the world that He gave His only begotten Son..." and exempt themselves from this verse. They look upon all His promises, His life and death, and His endless mercy, as a gift to the world, and not directly to them. In Galatians 2:20, Paul says," Christ loved me and gave Himself for me." Whatever applies to Paul, applies to us all. We must see Jesus dying for us personally. When you look at Calvary, you ought to see it done for you! Had you been the only sinner, Christ would still have died for you. He would still have gone through all that suffering, knowing that you would be the only one who

would accept Him. He would have still suffered that severe death just for you!

All God's power is centered at Calvary. The spell of sin can only be broken through the sacrifice made at Calvary. However, it is not sufficient enough to look. We must look, because in looking lies the remedy, but if I am looking, and not surrendering, then my looking is in vain. Without looking and surrendering "the cross will be made of non-effect", and we will not be able to tap into the power found at Calvary.

The cross is a much-neglected present truth. The sanctuary and the commandments are mentioned and spoken about, and rightly so - with an almost total neglect of the essence of the cross, when all power is centered at the cross.

Dear friends, looking at Calvary is the means of breaking the spell of sin. The only way that sin can be broken in our lives is through a power stronger then sin. It is the power of love! The more I see the cross, the more I love God. Because I see a demonstration of unselfish love! I see a God that loves me so much that He was willing to subject Himself to such humiliation!

When I see this, love is awaken within my heart. True love always leads to obedience (Romans 13:10, John 15:12, John 14'15).

CONCLUSION

Let's get the people excited about the gospel.

Here are some ideas:

1. When you have finished reading this book, please share it with others.

2. Soon this entire book may be read as a free E book and PDF.

3. Thanks to kind sponsorship of those who have been touched by the message of this book.

4. If you feel the Lord calling on you, and was led by the Spirit to support the ministry, to enable the printing and distribution of this, and other books, for example: RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH (Part 2 of the EVERLASTING GOSPEL), to financially challenged individuals and churches, then please email your name, your phone number and your pledge to:

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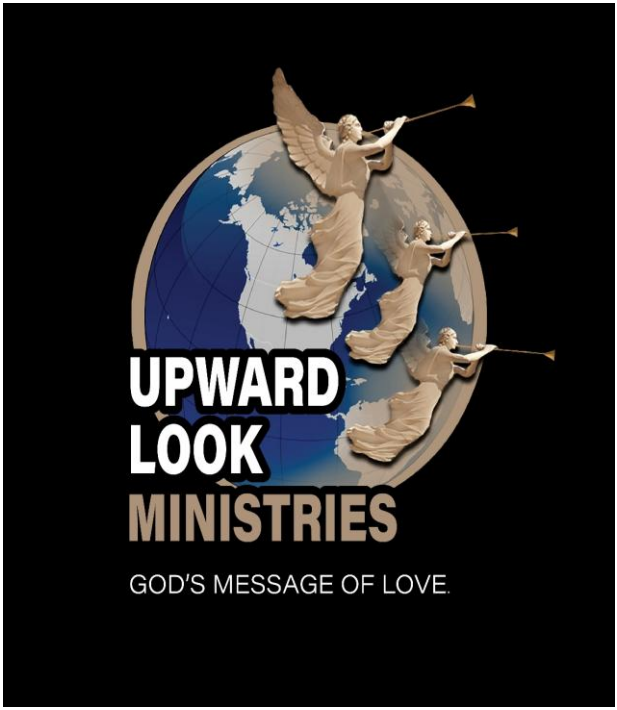
UPWARD
LOOK
MINISTRIES
GOD'S MESSAGE OF LOVE.